



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

Fixed Telephony Operator Performance

**Detailed Business and Residential report for the
measurement period from July to December 2003**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Programme Description

The Measuring Licence Operator Performance (MLOP) programme is an initiative led by ComReg in co-operation with leading fixed telephony operators in the Irish market. ComReg remains committed to raising consumer awareness regarding choices available in the telecommunications market and further work will continue in this area, in this regard, ComReg intends to issue a public consultation aimed at improving the MLOP programme in coming weeks.

This consumer publication aims to inform business and residential consumers of an operator's quality of service performance results for the periods from July to December 2003.

In evaluating these results consumers should take other factors into account such as the operator promise time, size, target market, supplier relationship and coverage area.

A separate report, for the same period provides quality of service performance results for the supply of regulated services from *eircom* to other authorised operators and for public payphones. This report (ComReg 04/61b) is available on the ComReg website at www.comreg.ie

1.2 Operators taking part in this report

Seven¹ fixed line operators have submitted their performance data for this report. The mobile operators are not included currently. It is envisioned that following the forthcoming consultation the MLOP programme will be expanded to other operators offering CPS services.

1.3 What performance measures are reported²?

At present the performance measures focus on the measurement of orders, faults and complaints and, in particular, the promises made by major fixed line operators to their customers.

1.3.1 Definition of an Order

An Order is defined as a contractual commitment made to the customer to provide a product or service, or a change to an existing service.

Order Completion is defined as the point when all items are available for use by the customer as confirmed by the operator.

¹ The focus of Cable and Wireless business activity is on new technology products and services that are not currently published under MLOP. Cable and Wireless do collect and report data and fully participate in the development of the MLOP programme.

² The MLOP definitions document (v3.3) is available on the ComReg website (www.comreg.ie)

1.3.2 Definition of a Fault

A customer reported fault is a report of a disrupted or degraded service that is made by a customer and attributable to the network of the service provider or an interconnected public network.

Fault Clearance is defined as being when all the items are available for use by the customer as confirmed by the operator.

1.3.3 Definition of a Complaint

A complaint is defined as an expression of dissatisfaction with the operator or the service it provides, received from a user or a member of the public. Complaints will be formally “registered” by entering them into a complaint database and assigning a unique reference number to each complaint.

A complaint is considered **processed** when

- a complainant agrees that all issues have been satisfactorily dealt with, and has been completed or closed, or
- the complaint is withdrawn, or
- the operator has completed all stages of its internal complaint handling procedures, and has informed the complainant accordingly and the operator considers the complaint completed, or
- the complaint has gone to dispute resolution or litigation.

1.4 How accurate or comparable is this information?

All published measures have been subject to an independent audit and comparability review process in order to ensure accuracy and comparability of results before their publication. When comparing operators results presented in this report the consumer should also give consideration to how the structure of an operator’s business may affect its results. Operators may differ in the following ways:

Business Size: Operators measured in the report range from a large well-established operators, to significantly smaller operators who have recently entered the market. The impact of “one off” equipment failures on smaller, newer operators can have a greater impact on their results than similar failures in larger, established operators.

Operator Promise Times: When completing an order or clearing a fault, operators may differentiate themselves from their competitors by applying different target promise times. Some operators may have aggressive target promise times, while others are more extended. Readers of this report should take the operators’ target times into consideration when evaluating their performance.

Coverage: The geographic coverage of each operator may vary. Some operators may have local coverage, whilst others have regional, national or international coverage. A local failure may have a major impact on the performance of a local operator, but only a minor impact on a few customers of a national network operator.

Target market: Operators may target different segments of the market from households to multinational corporate customers and provide a level of service corresponding to their requirements.

Supplier Relationship: The structure of the telecommunications market is such that some authorised operators may have degree of dependence on other operators, in particular those operators with Significant Market Power, who act as their supplier of wholesale telecommunications services.

1.5 What is meant by non-compliant?

In certain instances the operator is categorised as non-compliant. There may be a number of different reasons for non-compliance.

- a) No data was submitted by the operator
- b) The data was not audited
- c) The accuracy audit concluded that the data was inaccurate
- d) The comparability review concluded that data was not comparable with the data from other operators

In certain cases, results may be included in this report subject to caveat e.g. an exceptional event has distorted an operator's results in a way that is not representative of its overall performance.

1.6 Description of Service Categories

Operators collect information depending on the type of service they provide. The following service categories apply to the business and residential markets:

- **Direct Access:** this is where a customer has a single agreement with one operator for both "line rental" and "call conveyance" services.
- **Indirect Access:** this is where a customer has a single telecommunications contract with Operator A for the "line rental" and Operator B for "call conveyance".
- **Leased Lines (Business Only):** this is a single dedicated connection between two (or more) customer sites.

A more detailed explanation of service categories are available in Appendix B of this publication.

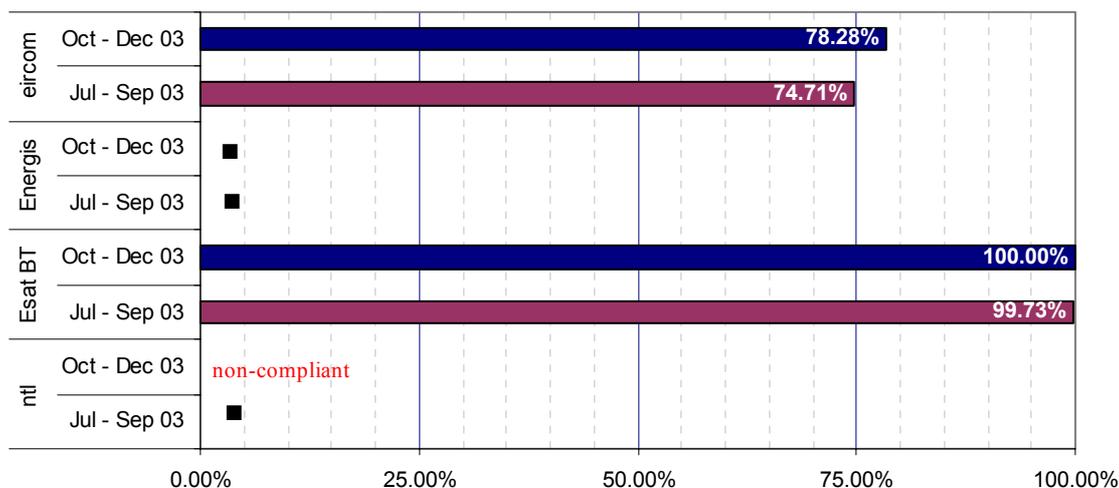
2 Business Market Results

In evaluating these results business consumers should take factors such as operator promise times, size, target market, supplier relationship and coverage into consideration.

2.1 Direct Access Orders

2.1.1 Direct Access Order completed by promise order completion time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's total direct access orders that were completed on or before the date confirmed/contracted with the customer.



Operator target promise time for order completion

eircom The target date is the customer required date
Esat BT Promise time varies

2.1.2 Direct Access orders – Variance from promised order completion date

This table indicates the percentage variance in days from the promised order completion date for direct access orders.

