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ComReg latest Quarterly Report shows Ireland has over 5 million mobile phone subscriptions

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today published its Quarterly Report for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2007.

Highlights of the report include:

- Mobile phone penetration stood at 116% at the end of 2007. Mobile subscriptions have increased by almost 77,000 in Q4 and the total number of mobile subscribers is over 5 million.
- Irish mobile phone users sent a total of 7.58 billion text messages during the year – this is an increase of 7% on the previous year. A total of 2.12 billion text messages were sent by Irish mobile phone subscribers during the last quarter of 2007.
- Overall revenue for the communications market was €1.14 billion in Q4 and the total turnover for 2007 was €4.56 billion.
- The total number of broadband subscribers at the end of 2007 was 886,300 (excluding mobile broadband, it was 758,800). This represents an 11.7% increase since Q3 2007.
- ComReg estimates that Irish broadband penetration, including mobile broadband, at the end of December 2007 was 20.54%. If mobile broadband is excluded, the broadband penetration rate was 17.58%.
- The total number of internet subscriptions is now over 1.2 million. Of this, only 27% of subscribers now connect to the internet using narrowband.
- Eircom's share of the fixed line market has remained constant since the last quarter. However, year-on-year it has declined by 2%. This is predominantly as a result of the increased activity of other authorised operators (OAOs).
- Fixed voice call volumes have seen a 4% fall in the year to Q4 2007, while mobile minutes grew by 10% during the last quarter. Mobile minutes now account for 51% of all voice traffic in the Irish telecommunications market.
- A total of 1.13 million mobile phone numbers have been ported since June 2003. In Q4 2007, over 99,000 numbers were ported to an alternative operator. An average of 87,000 mobile numbers are ported each quarter.

- At the end of December 2007, there were nearly 841,000 digital TV subscribers in Ireland, a growth of 2.4% since Q3 2007.
- The Quarterly Report includes an “Emerging Trends” section, which examines mobile broadband.

The full report is available from the ComReg website, www.comreg.ie, document number 08/22.

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