



# Office of Utility Regulation

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## Jersey and Guernsey Regulators to Work Together

Guernsey's utilities regulator and its Jersey counterpart, the Jersey Competition and Regulatory Authority (JCRA), are to co-operate to make it easier for users in each island to retain their number when changing mobile operator. It's known as "Mobile Number Portability (MNP) and the Office of Utility Regulation is inviting Guernsey mobile operators to work on implementing any solution adopted in Jersey in Guernsey. The JCRA has established an industry working group to implement MNP and that group will investigate whether a joint approach may make it cheaper and quicker to introduce the service in both Islands.

"We now have a situation where three mobile operators may have licences to provide services in both Islands. To us it makes complete sense to try and take advantage of the fact that these companies deal with similar issues across both islands" said John Curran, Director General of the OUR. "Clearly if a joint solution can be agreed there is the potential to further enhance the benefits of mobile competition by introducing MNP."

Experience in other countries has shown that the introduction of MNP benefits competition and the OUR expects that, if introduced in Guernsey, similar advantages would be gained for Guernsey consumers. The JCRA established a working group in Jersey earlier this year to look at implementing MNP in Jersey by January 2007.

"I am very pleased that our discussions with the JCRA on this issue have been very constructive. Both offices face similar challenges in our respective markets and we are looking to see what other areas lend themselves to closer cooperation. As we are both

small organizations, any pooling of resources should translate into more efficient decision making” said John Curran. “It also demonstrates that the OUR is determined to meet the States’ expectations that regulation in Guernsey is implemented in a cost-effective way and I would hope the mobile operators support this initiative.”

### **About the OUR**

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, John Curran 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](http://www.regutil.gg), or by contacting the Office of Utility Regulation on 01481 711120.