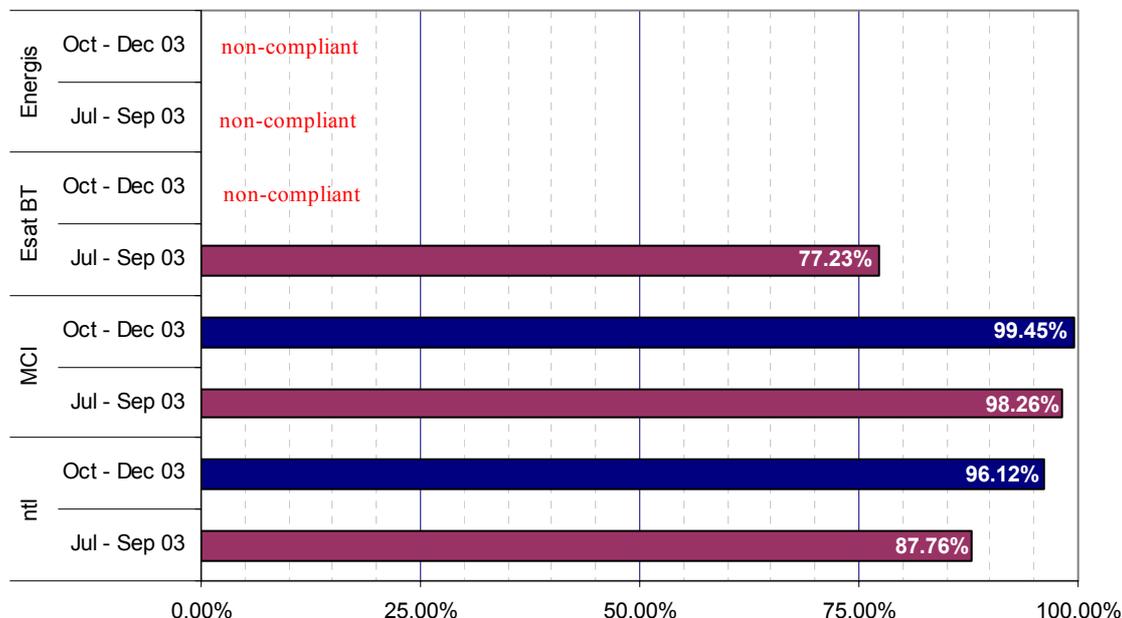
		<=0 days	1 day	2 days	5 days	10 days	20 days	>20 days
eircom	Oct - Dec 03	78.28%	3.96%	2.21%	5.14%	4.14%	2.91%	3.36%
	Jul - Sep 03	74.71%	4.55%	2.60%	5.46%	5.17%	3.27%	4.24%
Energis	Oct - Dec 03	■						
	Jul - Sep 03	■						
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul - Sep 03	99.73%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.27%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant						
	Jul - Sep 03	■						

■ – The operator is not required to report this measure or there is no data for the period.

2.2 Indirect Access Orders

2.2.1 Indirect Access orders completed by promised order completion time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's total indirect access orders that were completed on or before the date confirmed/contracted with the customer.



Operator target promise time for order completion

<i>Esat BT</i>	10 days
<i>MCI</i>	28 days
<i>ntl</i>	10 working days

2.2.2 Indirect Access orders – Variance from promised order completion date

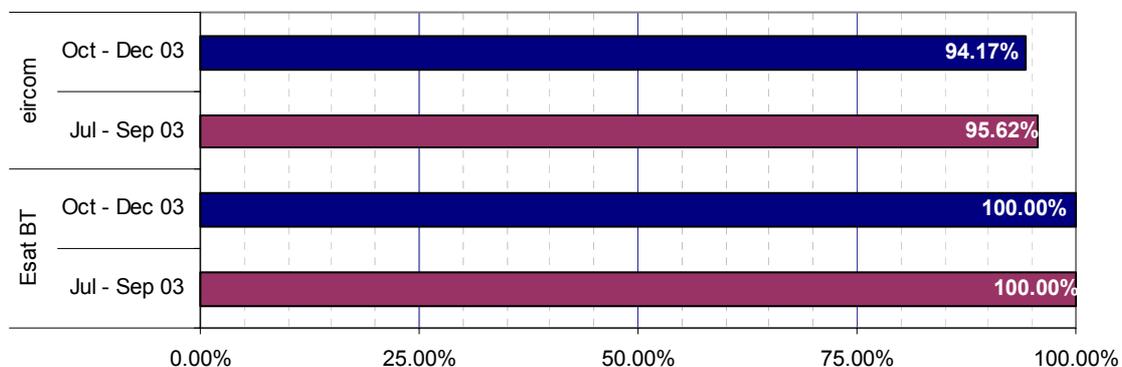
This table indicates the percentage variance in days from the promised order completion date for indirect access orders.

		<=0 days	1 day	2 days	5 days	10 days	20 days	>20 days
Energis	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant						
	Jul - Sep 03	non-compliant						
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant						
	Jul - Sep 03	77.23%	7.39%	8.08%	3.80%	3.03%	0.16%	0.31%
MCI	Oct - Dec 03	99.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.09%	0.09%	0.09%	0.18%
	Jul - Sep 03	98.26%	0.16%	0.00%	0.31%	0.16%	0.56%	0.55%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	96.12%	0.00%	0.00%	0.78%	2.32%	0.78%	-
	Jul - Sep 03	87.76%	8.16%	2.04%	0.00%	2.04%	-	-

2.3 Leased Line Orders

2.3.1 Leased line orders completed by promised order completion time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's total leased line orders that were completed on or before the date confirmed/contracted with the customer.



Operator target promise time for order completion

eircom 22 days or Customer Required Date if later
Esat BT Promise time variable

2.3.2 Leased line orders – Variance from promised order completion date

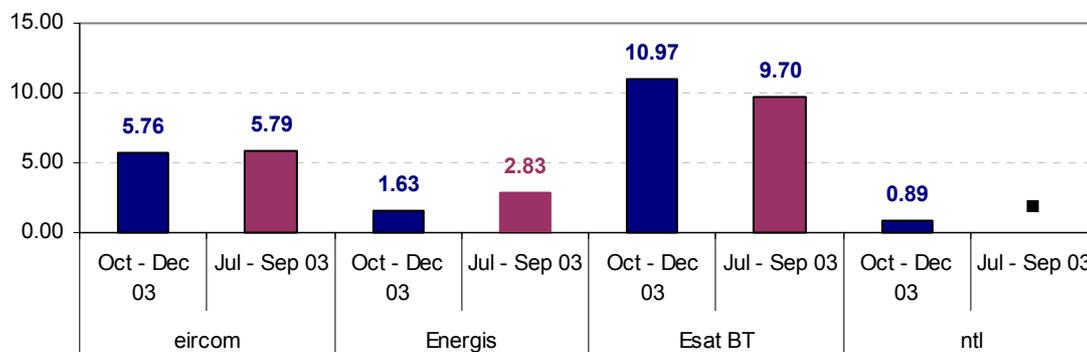
This table indicates the percentage variance in days from the promised order completion date for leased line orders.

		<=0 days	1 day	5 days	10 days	20 days	30 days	50 days	100 days	>100 days
eircom	Oct - Dec 03	94.17%	0.65%	0.43%	1.30%	1.51%	0.22%	0.86%	0.65%	0.22%
	Jul - Sep 03	95.62%	1.00%	0.40%	0.60%	0.60%	1.39%	0.40%	-	-
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul - Sep 03	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.4 Direct Access Faults

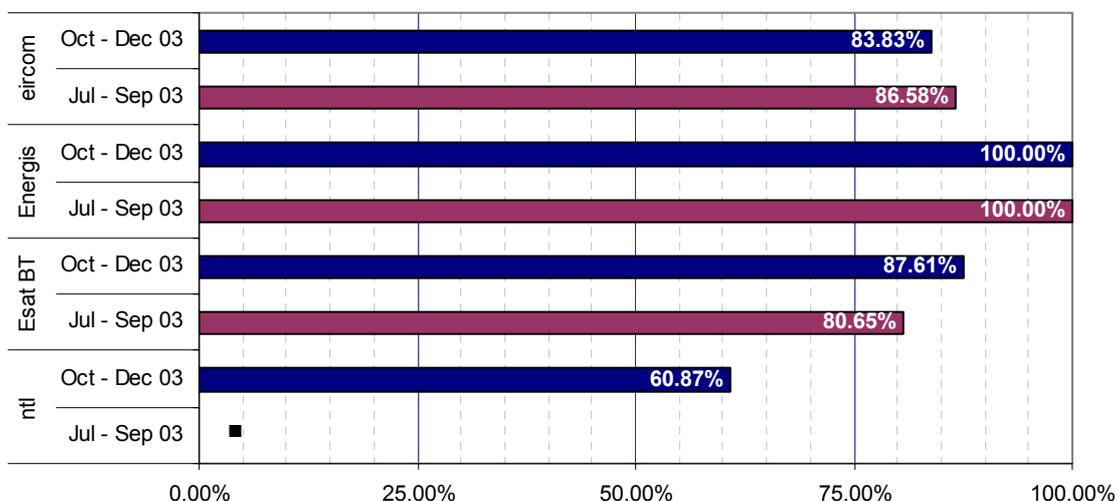
2.4.1 Direct Access Faults registered

This graph indicates the number of customer reported faults each direct access operator has registered per 100 direct access lines.



