

MEDIA RELEASE

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GCRA SETS OUT APPROACH TO ENABLING FUTURE MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) has published a new approach to support future iterations of mobile technology on the Island beyond 4G. It is consulting industry on a significant shift from the present approach to one that is lighter touch but retains accountability by those seeking to acquire valuable spectrum.

The announcement comes at a time when the Island has available to it a significant amount of additional spectrum to support new developments in the services we use on our devices and the technical features that ongoing innovation in this space brings. With greater emphasis on securing investment in world-class networks that are resilient and can meet the challenges of the modern era, the new approach looks to support States policy, in particular where competition is expected to be greater at the retail level rather than in network infrastructure.

The CEO of the GCRA, Michael Byrne, said "The demands and challenges of the rapidly developing cyber era are significant for an Island like ours. The ambitions we have as an Island to stay competitive and keep our citizens safe, while promoting investment in our economy, particularly our digital infrastructure, are key factors in designing a regulatory approach that meets those needs. Having taken initial soundings from industry, we are confident that we have achieved the right balance in the new approach we are proposing." The GCRA is consulting on the framework before it finalizes it and invites applicants to submit their case for additional or new spectrum.

Once it has concluded the process for finalizing a new spectrum award framework, the GCRA will begin accepting formal applications for 5G spectrum licences from Q3 2025, with awards to be made as soon as the GCRA receives and assesses completed applications. For more information and to view the full Spectrum Licensing Framework, please visit: www.gcra.gg

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Interested parties are invited to submit their representations by 16:00 on Friday, 8 August 2025. The GCRA welcomes input from all stakeholders to help shape the future management of spectrum in the Bailiwick. Submissions should be sent to info@gcra.gg, clearly marked with the subject line: "GCRA Spectrum Framework Proposal".

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NOTES TO EDITORS

What is Mobile Spectrum?

Mobile spectrum refers to the invisible radio frequencies that enable mobile phones to connect for calls, texts, and data. Just like traffic lanes keep vehicles moving safely, these frequencies are carefully allocated to different mobile operators to prevent interference and ensure reliable service. Spectrum is a limited and valuable national resource, and it is the role of the Regulator to manage it efficiently and fairly, so that mobile networks can operate smoothly and meet the needs of consumers and businesses.