



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

Extension of Deadline for Eircom's Universal Service Funding Application

Document No:	12/14
Date:	28 February 2012

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The Commission for Communications Regulation ("ComReg") published Decision No. D04/11 entitled "*Costing of universal service obligations: Principles and Methodologies*" on 31 May 2011 (the "Decision")¹.

In November 2011, ComReg published an Information Notice² which outlined the granting of extensions to eircom to submit its final funding application for the periods 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Eircom informed ComReg on the 13th February 2012 that it requires a further extension to these dates to permit it to submit its final funding application for the period 2009/10 no later than 30 April 2012 and its final funding application for the period 2010/11 no later than 31 March 2013. On the 22nd February 2012, eircom made a further extension request to submit its final Application for the period 2009/10 no later than 31st May 2012.

Eircom has requested an extension to the 31st May 2012 for reasons including the following:

- It is the first time a USO funding application has been made by Eircom. The supporting financial model is complex and bespoke.
- A USO funding application must have an appropriate audit opinion or report. Eircom cannot obtain this until the financial model has been completed.
- The unprecedented developments relating to the corporate restructuring of eircom during late 2011 and throughout January 2012 which made it impossible to arrange for the requisite approval and executive sign-off process to be completed.

In view of the above, ComReg considers there are exceptional reasons for giving Eircom the further extension it requests. ComReg has therefore decided to extend the deadline for Eircom to make its USO funding application for 2009/2010, to **31 May 2012**. ComReg intends to publish its determination on Eircom's USO funding application for 2009/2010 within approximately 8 months of receiving such an application.

When ComReg receives Eircom's final application for 2009/2010, it will immediately notify industry of the total net cost applied for.

Eircom's application for funding for 2010/2011 was to be received by ComReg by 30 November 2012. Eircom has requested that this deadline also be extended, to 30 March 2013. ComReg considers that there are also exceptional reasons for giving Eircom this extension:

- Eircom's application for 2009/2010 has been delayed and inevitably this will affect its ability to complete the subsequent application on time.
- Eircom's application for 2010/2011 will be significantly influenced by ComReg's assessment of Eircom's application for 2009/2010.

¹ ComReg Doc. No. D04/11

² ComReg Doc. No. 11/92