2.4.2 Direct Access faults cleared by promised fault clearance time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's direct access customer reported faults that were cleared on or before the promised target time.



Operator target promise time for fault clearance

<i>eircom</i>	17 working hours
<i>Energis</i>	5 hours for loss of service and end of next working day for degraded service
<i>Esat BT</i>	5 hours for emergency faults and 48 for non-emergency faults
<i>Ntl</i>	6 hours for total loss of service & 24 hours for service impairment

■ *The operator is not required to report this measure or there is not data for the period.*

2.4.3 Direct Access Faults –Variance from promised fault clearance time

This table indicates the percentage variance in hours from the promised fault clearance time for direct access faults.

		<=0 hours	1 hour	4 hours	8 hours	24 hours	>24 hours
eircom	Oct - Dec 03	83.83%	1.35%	2.97%	1.76%	1.94%	8.15%
	Jul - Sep 03	86.58%	1.13%	2.69%	1.74%	1.73%	6.13%
Energis	Oct - Dec 03	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul - Sep 03	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	87.61%	0.92%	0.46%	1.83%	4.59%	4.59%
	Jul - Sep 03	80.65%	1.84%	4.15%	1.38%	6.45%	5.53%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	60.87%	0.00%	8.70%	8.69%	8.70%	13.04%
	Jul - Sep 03	■					

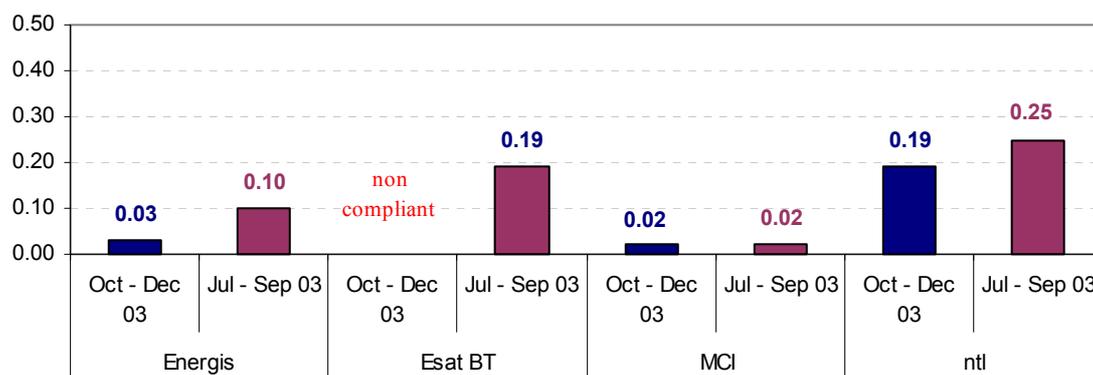
Operator target promise time for fault clearance

<i>eircom</i>	17 working hours
<i>Energis</i>	5 hours for loss of service and end of next working day for degraded service
<i>Esat BT</i>	5 hours for emergency faults and 48 for non-emergency faults
<i>Ntl</i>	6 hours for total loss of service & 24 hours for service impairment

2.5 Indirect Access Faults

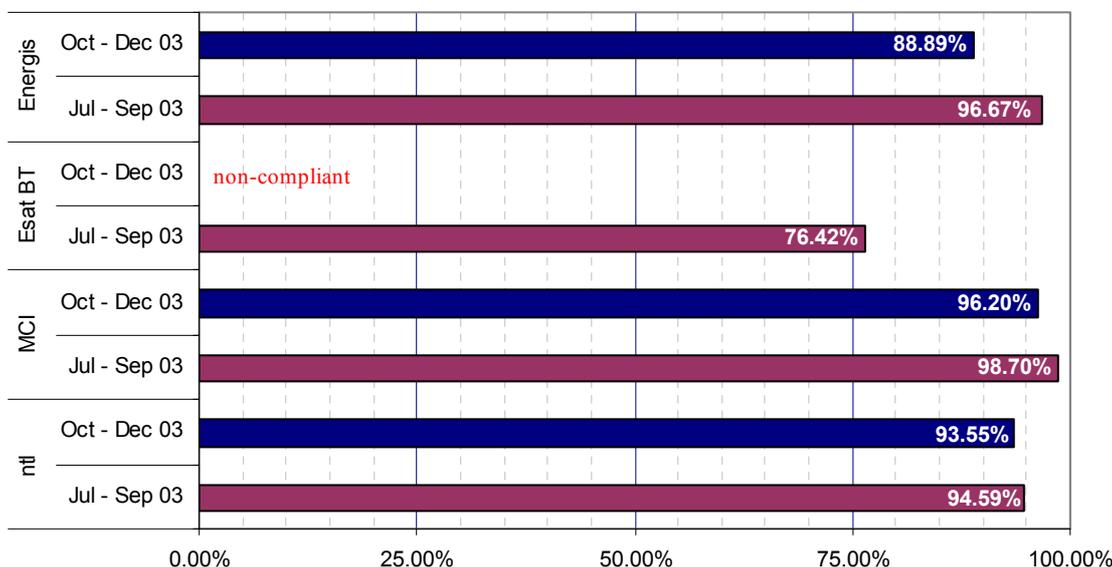
2.5.1 Indirect Access Faults registered

This graph indicates the number of customer reported faults each indirect access operator has registered per 100 calling line identities.



2.5.2 Indirect Access faults cleared by promise fault clearance time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's indirect access customer reported faults that were cleared on or before the promised target time.



Operator target promise time for fault clearance

<i>Energis</i>	End of next working day for loss of service and 1 working day later for degraded service
<i>Esat BT</i>	5 hours for emergency and 48 for non-emergency faults
<i>MCI</i>	24 hours for outages and 48 hours for degraded service
<i>ntl</i>	6 hours for total loss and 24 hours when service impaired

2.5.3 Indirect Access faults – Variance from promised fault clearance time

This table indicates the percentage variance in hours from the promised fault clearance time for indirect access faults.

		<=0 hours	1 hour	4 hours	8 hours	24 hours	>24 hours
Energis	Oct - Dec 03	88.89%	0.00%	11.11%	-	-	-
	Jul - Sep 03	96.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.33%	-
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant					
	Jul - Sep 03	76.42%	6.57%	1.79%	2.98%	9.55%	2.69%
MCI	Oct - Dec 03	96.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.27%	2.53%
	Jul - Sep 03	98.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.30%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	93.55%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.22%	3.23%
	Jul - Sep 03	94.59%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.71%	2.70%

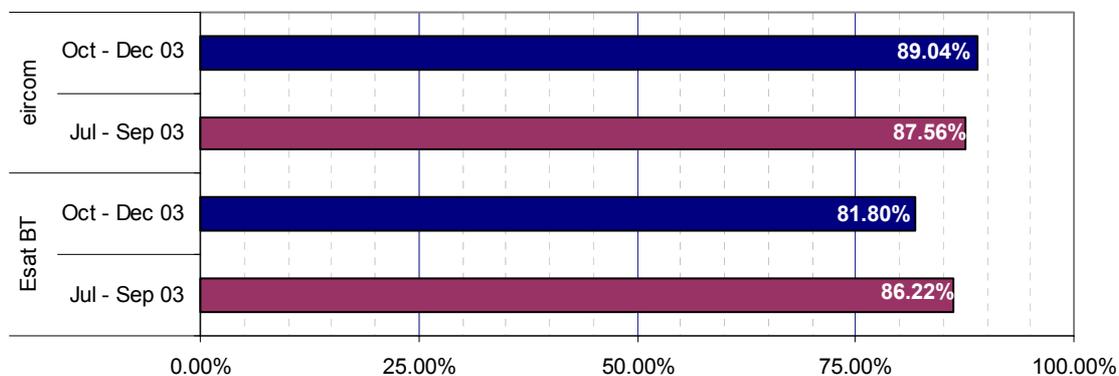
Operator target promise time for fault clearance

<i>Energis</i>	End of next working day for loss of service and 1 working day later for degraded service
<i>Esat BT</i>	5 hours for emergency and 48 for non-emergency faults
<i>MCI</i>	24 hours for outages and 48 hours for degraded service
<i>ntl</i>	6 hours for total loss and 24 hours when service impaired

2.6 Leased Line Faults

2.6.1 Leased Line faults cleared by promised target time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's leased line customer reported faults that were cleared on or before the promised target time.



