



Media Release – 29 September 2006

ComReg invites submissions on Recommended New Accounting Direction to An Post

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today launched its consultation paper regarding the costing systems to be maintained by An Post, the Universal Service Provider of postal services for regulatory purposes.

Irish Law requires ComReg to lay down directions setting out how An Post, the Universal Service Provider (USP), should maintain cost accounts so as to achieve transparency of accounting in respect of the costs it incurs in providing the various postal services within the scope of universal service.

As over four years have elapsed since the Accounting Direction was first issued, ComReg considers it now appropriate to issue a new Accounting Direction under the current Regulations. There are concerns that the processes applied by An Post to identify its revenues, measure its mail volumes and allocate and apportion its costs at the service level, together with the manner in which information is provided to ComReg, may not be sufficiently robust to demonstrate compliance with its legal obligations.

The report prepared for ComReg by its consultants, LECG of London, recommends that ComReg issue a new Accounting Direction to An Post before the end of 2006. The full report is attached to ComReg's consultation paper.

ComReg welcomes the views of all interested parties. The closing date for responses to this consultation is 31 October 2006. The full papers in relation to this matter – ComReg 06/55 and ComReg 06/55a are available on the ComReg website (www.comreg.ie).

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler
Public Affairs Manager, ComReg
Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie