



Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

## Information Notice

### **Provision of Universal Service by eircom**

**Performance Data – Q2 2010 (01 April 2010 to 30 June 2010) and Annual (01 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)**

<b>Document No:</b>	<b>10/80</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>1, October 2010</b>

**An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide**

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## Foreword

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) is responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications sector in accordance with national and EU legislation. One of ComReg's functions in this regard is to determine the scope of the Universal Service Obligation ("USO") for the Irish market and decide which undertaking(s) should be designated as the Universal Service Provider(s) ("USP"). On 30 June 2010, following a public consultation, ComReg re-designated eircom as the USP for a period of two years - from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012.

Regulation 10 of the Universal Service Regulations requires the USP to publish information on its performance in relation to the provision of the USO. In exercise of ComReg's general powers to publish information under Regulation 17 of the Framework Regulations, ComReg simultaneously publishes the performance data with eircom on a Quarterly basis, while Regulation 32 requires the Regulator to monitor compliance with the Regulations.

ComReg D02/08 published on 28 May 2008, set legally binding performance targets for eircom to meet its obligations in respect of the services referred to in Regulation 3 of the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users' Rights) Regulations 2003. In accordance with ComReg D02/08, the failure by eircom to achieve any of the targets constitutes non-compliance with its regulatory obligations. ComReg has powers, under Regulation 32 of the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users' Rights) Regulations 2003, in relation to the enforcement of such obligations.

Following the publication of ComReg D02/08, and the clarification of certain issues, ComReg invoked Regulation 10 (5) of the Universal Service Regulations to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted by eircom by arranging for an independent audit of the data. Accordingly, performance information published by eircom is subject to independent external audit. ComReg also obtained technical input to verify that the definitions and the basis of calculation of each of the key metrics of

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the performance data were based on European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) standards.

The eircom performance data with respect to Q2 2010 and the annual performance period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 is presented in this Information Notice. Performance data in relation to other elements of the USO, which are not subject to the legally binding targets, is also presented.

Appendix 3 provides details of the Performance Improvement Programme that eircom has established (with effect from 1 July 2010) for the annual performance periods 2010/2011 and 2011/2012, with associated performance bonds, as notified in ComReg 10/45. ComReg will monitor, and report on, eircom's performance in relation to the performance targets in the Performance Improvement Programme, in addition to the performance targets set out in ComReg D02/08.

**Mike Byrne**  
**Commissioner**

## 1 Quality of Service Targets - Performance

### 1.1 Performance of eircom with respect to connections

This Section measures eircom’s performance in completing fixed-line installations during the reporting period by providing information on performance for in-situ connections, all other connections and connections completed by the date agreed with the customer. As ComReg publishes USO performance data on a Quarterly basis, the sum of the four Quarterly results will be an indication of performance towards the annual target. The actual annual performance will be measured, for compliance purposes, with reference to the total number of in-situ connections, all other connections and connections completed by the date agreed with the customer for the year (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010).

**Table 1.1 – In-Situ Connections<sup>1</sup>**

Annual Performance Targets (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)		Q3 2009 Result	Q4 2009 Result	Q1 2010 Result	Q2 2010 Result	Annual Performance (1 July 2009 - 30 June 2010)
<b>Within 24 hours of request</b>	<b>80%</b> of connections to be completed within this time period	<b>83.8%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>83.3%</b>	<b>83.9%</b>	<b>83.2%</b>
<b>Within 2 weeks of request</b>	<b>99.8%</b> of connections to be completed within this time period	<b>96.9%</b>	<b>96.8%</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>99.3%</b>	<b>97.9%</b>
<b>Within 2 months of request</b>	<b>100%</b> of connections to be completed within this time period	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data reported in this section excludes information regarding in-situ connections with an agreed date, as agreed dates for in-situ connections only arise when a customer seeks, and eircom agrees to, a deferred installation e.g. a connection for a holiday home, etc.

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**Table 1.2 – All Other Connections<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Annual Performance Targets (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)</b>		<b>Q3 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q4 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q1 2010 Result</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Result</b>	<b>Annual Performance (1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010)</b>
<b>Within 2 weeks of request</b>	<b>80%</b> of all requests to be completed within this time period	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>80.7%</b>	<b>87.9%</b>	<b>90.5%</b>	<b>84.9%</b>
<b>Within 4 weeks of request</b>	<b>85%</b> of all requests to be completed within this time period	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>90.8%</b>	<b>94.1%</b>	<b>95.6%</b>	<b>92.4%</b>
<b>Within 8 weeks of request</b>	<b>90%</b> of all requests to be completed within this time period	<b>95.8%</b>	<b>95.9%</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>Within 13 weeks of request</b>	<b>95%</b> of all requests to be completed within this time period	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
<b>Within 26 weeks of request</b>	<b>100%</b> of all requests to be completed within this time period	<b>99.5%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>99.6%</b>

**Table 1.3 - Agreed Date completion for all connections<sup>3</sup>**

<b>Annual Performance Target (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)</b>		<b>Q3 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q4 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q1 2010 Result</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Result</b>	<b>Annual Performance (1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010)</b>
<b>Percentage of connections completed by agreed date</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>90.4%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>93.2%</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>91.9%</b>

<sup>2</sup> Data reported in this section excludes information regarding in-situ connections. Also, where a customer-introduced delay is recorded, and there is auditable evidence of such, eircom shall exclude these Valid Service Orders for the purposes of the performance targets.

