



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide

Commission for
Communications Regulation

Radio Spectrum Management Strategy Statement 2022 – 2024



Spectrum management in Ireland

ComReg is the statutory body with responsibility for the regulation of the electronic communications sector and the management of Ireland's radio spectrum. The radio spectrum is a limited and valuable national resource that permeates all areas of communications, including: radio, television, mobile (voice and data), aeronautical/marine navigation and satellite communications.

Radio spectrum management involves the careful consideration of a broad range of factors to ensure it is efficiently used. ComReg regularly sets out and updates its strategy for managing the radio spectrum. ComReg's current Radio Spectrum Management Strategy Statement covers 2022 – 2024.



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The importance of radio spectrum



Radio spectrum supports economic activity across the whole economy.

When modest multiplier effects are considered, ComReg estimates that the use of radio spectrum contributes:



€7.2 Billion
to the Irish economy.



Radio spectrum is an important contributor to employment. A conservative estimate of the number of employees in Ireland whose jobs are directly dependent on the use of radio spectrum was approximately:



19,000
jobs in 2019.



Radio spectrum also provides considerable social benefits. For example, the efficient functioning of the emergency services depends on reliable mobile communications and spectrum plays a major role in enabling the Defence Forces to carry out its duties both at home and overseas.



Radio spectrum enables the use of a wide variety of business and consumer applications enriching all our daily lives.



**Wireless
Headphones**



**Contactless
payment**



**Wireless
controllers**



GPS



Drones



Wi-fi

Promotion of effective competition

The efficient management of the national radio spectrum resources is required to facilitate competition, enhance connectivity and promote efficient investment, taking into account the potential impact that the assignment and allocation of these inputs may have on downstream markets.

In its Electronic Communications Strategy Statement 2021 to 2023 (Document 21/70), ComReg set out its strategic intents and the goals underlying these intents. In the next section are some of the goals that are particularly important to ComReg's management of the radio spectrum resource.

ComReg Key Goals



- The management of spectrum and numbers facilitates competition, enhances connectivity and promotes efficient investment.
- ComReg identifies and understands consumer harms.
- ComReg contributes to and learns from international best practice.

Radio Spectrum work plan for the period 2022-2024

ComReg aims to manage its workload in a manner that seeks to address the needs of a diverse range of stakeholders. ComReg's spectrum management workplan for the 2022-24 period will include:

- Programmatic Spectrum Management Functions
- Mobile Fixed Communications Networks
- Broadcasting Services
- EC Harmonisation Decisions
- Terrestrial Fixed Services
- Licence Exempt Short Range Devices
- Satellite Services
- Private Mobile Radio Services
- Radio Amateur Services
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- Aeronautical and Scientific Services
- Defence Force use of Spectrum

Factors informing ComReg's work plan for 2022 – 2024

A wide range of factors affect the demand for and the supply of radio spectrum including end-user demand, technology changes or advancements, the international harmonisation of radio spectrum, and relevant national or international policies.

International harmonisation of radio spectrum



International harmonisation plays a key role in determining the demand for and the supply of radio spectrum. Harmonised radio spectrum measures are set by international bodies including the ITU, CEPT and the EU bodies.

End-user demand



End user demand for mobile data continues to grow rapidly. Continuing strong demand is expected for mobile data during this strategy period.

Technology changes and advancements



Technology changes and advancements can affect both the demand for and supply of radio spectrum. Technology advancements can take many forms including the use of improved modulation or sharing techniques, and the ability for one service to use multiple spectrum bands at the same time using carrier aggregation.

Licences expiring in the near future



Where existing spectrum rights of use are due to expire within the near future, ComReg sets out its proposals well in advance. There are a number of licences that will expire in the next 5 years.

The ECS sector and climate change



Increasing awareness and attention is being placed on the relationship between the ECS sector and climate change. The European Commission has emphasised the importance of a sustainable digital sector and will consider measures to improve the circular economy performance of the digital sector as well as its energy efficiency.

For more information on the work items associated with these areas, please see:

ComReg's Radio Spectrum Management Strategy Statement 2022 – 2024 (Document 21/136)

<https://www.comreg.ie/about/strategy/radio/>



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