Operator target promise time for fault clearance

eircom 8 hours

Esat BT 5 hours emergency faults and 48 hours for non-emergency

2.6.2 Leased Line faults – Variance from promised fault clearance time

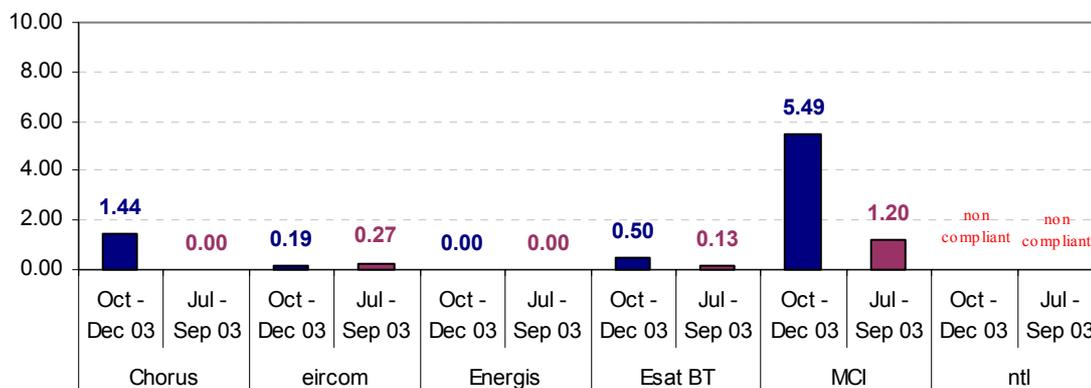
This table indicates the percentage variance in hours from the promised fault clearance time for leased line faults.

		<=0 hours	1 hour	2 hours	4 hours	8 hours	>8 hours
eircom	Oct - Dec 03	89.04%	1.77%	1.10%	1.19%	0.87%	6.03%
	Jul - Sep 03	87.56%	1.79%	1.18%	1.55%	1.25%	6.66%
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	81.80%	1.88%	2.09%	1.26%	3.77%	9.21%
	Jul - Sep 03	86.22%	1.92%	3.21%	4.48%	2.89%	1.28%

2.7 Direct Access Complaints

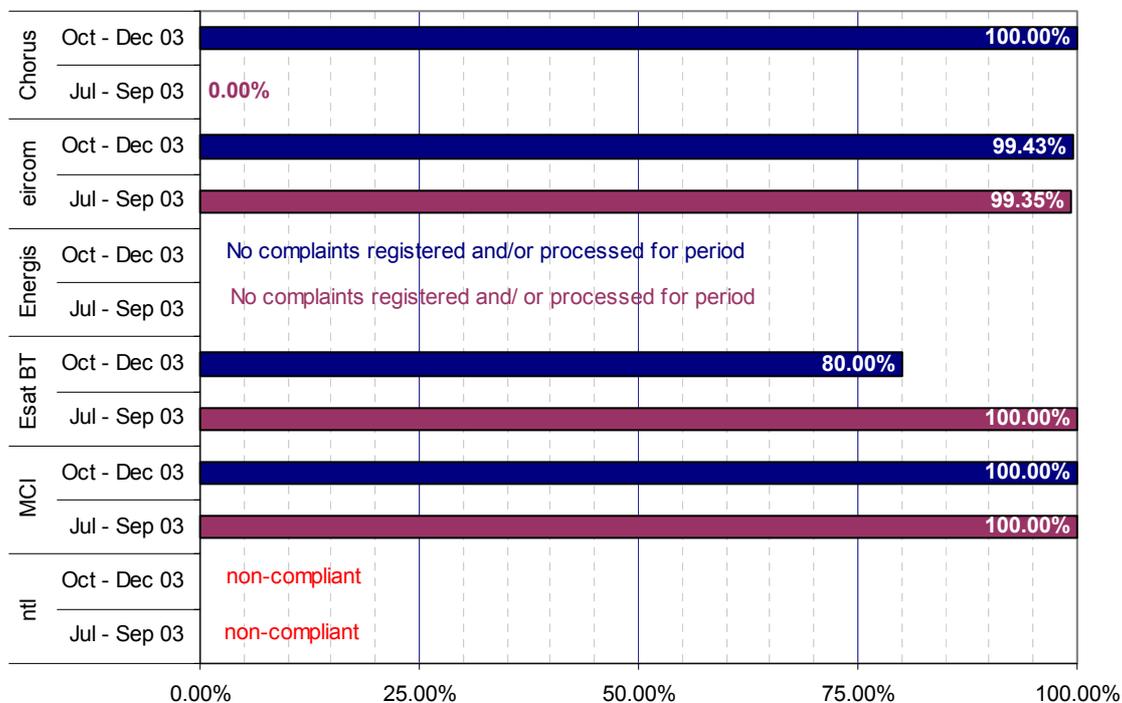
2.7.1 Direct Access complaints registered

This graph indicates the number of complaints each operator has registered per 100 direct access lines.



2.7.2 Direct Access complaints processed within 28 days

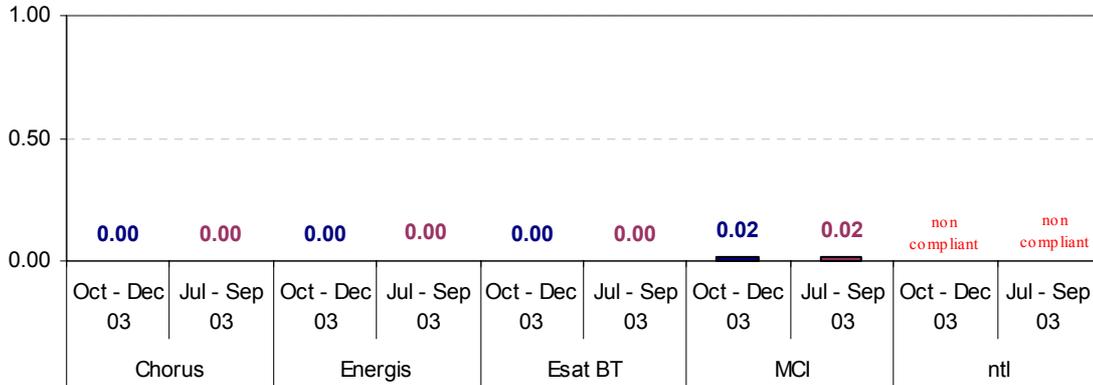
This graph indicates the percentage of the direct access operator's complaints that were processed within 28 elapsed days of registration.



