



Commission for
Communications Regulation

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For immediate release

ComReg Media Release

ComReg re-designates Eircom as Universal Service Provider from 2012 until 2014

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today issued its decision to re-designate Eircom as the Universal Service Provider (USP) for a 2-year period to June 2014, following a public consultation.

ComReg's aim with regard to universal service is to ensure that basic telephony services are available at an affordable price to all end-users in the State. ComReg notes that Directive 2002/22/EC of the European Parliament was amended by Directive 2009/136/EC ("the Amending Directive"). The Amending Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users' Rights) Regulations 2011, S.I. No. 337 of 2011, ("the Regulations").

ComReg's approach to universal service scope and designation, in its Decision issued today, is in accordance with the Regulations.

Resulting from this Decision, Eircom's universal service obligations include:

- Provision of access at a fixed location
- Provision of a printed telephone directory
- Provision of public pay telephones
- Provision of services to consumers with disabilities
- Provision of measures to assist consumers control their expenditure and affordability measures

The Amending Directive provides that consumers with disabilities should have equal access to and choice of electronic communication services available to all consumers. ComReg will shortly commence a consultation process regarding proposed measures to facilitate equivalent access and choice for consumers with disabilities.

In reaching this decision, ComReg was aware of Eircom's network presence throughout the country and its experience in providing universal services. The

provision of Universal Service ensures that basic telephone services are available at an affordable price and specified quality, irrespective of geographical location, within Ireland. There are both social and economic grounds for the USO, as it provides services to assist vulnerable users and those in remote locations that the market might otherwise not choose to serve, thereby facilitating greater participation by those users in the market. ComReg is grateful to all those who took time to make submissions during the course of the consultation

ENDS

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