



Media Release- 15 February 2005

ComReg orders eircom to comply with LLU direction

ComReg has today directed eircom to respond by 11.00 am on Friday, the 18th of February, to requests from Operators for developments to Local Loop Unbundling products and processes. These will allow other Operators to offer new and innovative broadband services.

ComReg believes that this action is essential, measured and proportionate. ComReg cannot allow eircom to delay developments that are affecting the ability of other Operators to offer increased choice to consumers through innovative broadband offerings and pricing strategies.

On January 18, ComReg issued two directions to eircom requiring it to respond to industry requests for the development of LLU products and supporting processes. One of the directions required eircom to provide a fit for purpose response to Operators' requests for the development of a number of LLU capabilities.

Eircom has not complied with this direction and consequently, ComReg has issued a further direction requiring it to comply by 11.00 am on the 18th February.

Failure by eircom to comply with this latest direction may result in ComReg applying to the High Court for an order forcing eircom to comply with the direction. Furthermore, ComReg may apply to the High Court for the imposition of a financial penalty if eircom does not comply.

ComReg believes that eircom remains in breach of its legal obligations relating to LLU and that eircom's continued non-compliance will create serious economic and operational problems for other Operators.

Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) is the process where operators competing with eircom can gain the use of telephone lines between the local telephone exchange servicing the customer and the customer's premises – commonly known as the last mile or local loop. It allows other Operators the ability to offer narrowband and broadband services to consumers.

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