2.8 Indirect Access Complaints

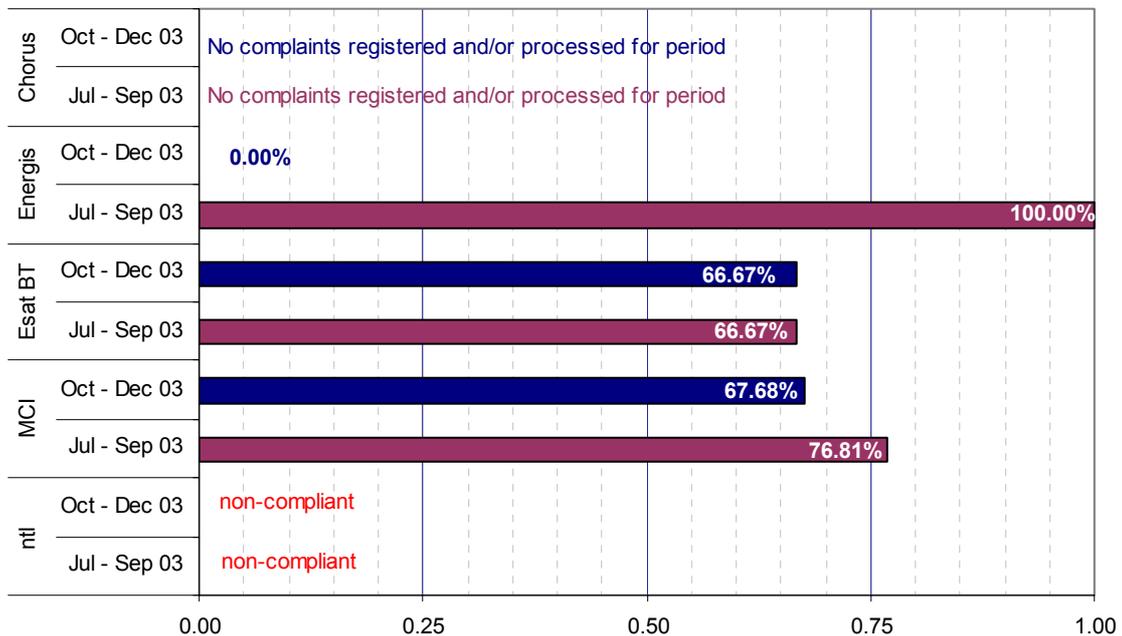
2.8.1 Indirect Access complaints registered

This graph indicates the number of complaints each operator has registered per 100 indirect access calling line identities.



2.8.2 Indirect Access complaints processed within 28 days.

This graph indicates the percentage of the indirect access operator's complaints that were processed within 28 elapsed days of registration.



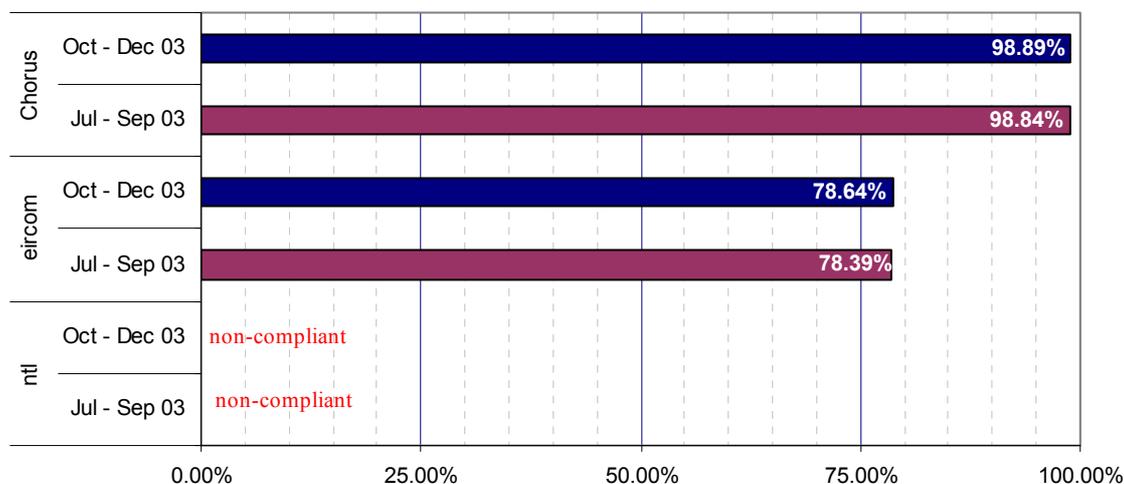
3 Residential Market Results

In evaluating these results residential consumers should take factors such as operator promise times, size, target market, supplier relationship and coverage into consideration.

3.1 Direct Access Orders

3.1.1 Direct Access orders completed by promised order completion time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's total direct access orders that were completed on or before the date confirmed/contracted with the customer.



Operator target promise time for order completion

Chorus The promise date agreed with the customer
eircom The target date is the customer required date

3.1.2 Direct Access orders – Variance from promised order completion date

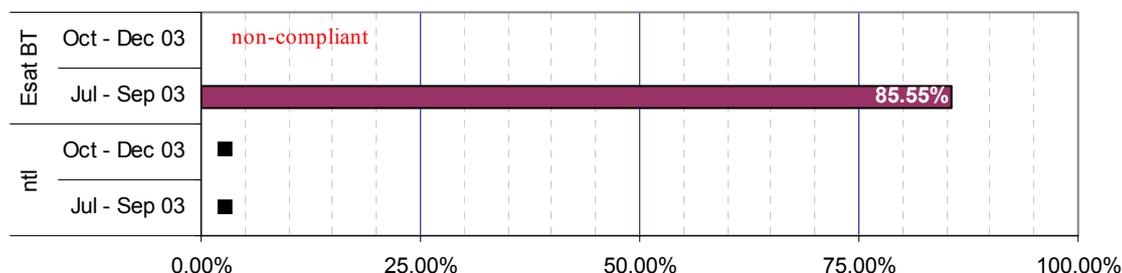
This table indicates the percentage variance in days from the promised order completion date for direct access orders.

		<=0 days	1 day	2 days	5 days	10 days	20 days	>20 days
Chorus	Oct - Dec 03	98.89%	0.00%	0.74%	0.34%	-	-	-
	Jul - Sep 03	98.84%	1.16%	-	-	-	-	-
eircom	Oct - Dec 03	78.64%	3.68%	1.93%	4.12%	4.03%	2.99%	4.62%
	Jul - Sep 03	78.39%	3.90%	2.26%	4.31%	3.72%	2.97%	4.46%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant						
	Jul - Sep 03	non-compliant						

3.2 Indirect Access Orders

3.2.1 Indirect Access orders completed by promised order completion time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's total indirect access orders that were completed on or before the date confirmed/contracted with the customer.



Operator target promise time for order completion

Esat BT 12 days

3.2.2 Indirect Access orders – Variance from promised order completion date

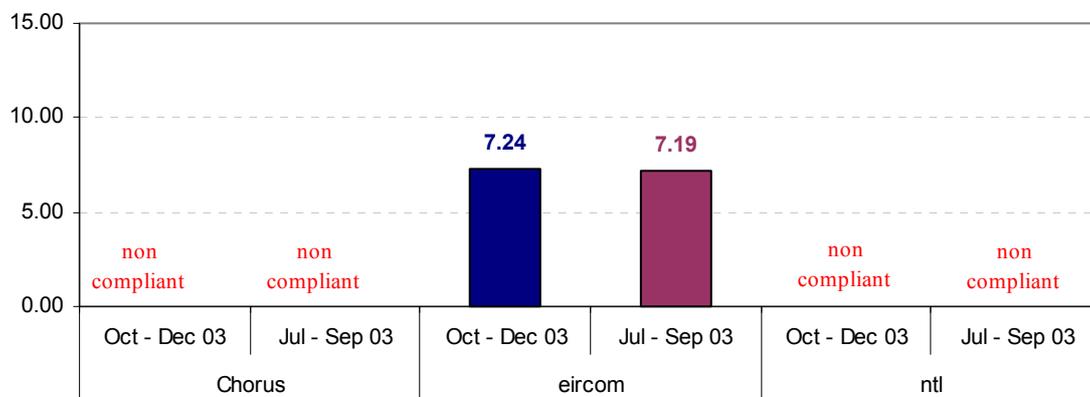
This table indicates the percentage variance in days from the promised order completion date for indirect access orders.

		<=0 days	1 day	2 days	5 days	10 days	20 days	>20 days
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant						
	Jul - Sep 03	85.55%	1.78%	2.19%	1.74%	2.35%	2.44%	3.95%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	■						
	Jul - Sep 03	■						

■ – The operator is not required to report this measure or there is no data for the period.

