



Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

Media Release- 18th May , 2007

## **ComReg takes action against pirate radio stations**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today announced that it had recently taken action against unlicensed broadcasters in County Monaghan.

On 11 May 2007, ComReg seized radio equipment used by a number of unlicensed broadcasters who were specifically targeting Northern Ireland. ComReg and OfCom worked closely in tackling unlicensed broadcasters within each of their respective jurisdictions.

Under Irish Law, it is illegal to broadcast without a licence and ComReg is responsible for ensuring the radio spectrum is free from interference. Unlicensed broadcasters – also known as pirate radio stations – transmit in the FM band. These broadcasts can cause considerable interference to the communications systems of safety-of-life services, such as the fire brigade and air traffic control. They also cause interference to legitimate licensed radio stations.

George Merrigan, Director of Market Framework at ComReg, commented: 'ComReg has a statutory role to ensure that legitimate users of the radio spectrum are not hindered or affected by interference. ComReg's Spectrum Compliance Unit continues to take decisive action against those involved in unlicensed broadcasting'.

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

**Kerry O'Hare**  
**Public Affairs Executive, ComReg**  
**Ph: 01 804 9661 Mobile: 087 9470590**  
**Kerry.ohare@comreg.ie**