



Office of Utility Regulation

Media Release

Mobile Competition Delay: Regulator Directs Wave Telecom on Start-up

The Regulator today published a direction to Wave Telecom to commence the provision of its mobile service by 1st July 2004 or face sanctions.

The Regulator has issued the direction after Wave Telecom failed to meet the deadline in its licences for launching a competing mobile service to Cable & Wireless Guernsey. Wave Telecom had an obligation to launch its mobile services by 30th April 2004 under the terms of the 2G and 3G mobile licences that were awarded to it in March 2003. It has confirmed to the OUR that it has not met this requirement.

“Wave Telecom has a clear understanding of my Office’s position on this issue”, said Regina Finn, Director General at OUR. “Competition delivers improved choice and helps cut the price that users pay for their telecoms service. It is consumers in the Bailiwick that are losing out as a result of this delay and we want to see the new service in place as soon as possible”.

The OUR has directed the company to remedy the breach by taking all the steps necessary to launch services by 1st July 2004. The direction has been published following a consultation on the proposed direction. The OUR document OUR 04/07 “Wave Telecom Mobile Licenses: Failure to Meet Launch Date. Direction to Wave Telecom under Section 27 of the Telecommunications (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001” is available on the OUR website (www.regutil.gg) or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 711120.

**ENDS/
20th May 2004**

Information for Editors

The Office of Utility Regulation was established in 2001 to regulate the three utilities of post, telecommunications and electricity in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. The Office is headed up by Director General, Regina Finn and has four staff.

The role of the OUR is to protect the interests of Guernsey consumers and the economy. It does this by ensuring that customers receive the best in price, choice and quality services in the three regulated sectors, while at the same time ensuring that those sectors are vibrant and robust so that they can positively contribute to and underpin a successful Guernsey economy.

The OUR licenses and regulates telecommunications operators, Guernsey Electricity Ltd and Guernsey Post Ltd. Wherever possible, the OUR promotes the introduction of competition by ensuring that there is fair play and a level playing field between the operators. Where competition is not yet effective or where it is not feasible, the OUR regulates prices and quality of services to end customers.

More information is available from the OUR website www.regutil.gg, or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.