



Media Release- 24 April 2009

ComReg secures reductions in termination charges from mobile operator 3

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today welcomed the commitment by the mobile operator, Hutchison 3G (Ireland) Limited, to commence the reduction of its Mobile Termination Rates (MTRs) from the beginning of January 2010.

ComReg's decision to regulate the termination of calls on 3's mobile network through price control follows a detailed market review. ComReg has imposed a price control on 3 to address its position of dominance in the provision of call termination services to end users.

3's mobile termination rates will reduce annually on 1 January of each year, to reach an average rate of 5 cents per minute by 1 January 2013. ComReg believes that these measures should ultimately bring benefits to both fixed and mobile customers through reductions in their retail call charges over the period to 2013.

ComReg Chairman, John Doherty, said "The fact that now all four mobile network operators in Ireland are making significant reductions in their mobile termination rates is a very timely and welcome decision. It will result in savings to consumers of over €100 million by 2012. This ComReg initiative, coupled with the imminent reductions in the prices of texts and voice calls while in other EU states, is a good outcome for Irish consumers.

Mobile termination charges are the wholesale rates which operators, both fixed and mobile, pay to mobile operators for calls that terminate on mobile networks. They affect consumers indirectly because they are factored into the prices consumers pay at the retail level for fixed-to-mobile and mobile-to-mobile calls.

The Information Notice containing further details is available from the ComReg website, www.comreg.ie, ComReg document number 09/34.

ENDS

Issued By Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie