



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
16th August, 1999

RE: Consultation on Deflector Licensing

Further to a number of articles in the newspapers over the past few days regarding the licensing of deflector operators, the Director of Telecommunications Regulation, Etain Doyle, wishes to clarify the current position of her Office.

The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation regulates the telecommunications sector, including radiocommunications and **broadcasting transmission and retransmission**. In May of this year the Regulator issued a consultation paper proposing the short-term licensing of deflectors. Comments on the proposed measures were invited from all interested parties. The views of all respondents are being considered in the framing of the final decisions. There have been no specific understandings or deals arrived at with individual parties.

The ODTR is in the process of finalising the report on the consultation which will be made publicly available in the coming weeks. The Regulator wishes to make it clear that the report will set out the position of the Director in her capacity as independent regulator and will be released generally – it will not constitute a recommendation to Cabinet as has been suggested. If the outcome of the report requires the formulation of new regulations, these will be developed. As required by the legislation relating to the ODTR, the consent of the Minister for Public Enterprise will then be sought prior to their coming into force.

ENDS