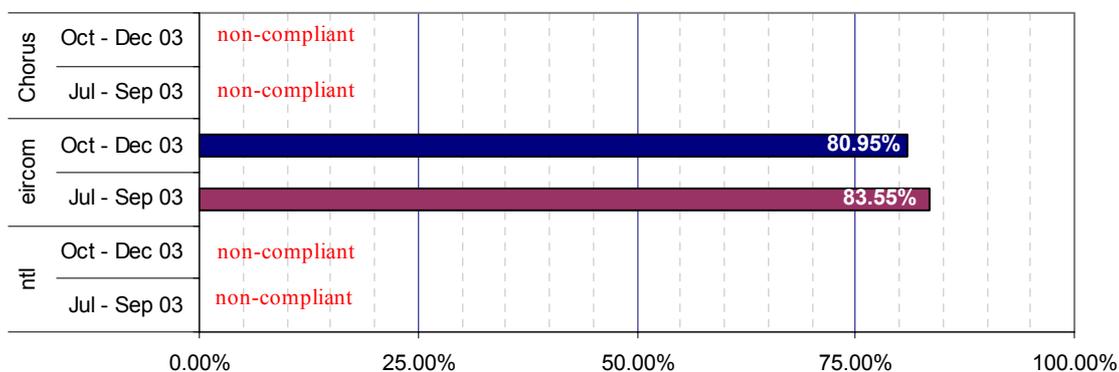
3.3 Direct Access Faults

This graph indicates the number of customer reported faults each direct access operator has registered per 100 direct access lines.



3.3.1 Direct Access faults cleared by promised fault clearance time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's direct access customer reported faults that were cleared on or before the promised target time.



Operator target promise time for fault clearance

eircom 17 working hours

3.3.2 Direct Access faults – Variance from promised fault clearance time

This table indicates the percentage variance in hours from the promised fault clearance time for direct access faults.

		<=0 hours	1 hour	4 hours	8 hours	24 hours	>24 hours
Chorus	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant					
	Jul - Sep 03	non-compliant					
eircom	Oct - Dec 03	80.95%	1.41%	3.34%	2.26%	1.96%	10.08%
	Jul - Sep 03	83.55%	1.32%	3.38%	2.40%	1.91%	7.43%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant					
	Jul - Sep 03	non-compliant					

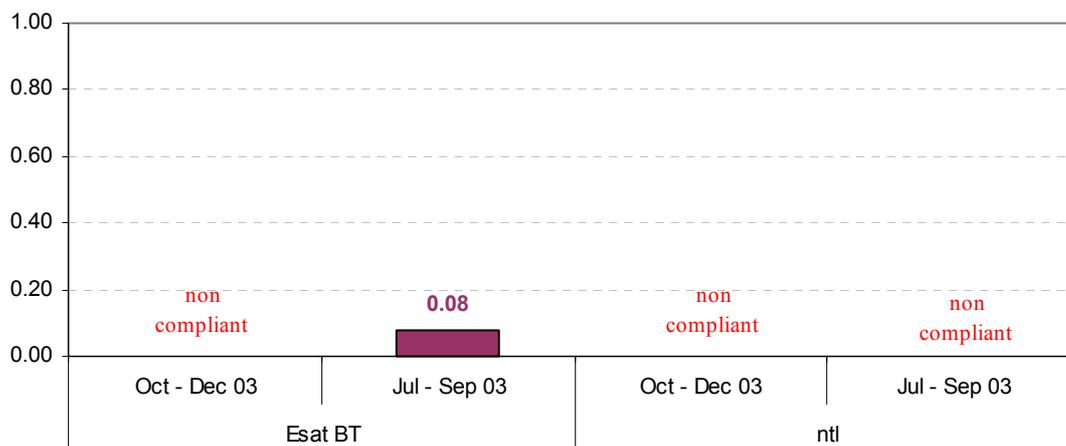
Operator target promise time for fault clearance

eircom 17 working hours

3.4 Indirect Access Faults

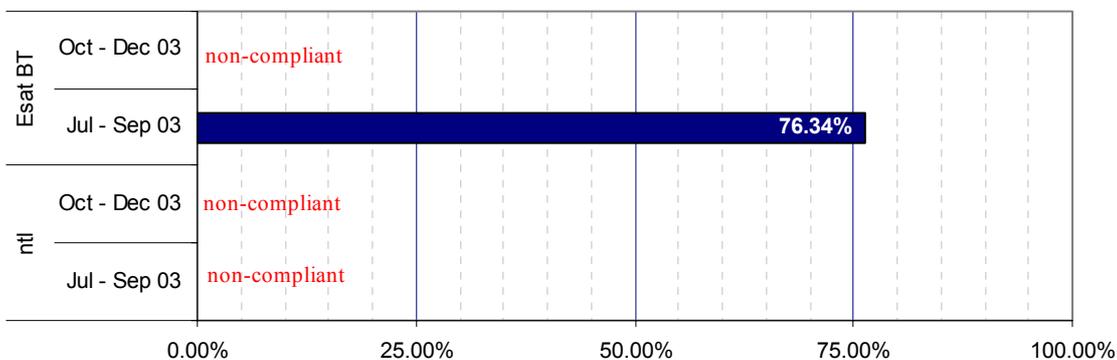
3.4.1 Indirect Access faults registered

This graph indicates the number of customer reported faults each indirect access operator has registered per 100 calling line identities.



3.4.2 Indirect Access faults cleared by promised fault clearance time

This graph indicates the percentage of the operator's indirect access customer reported faults that were cleared on or before the promised target time.



Operator target promise time for fault clearance

Esat BT 48 hours

3.4.3 Indirect Access faults – Variance from promised fault clearance time

This table indicates the percentage variance in hours from the promised fault clearance time for indirect access faults.

		<=0 hours	1 hour	4 hours	8 hours	24 hours	>24 hours
Esat BT	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant					
	Jul - Sep 03	76.34%	0.00%	1.52%	0.77%	3.05%	18.32%
ntl	Oct - Dec 03	non-compliant					
	Jul - Sep 03	non-compliant					

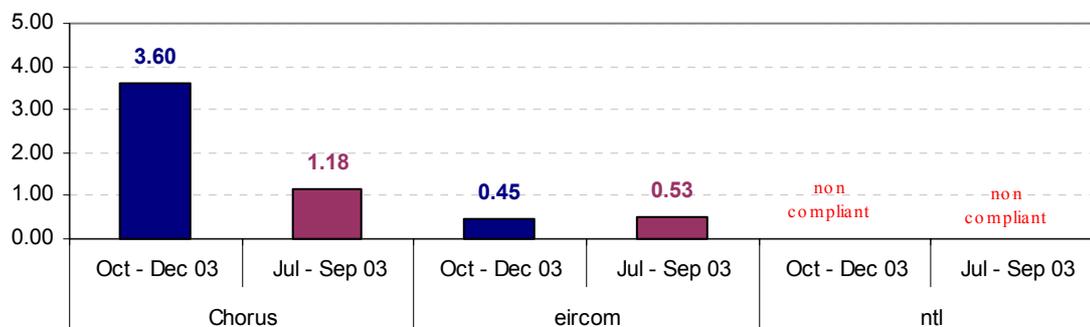
Operator target promise time for fault clearance

Esat BT 48 hours

3.5 Direct Access Complaints

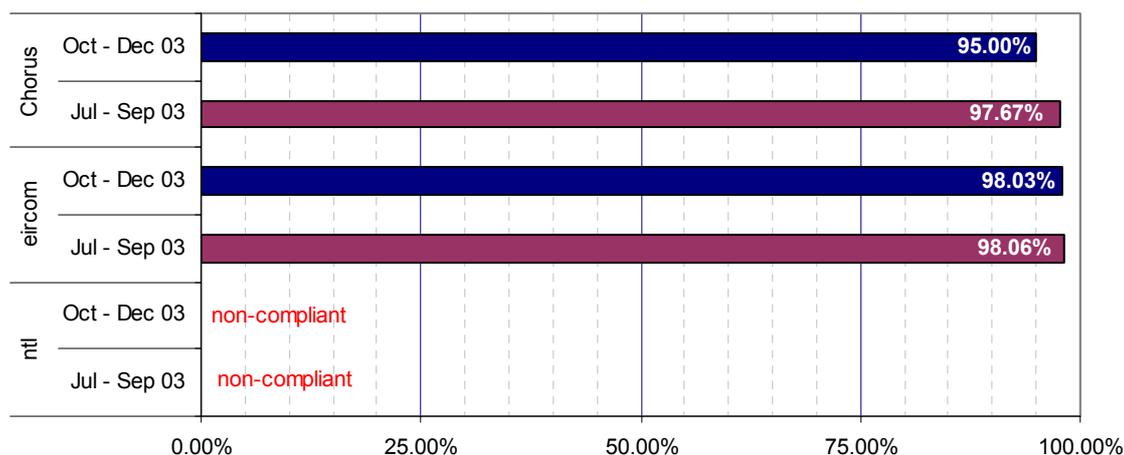
3.5.1 Direct Access complaints registered

This graph indicates the number of complaints each operator has registered per 100 direct access lines.



