



21 July 2020

Ms. Emma O'Toole,
Senior Regulatory and Policy Economist,
Eircom,
2022 Bianconi Avenue,
Citywest Business Campus,
Dublin 24,
D24 HX03.

By email only to: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

RE: ComReg 20/46 – Second Request for further clarification

Dear Emma,

I refer to your email dated July 14th last, in which you sought further clarification on points set out in ComReg Document 20/46, ComReg's RFTS and FACO Market Consultation and Draft Decision.

ComReg's response is set out in the Annex to this letter. ComReg has formed the view that it is appropriate to respond in part to Eircom's request for clarification, and to decline to respond to certain requests for clarification, where to do so would risk undermining ComReg's duty to protect confidential or commercially sensitive information.

Please note that this letter (save for the email addresses), together with the Annex, will today be published in the form of an Information Notice on ComReg's website, in order to provide transparency for all stakeholders.

I trust that the foregoing is in order.

Yours sincerely,

Sent by email, bears no signature

Dave O'Connell

Market Analysis Manager

Annex – Response to Second Eircom Clarification Request on ComReg Document 20/46 (the “Consultation”)

ComReg’s response to the second Eircom request for clarifications is set out below. Capitalised terms used below, unless otherwise defined, are defined in the Consultation.

1. “On the issue of the geographic analysis, my apologies for the misunderstanding but the information we are seeking is in relation to the calculated percentage coverage per EA that ComReg states it has derived by dividing total available lines in an EA by the total number of premises in an EA. Can ComReg share the resulting coverage figures by EA with operators?”

ComReg is unable to provide the information sought, as to do so could undermine its statutory duty to protect confidential and/or commercially sensitive information. In particular, a service provider, having knowledge of its own network coverage could potentially, using the information sought, calculate the coverage per EA of any other service provider within that EA.

“In addition, would it be possible to clarify the following further issues;”

2. “ComReg states that the coverage threshold, may be satisfied where a single wholesale NG broadband network is capable of delivering Managed VoIP at a minimum of 80% of premises in an EA, or where this threshold is satisfied by the non-overlapping coverage of two or more wholesale NG broadband networks. We would therefore like to clarify how this test is carried out by EA i.e. is this a multi-stage process with separate calculations carried out for each EA with regard to single network percentage coverage and a subsequent check of multi-network percentage coverage based on net/unique premises if a single network does not meet the 80% criterion? In addition to the NG broadband percentage coverage figure per EA mentioned above, would it be possible for ComReg to indicate whether an EA has passed the coverage criterion on a single or multi-network basis?”

For the reasons set out above, ComReg is unable to provide the information sought by Eircom in respect of whether an EA has passed the coverage criterion on a single or multi-network basis.

In respect of Eircom’s request on the calculation methodology, ComReg can confirm that the coverage threshold test is calculated as the unique NG broadband premises coverage within an EA divided by total premises in that EA. ComReg gathered the relevant data in respect of NG broadband networks. Unique NG broadband network coverage is calculated by first calculating the NG broadband network coverage across all networks in an EA and then by removing any overlapping coverage, to avoid double-counting of premises. This then allows an EA to be classified as passing or failing the 80% coverage threshold.

The breakdown of EAs in terms of a single network or multi networks passing the 80% coverage criterion is detailed below.

NG broadband network coverage at EAs		
	Urban FACO Market – no. of EAs	%
Single network >80%	387	84%
Multi network >80%	72	16%
	459	100%

3. **“ComReg states at paragraph A9.41 that *“[u]sing the inputs described above, ComReg applied the 80% wholesale NG broadband criterion in paragraph A 9.34 above to each EA in the State.”* The inputs referred to include the location of active voice/NG broadband lines. We would therefore like to confirm that the premises passed per EA figure rather than the figure for active connections has been used in the calculation of the percentage coverage per EA.”**

ComReg confirms that this is the case.