<sup>3</sup> Data relating to this metric relates to customer-introduced delays for in-situ connections. For information, a date can only be agreed for in-situ connections where the customer requests and eircom agrees to, a deferred installation.

## 1.2 Performance of eircom with respect to Fault Rate Occurrence

This Section measures the rate of line faults reported to eircom. All line faults reported in the specified Quarterly period are expressed in relation to the average number of installed lines for the Quarter<sup>4</sup>. As ComReg publishes USO performance data on a Quarterly basis, the sum of the four Quarterly results will be an indication of performance towards the annual target. The actual annual performance will be measured, for compliance purposes, with reference to the total number of line faults for the year (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010) and the average number of installed lines for the year.

**Table 1.4 – Fault Rate Occurrence**

Annual Performance Target (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)		Q3 2009 Result	Q4 2009 Result	Q1 2010 Result	Q2 2010 Result	Annual Performance (1 Jul 2009– 30 June 2010)
<b>A maximum fault rate of 14.5 line faults per 100 lines (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)</b>	To be achieved and fully complied with by 30 June 2010	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>14.9</b>

## 1.3 Performance of eircom with respect to Fault Repair Times

This Section measures eircom’s performance during the reporting period by providing information on fault repairs and fault repairs completed by the date agreed with the customer. As ComReg publishes USO performance data on a Quarterly basis, the sum of the four Quarterly results will be an indication of performance towards the annual target. The actual annual performance will be measured, for compliance purposes, with reference to the total number of fault repairs and the fault repairs completed by the date agreed with the customer for the year (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010).

<sup>4</sup> For this Quarter, the rate of total faults per 100 lines was 4.2. The annual rate of total faults per 100 lines was 20.1.

**Table 1.5 – Fault Repair Times<sup>5</sup>**

Annual Performance Targets (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)		Q3 2009 Result	Q4 2009 Result	Q1 2010 Result	Q2 2010 Result	Annual Performance (1 July 2009- 30 June2010)
<b>Within 2 working days</b>	<b>80%</b> of fault repairs to be completed within this time period	<b>75.2%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>75.9%</b>	<b>83.5%</b>	<b>77.8%</b>
<b>Within 4 working days</b>	<b>95%</b> of fault repairs to be completed within this time period	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>90.3%</b>	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>91.9%</b>
<b>Within 5 working days</b>	<b>99.8%</b> of fault repairs to be completed within this time period	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>93.6%</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>94.6%</b>
<b>Within 10 working days</b>	<b>100%</b> of fault repairs to be completed within this time period	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>98.3%</b>	<b>99.2%</b>	<b>98.6%</b>

**Table 1.6 - Agreed Date completion for Repairs<sup>6</sup>**

Annual Performance Target (1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010)		Q3 2009 Result	Q4 2009 Result	Q1 2010 Result	Q2 2010 Result	Annual Performance (1 July 2009- 30 June2010)
<b>Percentage of Fault Repairs completed by agreed date</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>79.3%</b>	<b>80.4%</b>	<b>79.9%</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>80.4%</b>

#### 1.4 Performance Measurement

Performance by eircom relating to the obligations shall be determined by reference to the information normally set out in ComReg Information Notices published every Quarter and entitled “*Provision of Universal Service by eircom – Performance Data*”, or as may be published by ComReg in such other format from time to time.

<sup>5</sup> Data pertaining to the length of time taken to carry out Fault Repairs with an Agreed Date is presently excluded from this metric due to the technical capabilities of eircom’s Fault Handling System.

<sup>6</sup> Fault Repairs with an Agreed Date arise when an appointment is required to visit the customer’s premises and repair the fault. Where a customer-introduced delay is recorded, and there is auditable evidence of such, eircom shall exclude these Fault Repairs for the purposes of the performance targets.



### **1.5 Non-Compliance with obligations**

The failure by eircom to achieve any of the targets by 30 June 2010 will constitute non-compliance and may give rise to the enforcement procedures set out under Regulation 32 of the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users' Rights) Regulations 2003.

