



An Coimisiún um  
**Rialáil Cumarsáide**  
Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

# Consultation Document

## Public Consultation on ComReg's Five Year ECS Strategy

**Consultation:** ComReg 21/32a

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## Legal Disclaimer

This is not a binding legal document and also does not contain legal, commercial, financial, technical or other advice. The Commission for Communications Regulation ('ComReg') is not bound by it, nor does it necessarily set out ComReg's final or definitive position on particular matters. To the extent that there might be any inconsistency between the contents of this document and the due exercise by ComReg of its functions and powers, and the carrying out by it of its duties and the achievement of relevant objectives under law, such contents are without prejudice to the legal position of ComReg. Inappropriate reliance ought not therefore to be placed on the contents of this document.

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# 1 Introduction

- 1 The Commission for Communications Regulation (“**ComReg**”) is the statutory body responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications sector (telecommunications, radio-communications and broadcasting transmission) in the Republic of Ireland. ComReg has a range of functions and objectives in relation to the provision of Electronic Communications Networks and Services (“**ECN**” and “**ECS**”) in accordance with European Union (“**EU**”) and national legislation.<sup>1</sup>
- 2 ComReg hereby publishes its draft Strategy Statement for Electronic Communications Services for the period 2021-2023 as ComReg document 21/32 (the "Draft ECS Strategy Statement"), in line with Section 31 of the Communications Regulation Act 2002 (No. 20 of 2002), as amended.
- 3 This Strategy Statement is concerned with ComReg's role as regulator of ECS markets and the statement relates to the period 2021 to 2023. Our strategy has been prepared on the basis of a five-year time horizon up to 2026. This longer time horizon allows us to think strategically about future developments in the sector and to cultivate the most appropriate and relevant regulatory responses.
- 4 This draft Strategy Statement includes five statements of strategic intent for ComReg. These strategic intents are motivated by the regulatory environment in which ComReg operates, and the rapidly evolving nature of the ECS sector. Each strategic intent is divided into specific goals which are underpinned by particular programmes of work which ComReg intends to undertake over the period of the Strategy.
- 5 ComReg strongly encourages all interested parties to read and provide feedback on this draft Strategy Statement. We look forward to your valuable input.
- 6 In September 2020 ComReg published a Call for Inputs (ComReg document 20/91), to elicit views from stakeholders on a number of key matters to be addressed in the Strategy. Responses from the Call for Inputs have been incorporated into this draft ECS Strategy Statement.

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<sup>1</sup> ComReg also has a remit to regulate the postal sector. However, the focus of this paper is specifically on electronic communications. With regard to the postal sector, please see ComReg's 2020-2022 Postal Strategy Statement (ComReg Document 19/113).

## 2 Consultation Questions

In relation to ComReg's draft Strategy Statement for Electronic Communications Services for 2021-2023:

- Q.1 Do you agree that Chapter 1 appropriately captures ComReg's Mission, Vision and Role for the period 2021 to 2026? In providing your view, please also provide supporting evidence.
- Q.2 Do you agree that Chapter 3 captures the most important sectoral trends and challenges over the period covered by the Strategy? In providing your view, please also provide supporting evidence.
- Q.3 Do you agree with the Strategic Intents discussed in detail in Chapters 4 to 8? In providing your view, please also provide supporting evidence.
- Q.4 Do you believe that the Goals associated with the Strategic Intents are appropriate, and relevant? In providing your view, please also provide supporting evidence.
- Q.5 In your view, is there anything else that should be added to, or omitted from, this Strategy Statement?

### 3 Responding to the Consultation

- 7 This consultation document provides an opportunity for our stakeholders to influence ComReg's strategic thinking and its activities going forward. ComReg will carefully analyse all views put forward and use these to not only help determine our final set of priorities but, more specifically, the workplan that will flow from those priorities.
- 8 Garnering the views of external stakeholders is a key step in the process of developing this document and greatly assists ComReg in prioritising effectively for the next period. ComReg looks forward to receiving stakeholder inputs and to advancing its strategy.
- 9 ComReg welcomes all written responses from stakeholders by **5pm on May 12th 2021**. It will make the task of analysing responses easier if comments reference the relevant question numbers from this document. In all cases, please provide evidence in support of your views.
- 10 Responses must be submitted in written form (post or email) to the following recipient clearly marked "**Submissions to ComReg 21/32**":

John Regan  
Commission for Communications Regulation  
One Dockland Central,  
1 Guild St.,  
North Dock,  
Dublin 1.  
D01 E4XO  
Ireland

Email: [john.regan@comreg.ie](mailto:john.regan@comreg.ie)

- 11 Having analysed and considered the comments received, ComReg will review the Draft Strategy Statement, and update where appropriate.
- 12 In order to promote openness and transparency ComReg will publish all submissions to this consultation as well as all substantive correspondence on matters relating to this document, subject to the provisions of ComReg's guidelines on the treatment of confidential information (ComReg document 05/24).
- 13 We would request that electronic submissions be submitted in an unprotected format so that they can be included in the ComReg submissions document for electronic publication.

- 14 ComReg appreciates that respondents may wish to provide confidential information. As it is ComReg's policy to make all responses available on its website and for inspection generally, respondents to this consultation are requested to clearly identify confidential material, and to place confidential material in a separate annex to their response, as well as to provide supporting reasoning as to why material in that annex is confidential.

### Next Steps

- 15 When it has concluded its review of all submissions received and other relevant material, ComReg's intention is to publish a response to consultation and a final ECS Strategy Statement for 2021-2023 as appropriate.