3.5.2 Direct Access complaints processed within 28 days

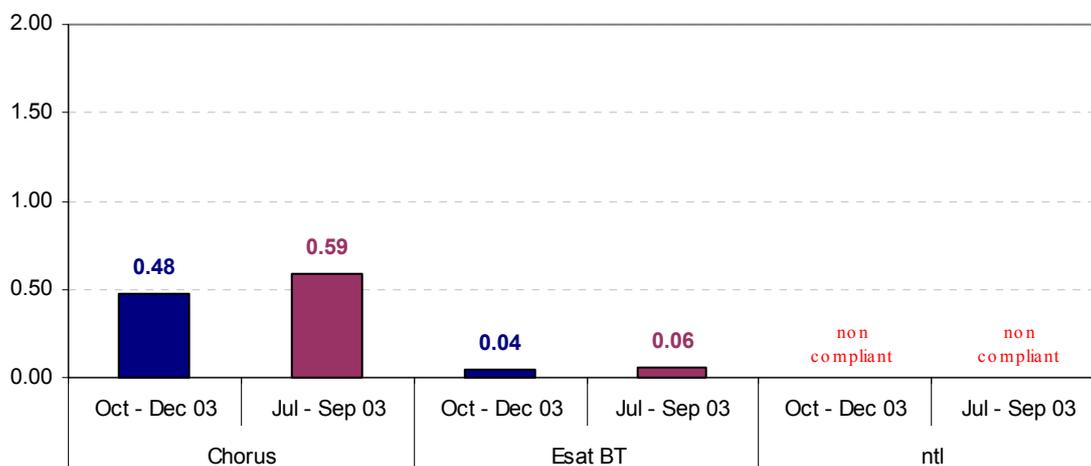
This graph indicates the percentage of the direct access operator's complaints that were processed within 28 elapsed days of registration.



3.6 Indirect Access Complaints

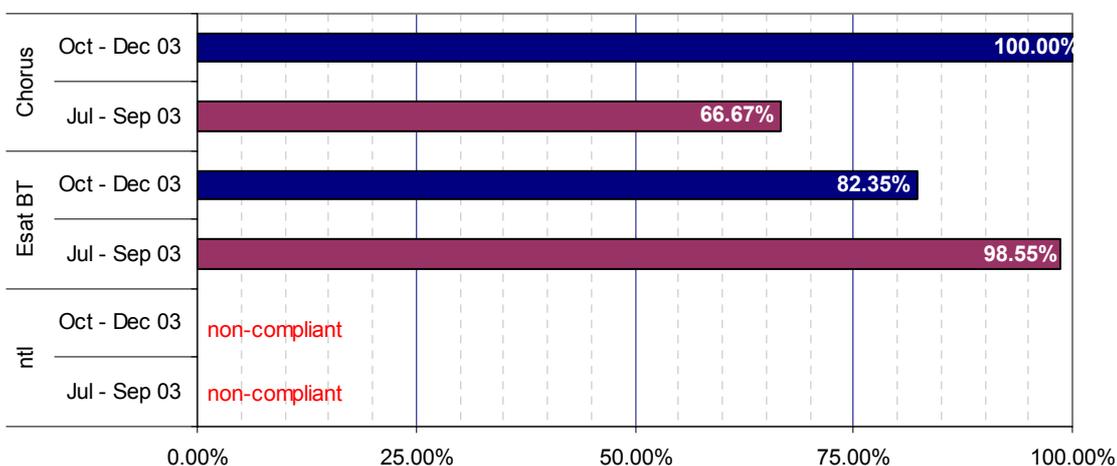
3.6.1 Indirect Access complaints registered

This graph indicates the number of complaints each operator has registered per 100 indirect access calling line identities.



3.6.2 Indirect Access complaints processed within 28 days

This graph indicates the percentage of the indirect access operator's complaints that were processed within 28 elapsed days of registration.



Appendix A - Operator submitted statements

Cable and Wireless

Cable & Wireless is a major international telecommunications business with revenue of over EUR 6.3 billion in the year to 31 March 2003 and customers in over 80 countries. It provides a range of network, Internet and systems integration services to the Irish market. Network services include Frame Relay, ATM, IP-VPN, QoS and IP-LAN. Internet services include Internet Access and Web hosting. Cable & Wireless holds a unique position in terms of global coverage and services to business customers based on its advanced IP networks and value-added services offering in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and the USA. For further information please visit <http://www.cw.com/ie>

Chorus

Chorus provides TV services (via cable and radio-based MMDS) in almost every area of the country. In addition to our basic TV offerings, Chorus digital TV offers a huge range of up to 60 TV channels at very competitive rates. Chorus also offers a range of telecommunications and internet services to business and residential consumers. Chorus offers substantial savings for telephony on a national basis through a Carrier Pre-Selection (CPS) service. High speed Internet access is provided in a range of areas through cable modems.

eircom Ltd

eircom is Ireland's leading provider of telecommunications providing a comprehensive range of advanced voice, data and internet services. eircom also offers services to Other Authorised Operators to carry telecommunications traffic for their customers.

The company, which was formerly known as Telecom Eireann, was established in 1984 when it became a semi-state company. In July 1999, the company was listed on the Irish, London and New York stock exchanges. In May 2001, eircom's mobile business, Eircell, was sold to Vodafone. In November 2001 eircom plc was purchased by Valentia Telecommunications Ltd and subsequently delisted from the Stock Exchange in December 2001.

eircom returned to the Dublin and London Stock Exchanges on 19 March 2004.

Energis

Since its formation in May 1999, Energis Ireland, formerly known as nevada tele.com, has positioned itself as Ireland's most innovative business communications provider. Focusing solely on the business market in Ireland, north and south, Energis Ireland offers a complete portfolio of contact centre, voice, data and Internet solutions. Energis is a leading provider of high-value telecoms and Internet services to major UK and Irish companies and public institutions, with a high profile customer list that includes Betdaq, Bank of Ireland, Phonovation, UTVi and BSkyB. For further information, please contact Energis on 1800 885885 or visit our website at www.energis.com

Esat BT

Esat BT is a wholly owned subsidiary of BT Group plc. Esat BT is a fully integrated part of BT's international broadband network business, focused primarily on providing services and solutions to multi-site corporates. Esat BT also operates in the residential and Internet portal markets. With over 900 employees, the company is headquartered in Dublin with offices in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford.

Esat BT offers a full range of services to **business customers**, including broadband data, corporate Internet, web hosting, web development, e-business and systems integration.

Esat BT offers a full range of services to the **residential market** from home phone services, Internet access, international calling cards and Internet Cafes. Internet access is provided through iol and oceanfree.net.

Ntl

NTL is a world leader in the development of digital networks and broadcast systems. Following the successful launch of Go Digital our dtv product, we have launched interactive services during the latter part of 2002. We believe low price broadband access to the internet is possible. This has already been achieved in West Dublin with our cable modem, where we have reached almost 20% penetration. We are currently testing other technologies to provide similar access across our network. As technology converge NTL is leading the way into an era of integrated communications. For business customers we provide an unrivalled range of competitive voice, data, television and Internet solutions. Using our own network we are the only company in Ireland to operate across all key communication technologies – fibre optic, broadband coax & copper, broadcast, satellite and radio.

