



Media Release- 12th June 2003

Extending Broadband Access within Licensed GSM Radio Spectrum

ComReg today issued the response to the Consultation Document 03/13 on provision of broadband access services in the GSM 1800 MHz band. The Response to the Consultation is in Document 03/63 available from the ComReg website at www.comreg.ie.

In line with Government objectives to achieve widespread availability of broadband infrastructure and services throughout Ireland within the next three years ComReg consulted in Document 03/13 on extending broadband access within licensed GSM spectrum.

The basis for the consultation was that GSM 1800 MHz spectrum is predominantly used by GSM operators to provide additional capacity in areas of high population or where there is a high demand for mobile traffic. Therefore in areas of low population or with a low traffic demand there may be spare GSM 1800 MHz spectrum available.

There were 10 respondents to the consultation who provided a wide range of views, and raised particularly important points concerning the use of fixed antennas and comparability with 3G services.

Further questions are posed in the Response Document to assist the Commission in coming to a conclusion as to whether this should be permitted and under what conditions.

Etain Doyle, Chairperson of ComReg, said today, "The Commission considers that these are important issues for the development of broadband and convergence in Ireland and looks forward to further inputs not only from the original respondents but also from any other interested parties."

ENDS

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