



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

PRESS RELEASE

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FULL COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS ON NON-IONISING RADIATION EMISSIONS - ODTR 2ND AUDIT REPORT

The Telecoms Regulator has concluded her second audit report to ensure that licensed operators are in compliance with their licence conditions relating to emission limits for non-ionising radiation. The report, carried out by Enterprise Ireland on behalf of the ODTR, concludes that all the companies audited have procedures in place to ensure conformity with the general exposure limits specified in the latest international guidelines and are in compliance with these guidelines.

Audits were carried out in the following companies: RTE, Radio Tara (Atlantic 252), Cablelink, CMI, Princes Holdings, Suir Nore Relays, Esat Telecom, eircom, Eircell, Esat Digifone and ESB. The audits included measurements of emission levels at 30 sites throughout the country. For each site the ODTR requires that the measured levels of non-ionising radiation emissions should not exceed the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) limits in any part of the site or surrounding area where the general public have access.

Of the 30 sites selected for radio emission measurements, 28 were different from the sites chosen during the first audit which was published in July 1998. However, the RTE sites at Tullamore and Offaly, which had exceeded the IRPA (International Radiation Protection Agency) limits during the 1998 audit, were again examined. This time all sites comply with the international guidelines. These sites were chosen as representative of the different types of radio installations countrywide, including many sites with multiple users.

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"The Celtic Tiger has delivered prosperity and jobs particularly in the major urban centres in Ireland", said the Regulator. "Competitive advanced telecommunications services at affordable prices are critical to expanding the benefits to all parts of Ireland. Radio based services are essential to the delivery of advanced telecommunications services in small towns

and rural areas. These necessarily require masts. I am pleased to note that all eleven companies audited are fully meeting the international standards for general public exposure to electromagnetic fields, and I welcome the written Statements of Compliance I have received which have been endorsed by the senior management of the companies".

"Compliance with Emission Limits for Non-ionising Radiation - Second Audit Report" - ODTR 00/06 can be viewed on the ODTR web-site - www.odtr.ie.

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