MCI

WorldCom, Inc. (WCOEQ, MCWEQ), which currently conducts business under the MCI brand name, is a leading global communications connectivity to businesses, governments and consumers. With the industry's most expansive global IP backbone and wholly-owned data networks, MCI develops the converged communications products and services that are the foundation for commerce and communications in today's market. MCI Ireland currently employs over 111 people based in four offices across the country: Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. MCI has invested over \$140 million in the Irish marketplace, in the network capacity servicing Ireland in a large-scale international data centre. MCI Ireland currently operates a fibre network in Dublin with five loops located in key business parks around Ireland. The company has also invested heavily in rolling out a broad range of Voice, Data, Hosting and Internet services to its Irish customer base.

Appendix B –Explanation of this Programme

Background

Since 1999, ComReg has been working with fixed telephony operators to agree a framework for measuring the quality of service performance. In order to achieve this, ComReg (then the office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation) established the Measuring Licence Operator Performance (MLOP) Industry Forum, which has been meeting on a regular basis since the beginning of 2000 and has defined the measures used in this report and the process by which the measures are collected and published.

The current MLOP publication incorporates quality of service performance data collected for the two measurement periods from July to September and October to December 2003. Each operator has collected service performance data against the defined MLOP Industry Forum measures. (see ComReg website www.comreg.ie³)

All operators are required to collect data on complaint handling performance. Operators who exceed the following MLOP agreed thresholds collect information for management of order and fault categories.

Service Offered	Threshold for reporting
Direct Access Telephony	2,500 channels in specific market (business or Residential)
Indirect Access Telephony	From first year where annual revenues exceed €1,269,738 from indirect access services.
National Leased Lines	500 digital leased lines

Audit and Comparability Review Process

Once the operators have collected the data for the relevant collection period, it is subject to a two step audit and comparability review process, before publication.

Step 1 Accuracy Audit

After the data is collected, independent auditors, chosen by each operator, ensure that the data is complete, accurate and in compliance with the defined MLOP Industry Forum measures.

Step 2 Comparability Review

After the Accuracy Audit, the data is then passed to the independent Comparability Assessor who is chosen by the MLOP Industry Forum. The Comparability Assessor's function is to evaluate the accuracy audit reports from all the participating operators and to make a judgement on the comparability of that data using information, which describes:

- How the data was captured

³ The MLOP definitions (v3.2) document is available on the ComReg website.

- How the data was processed
- How the measure has been calculated by the operator.
- How the measure has been reported.

Publication of MLOP Results

On successful completion of the comparability assessment, comparable data may be submitted for publication.

Why is certain data excluded from this report?

In certain instances data for an operator does not appear in this publication. This occurs if data is categorised as non compliant. There may be many different reasons for non-compliance for example

- The operator failed to submit the required data for that measure
- The data was not audited
- The accuracy audit concluded that the data was inaccurate
- The comparability review concluded that data was not compatible with data from other operators

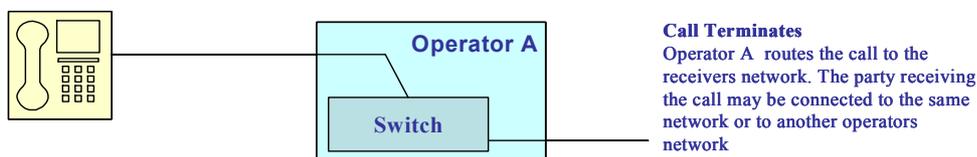
In certain cases, results may still be included in this report. This may be subject to a caveat e.g. an exceptional event has distorted an operators results in a way that is not representative of the operator's overall performance.

The types of telecommunications services measured in this report

This report presents measures for the most common services provided by fixed telephony operators in Ireland. These Services include

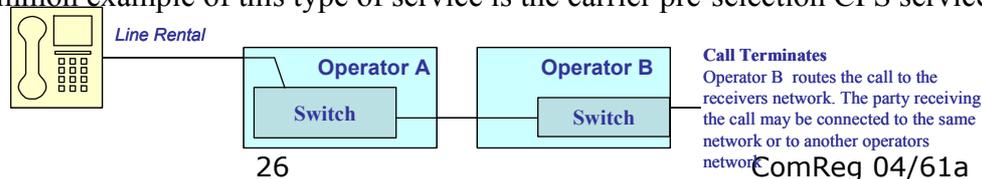
Direct Access

This is where the customer has a single agreement with one operator for both line rental and call conveyance services.



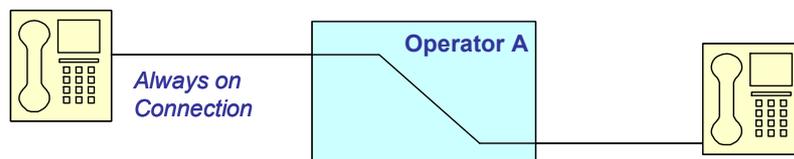
Indirect Access

This is where the customer has a single telecommunications contract with Operator A for line rental and Operator B for call conveyance. The most common example of this type of service is the carrier pre-selection CPS service.



Leased Lines

This is a single dedicated connection between two (or more) customer sites. Leased Lines are also purchased by operators to connect their network points of presence to a customer's site.



Other data on quality of service performance

A separate report which is available on the ComReg website provides additional data on:

Payphone Services

These are the public payphone services that are operated by *eircom* who has been designated as having universal service obligation.

SMP to OAO

These are the regulated services provided by *eircom* to Other Authorised Operators. *eircom* has been designated as having Significant Market Power (SMP) in the fixed services and network markets.

Glossary

Access Line	An access line is the connection from the Network Termination Point to the entry point of the local switch or remote concentrator, whichever is the nearer. In many cases this is the main distribution frame.
Calling Line Identity (CLI)	A registered CLI is a recognised Calling Line Identity (CLI) enabled by the service provider to allow network access, i.e. CLIs that are registered as billable on the operator's network.
Carrier Service Circuits	Carrier services circuits are wholesale circuits negotiated between the SMP operator and OAOs, which are specified in <i>eircom</i> document "Statement of Service Levels for the provision of Specified Services to Other Authorised Operators".
Complaint	A complaint is defined as an expression of dissatisfaction with the operator or the service it provides, received from a user or a member of the public.
Complaint Processed	Complaints are considered processed when: a complainant agrees that all issues have been satisfactorily dealt with and has been completed and closed, the complaint is withdrawn, or the operator has completed all stages of its internal complaint handling procedures, and has informed the complainant accordingly and the operator considers the complaint completed or the complaint is gone to dispute resolution or litigation.
CPS- Carrier Pre-selection	CPS is the facility that permits a consumer to decide in advance to use an alternative operator to carry certain pre-defined classes of call (e.g. all international calls). The consumer does not have to dial a routing prefix or follow any other procedure to evoke such routing.
Customer Reported Fault	A customer reported fault is a report of a disrupted or degraded service that is made by a customer and is attributable to the network of the service provider or an interconnected public network.
Direct Service	A Direct Service is one for which the operator provides a direct link from exchange equipment to a customer's premises (switched).

Fault Cleared	Fault Clearance is defined as being when all items are available for use by the customer as confirmed by the operator.
Indirect Service	An Indirect Service is a telephony service provided to an end user via another Authorised operator's switched access network.
Interconnect Circuit	An interconnect circuit is a single 2 Mbit/s circuit as specified in the SMP's Reference Interconnect Offer (RIO).
Leased Line	A leased line is a single dedicated connection between two (or more) customer sites. Leased lines are also purchased to connect operator network points of presence to a customer's site.
MLOP	The Measuring Licensed Operator Performance (MLOP) programme is an initiative led by ComReg in co-operation with leading fixed line telecommunications operators in the Irish market. This regular publication will present quality of service performance results that have been provided by the major fixed line telecommunications operators, relating to measurement periods of 3 to 6 months.
OAo	OAos are the Other Authorised Operators that purchase Carrier Services or Interconnect Circuits from the SMP operator.
Order	An order is defined as a contractual commitment made to a customer to provide a product or service, or a change to an existing service.
Order Completed	Order completion is defined as the point when all items are available for use by the customer as confirmed by the operator.
Significant Market Power	The Open Network Provision (ONP) framework requires National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) to designate certain operators as having Significant Market Power (SMP). Operators with SMP face additional obligations aimed, inter alia, at control of significant market power. <i>eircom</i> has been designated as having Significant Market Power (SMP) in the fixed services and networks markets.