



Media Release- 2 March 2005

ComReg consults on definition of the universal postal service

The Commission for Communications Regulation today issued a consultation paper about what services should be included in the universal postal service.

ComReg said the consultation will lead to a decision on which services An Post - as the current designated universal service provider - should be providing to fulfil its obligation to provide a universal service.

The European Communities (Postal Services) Regulations 2002 contains a list of 'minimum facilities' that must form part of the universal postal service. Using this consultation, ComReg will flesh out this very broad framework of the universal service requirement and formulate a customer-focused working definition of the universal service.

The Consultation Paper covers letter services, bulk mail services, separate insured and registered mail services, parcel services and ancillary services.

ComReg Commissioner, Mike Byrne said: "The formulation of a working definition of the universal postal service will help ensure that ComReg safeguards the elements of the service that customers need. This becomes increasingly important as Ireland moves towards a fully competitive market."

The consultation period will run from 2nd March 2005 until 6th April 2005 during which ComReg welcomes written comments on any of the issues raised in this paper. Having analysed and considered the comments received, ComReg will publish a Response to Consultation setting out its working definition of the universal postal service.

The full document ComReg 05/16 – 'The Universal Postal Service, Formulating a working definition' – is available in the Publications Section of the ComReg website.

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