



ComReg Issues Information Notices on FWPMA

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) announced that it has issued information notices in relation to:

- Responses to proposals on FWPMA Broadband licences; and
- Proposed Amendments to FWPMA licences.

The Commission, having considered submissions from interested parties, confirmed proposals made by the ODTR in October 2002 to amend Part 5 of the General Telecommunications Licences (FWPMA Broadband Licences), held by Chorus Communications Ltd (Chorus), eircom Ltd (eircom) and Esat BT (Esat) including:

- Removal of certain licence obligations from eircom regarding antenna sites and the provision of the Centrex service.
- Relocation of base stations at Mullingar, Naas and Tullamore and a proposed base station at Ennis to alternative sites in the Esat FWPMA licence.
- Revocation of Chorus' FWPMA Broadband licence with effect from 31 March 2003.

Each of the companies was notified of the Commission's decision on 4 December and has 28 days from that date to appeal to the relevant court against the decision.

The Commission also announced that it proposes

- To revoke Chorus' FWPMA Narrowband licence with effect from 15 June 2003 and to limit the company's roll out of the FWPMA narrowband network to the 36 base stations deployed and providing FWPMA services as of August 2002.

- To further amend the eircom FWPMA Broadband licence to include Castlebar, Wexford, Athlone, Dundalk and Letterkenny in the list of “Towns of less than 30,000 inhabitants”, set out in the licence and to increase the total coverage obligation at end of year two from 42% to 50%.

Because of the intervening holiday period, the Commission is prepared to allow an additional 7 days over the statutory 21 days for receipt of representations in relation to the proposals i.e., to 21 January 2003.

The Commission intends in 2003, to introduce a licensing scheme for Fixed Wireless Access in the 26 GHz, 10.5 GHz and to a limited extent in the 3.5 GHz bands to enhance the rate of delivery of broadband services in Ireland. This scheme will operate on a first come, first served per base station, basis.

Details of the Commission’s proposals are set out in Information Notices 02/120 and 02/121 available on the ComReg website.

ENDS

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