## 2 Other USO Performance Indicators

### 2.1 Introduction

Regulation 10 (1) of the Universal Service Regulations requires the USP to publish adequate and up to date information on its performance in respect of the USO. The information is to be based on the quality of service parameters, definitions and measurement methods which are set out in the relevant EU Directive<sup>7</sup>. These, in turn, are based on the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) standards which provide precise detail on definitions and methodologies and have been used as guidance when recording the performance data. Where the ETSI standards do not cover an aspect of the USO, specific indicators have been developed to ensure that the performance is measured accurately.

### 2.2 Functional Internet Access

This Section records the percentage of PSTN lines that are capable of the minimum data rate of 28.8 kbps (kilobits per second) or greater. In September 2005, ComReg specified a target data rate of 28.8 kbps (kilobits per second) as the minimum data rate which could be considered as capable of delivering functional internet access. Also issued, by way of guidance, was a performance target of 94% of lines to be capable of the target data rate by June 2006. As broadband access does not fall within the scope of the USO, this guideline focuses on single narrowband connections.

**Table 2.1 – Functional Internet Access**

	<b>Guideline Performance Target (ComReg D9/05)</b>	<b>Q3 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q4 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q1 2010 Result</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Result</b>
<b>Percentage of PSTN lines capable of data rate of 28.8kbps, or greater</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>95.4%</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>95.4%</b>	<b>95.6%</b>

<sup>7</sup> DIRECTIVE 2002/22/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 March 2002 on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services (Universal Service Directive)

### 2.3 Public Payphones

This Section provides statistics on the average number of public payphones provided and the proportion of these public payphones that are in full working order during the reporting period.

**Table 2.2 - Public payphones**

	<b>Q3 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q4 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q1 2010 Result</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Result</b>
<b>Average number of public payphones for the period</b>	<b>1632</b>	<b>1477</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>1397</b>
<b>Proportion of public payphones in full working order (%)</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>92.8%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>96%</b>

### 2.4 Affordability of Tariffs

This Section records the availability of the Department of Social Protection (DSP) Household Benefits Package and eircom’s Vulnerable Users Scheme (VUS) and also provides information on the number of bill correctness complaints.

**Table 2.3 – Affordability of Tariffs Measures**

<b>Residential consumers who qualify for the DSP Telephone Allowance</b>	Under the DSP Household Benefits Package, qualifying customers may avail of the Telephone Allowance (€26 per month)
<b>eircom residential consumers availing of the VUS</b>	eircom’s customers may avail of the VUS, which is targeted at customers with a low usage level

## 2.5 Bill Correctness Complaints

The following Table provides information on the number of Bill Correctness Complaints received by eircom for the period per 100 bills issued.

<b>Table 2.4 – Bill Correctness Complaints</b>	<b>Q3 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q4 2009 Result</b>	<b>Q1 2010 Result</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Result</b>
<b>Number of Bill Correctness Complaints per 100 bills</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.08</b>

## 2.6 Specific Measures for Disabled Users

This Section records the services and equipment available for people with disabilities, as follows:

For users who are hearing impaired:

- Inductive couplers
- An Amplified phone
- Visual indicator

For users that are hearing and /or speech impaired:

- The national relay service (Minicom)
- The eircom NAD Programme

For users with limited dexterity or mobility:

- Speed dial and automatic redial buttons
- Hands free facility

For users with restricted vision:

- Braille billing, which is free of charge
- Standardised layout of key pads around central number (5) with raised dot
- Extra large high contrast buttons

For users unable to use the phone book because of a disability:

- Special directory enquiry arrangements, which are free of charge

### 3 Supplementary Quality of Service Performance Data

#### 3.1 Direct Access PSTN Connections – Supply Time Fastest<sup>8</sup>

<b>Supply Time Fastest for All Connections</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Total</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Residential</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Business</b>
<b>Fastest 95% - elapsed days</b>	<b>14</b>	13	15
<b>Fastest 99% - elapsed days</b>	<b>47</b>	45	52

#### 3.2 Connections with an Agreed Date v. Total Connections

	<b>Q2 2010 Result</b>
<b>Percentage of Connections with an Agreed Date versus Total Connections</b>	<b>13.5%</b>

#### 3.3 Direct Access PSTN Repair – Repair Time Fastest<sup>9</sup>

<b>Repair Time Fastest for All Repairs</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Total</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Residential</b>	<b>Q2 2010 Business</b>
<b>Fastest 80% completed (working hours)</b>	<b>15.5</b>	15.6	15.1
<b>Fastest 95% completed (working hours)</b>	<b>32.2</b>	32.5	31.5

#### 3.4 Fault Repairs with an Agreed Date v. All Repairs

	<b>Q2 2010 Result</b>
<b>Percentage of Fault Repairs with an Agreed Date v. All Repairs</b>	<b>5.8%</b>

<sup>8</sup> Data pertaining to connections with an Agreed Date is excluded from this metric as a date can only be agreed for in-situ connections where the customer requests and eircom agrees to, a deferred installation.

