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ComReg issues a discussion paper on the regulation of bundled products/temporary discounts

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published a discussion paper which aims to stimulate a debate about when and how it may be appropriate to regulate bundled products and temporary discounts.

Bundled services are already quite commonplace in the mobile market. They have to date been quite limited in the fixed line market but the introduction of new products and services potentially provides the basis for change. An example of a bundled retail product is where two or more services are sold jointly to a consumer. For example, an operator might sell both line rental and an amount of call minutes to a consumer for a fixed charge and not as individual options.

On temporary discounts, operators typically use these as a marketing tool. These offers often include discounts on standard prices and sometimes include extra services provided for free. Recent examples of these have included, holiday period discounts for calls overseas and the current three month promotion of DSL services.

In this context ComReg would like to understand the views of interested parties on these issues and particularly

- **whether any specific regulation should apply to bundled products and/or temporary discounts;**
- **if so in what circumstances;**
- **what type of regulation if any should apply;**
- **are there other issues in this context that ComReg needs to consider.**

Any views submitted will help inform ComReg both in its current work and future work at this time of transition into the New Regulatory Framework

The full discussion paper ComReg 03/120 is available on the website www.comreg.ie

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