



Extension of deadline for An Post's requests to receive funding for the net costs (if any) of providing the universal postal service in 2012, 2013, and 2014

Information Notice

Reference: ComReg 15/13

Date: 12 February 2015

1. An Post, the sole designated universal postal service provider under the Communications Regulation (Postal Services) Act 2011 (“2011 Act”), may seek to receive funding for the net costs (if any) of providing the universal postal service by making a request in writing to the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg).
2. Such a request for funding may be made under section 35(1) of the 2011 Act and section 35(2) provides that such a request shall be in a form and manner determined by ComReg and shall be accompanied by supporting information as may be reasonably required by ComReg. ComReg Decision D09/13, published on 25 July 2013, set out ComReg’s determination as to the form and manner of any request for funding. Section 35(2)(b) of the 2011 Act provides that An Post must submit a request for funding no later than 6 months after the accounts for the financial year concerned have been audited, unless ComReg agrees otherwise.
3. On 4 February 2015, An Post submitted a request to extend the deadlines in respect of its net cost requests for the financial years 2012, 2013, and 2014¹ to 31 December 2016.
4. ComReg has considered An Post’s request and in accordance with section 35(2)(b) of the 2011 Act ComReg has agreed to extend, to 31 December 2016, the deadline in respect of An Post’s net cost requests for the financial years 2012, 2013, and 2014. This will be the first time that An Post will be making a net cost request and extending the deadline will afford An Post with sufficient time to ensure its requests are comprehensive, robust, and in accordance with the requirements of the 2011 Act and ComReg Decision D09/13.
5. In the event that ComReg receives An Post’s net cost requests for the financial years 2012, 2013, and 2014 it will conduct a public consultation seeking the views of interested parties. ComReg will publish a non-confidential version of An Post’s requests, in the interests of transparency and in accordance with ComReg’s consultation procedures (Document No. 11/34) and its guidelines on the treatment of confidential information (Document No. 05/24). ComReg has requested that An Post provides a redacted, non-confidential version of its net cost requests for the financial years 2012, 2013, and 2014 at the same time as submitting its full net cost requests to ComReg.

¹ It is understood that this is the period to the making of the Price Cap decision on 18 June 2014