



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**19 August 2002**

### **Authorisations to Replace Licences - New EU Directives**

New EU Directives which are due to come into force in July 2003 will change the legal basis on which networks and services are provided according to a Consultation Document issued today, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, by the Telecoms Regulator, **Etain Doyle**. From July 2003, under the terms of new EU Directives, the Telecoms Regulator will issue standard general authorisations in place of individual licences.

Currently networks and services are subject to individual licensing, such as, general telecommunications licences and basic telecommunications licences. From July 2003 it will no longer be necessary to obtain a licence before commencing operations except where the use of radio frequencies is involved.

According to the Regulator, the administrative arrangements which the ODTR currently implement will need to be adapted and brought into line with the provisions of the Directives by July 2003. "All existing procedures need to be considered against what is permissible under the Directives. Their appropriateness must also be considered in the context of the objectives set out in the Directives". Implementation of the Directives will require the preparation of legislation to give effect to the provisions by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

The consultation paper seeks views on the applicability of the new regulatory framework to different types of networks and services. The paper also outlines the ODTR's preliminary views on how it might implement the conditions in relation to particular categories of networks and services. Please see [www.odtr.ie/document](http://www.odtr.ie/document) 02/72.

**ENDS**

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