<sup>9</sup> Data pertaining to Fault Repairs with an Agreed Date is excluded from this metric due to the technical capabilities of eircom's Fault Handling System.

## Appendix 1 - The Universal Service Obligation (USO)

The USO is a set of requirements designed to ensure that all persons have access to a minimum set of telephone services. The services to be provided under the USO, as set out in the USO Regulations,<sup>10</sup> are as follows:

- Meeting reasonable requests for connections at a fixed location to the public telephone network and access to publicly available telephone service. The connection is required to be capable of allowing voice calls, fax communications and data communications at data rates which would permit functional internet access
- Directory services – provision of printed Directories and Directory Enquiry service, along with the operation and maintenance of the National Directory Database (NDD)
- Provision of public payphones
- Specific measures for disabled users
- Affordability of tariffs for consumers and options to control expenditure

On 30 June 2010, following a public consultation, ComReg designated Eircom as the USP for a period of two years, from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012.<sup>11</sup> Detailed requirements have been set in respect of some aspects of the USO including;

- Document 05/64<sup>12</sup> amended an earlier decision requiring the production of telephone directories in CD format.

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<sup>10</sup> European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users' Rights) Regulations 2003 – S.I. No. 308 of 2003, as amended

<sup>11</sup> The Provision of Telephony Services Under Universal Service Obligations (ComReg Decision No: D06/10, ComReg Document No: 10/46)

<sup>12</sup> Directory Enquiry Services and Directories - Amendment of requirement to make directories available in CD format

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- Document 05/70<sup>13</sup> set out requirements to be followed by the USP when considering the reasonableness of requests for connections and it also set out guidelines to be followed (including performance targets) in providing such connections. The document also provided guidelines in respect of a target data rate for Functional Internet Access.
- Document 06/14<sup>14</sup> provided guidance on the criteria to be applied when considering requests for the removal or re-location of public payphones.
- Document 08/37<sup>15</sup> (ComReg Decision D02/08), published on 28 May 2008, set legally binding quality of service performance targets for connections, fault occurrence and fault repairs for eircom, as the current designated USP to meet with effect from 1 July 2008. (The guideline connection targets published in ComReg Decision D9/05 (05/70) have been superseded by the new legally binding connection targets).

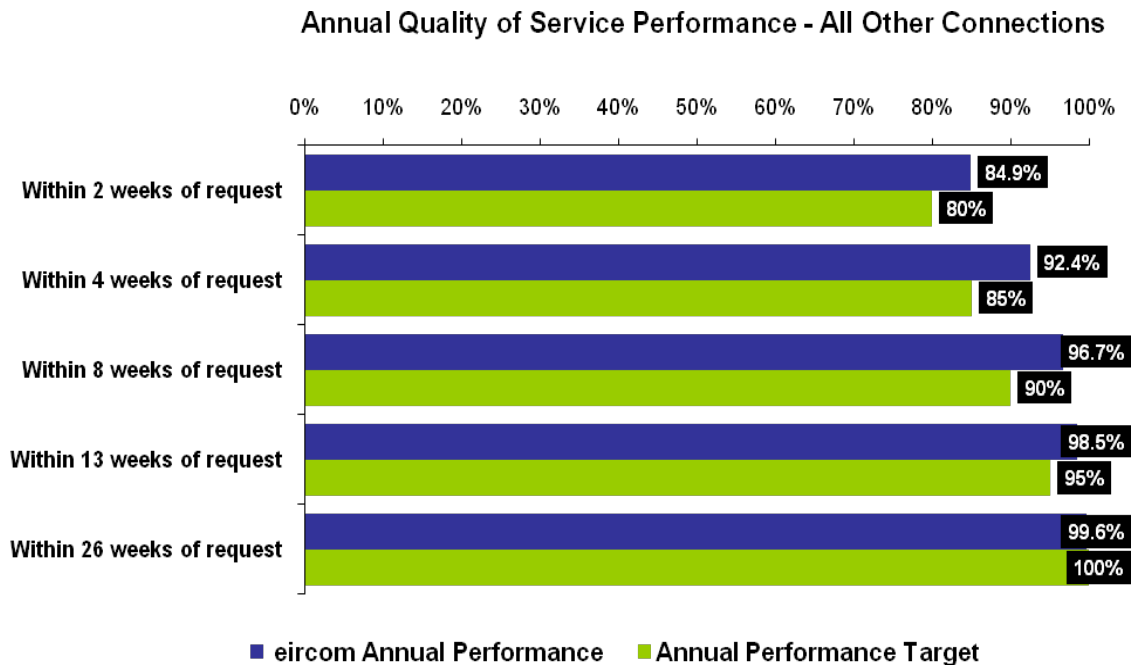
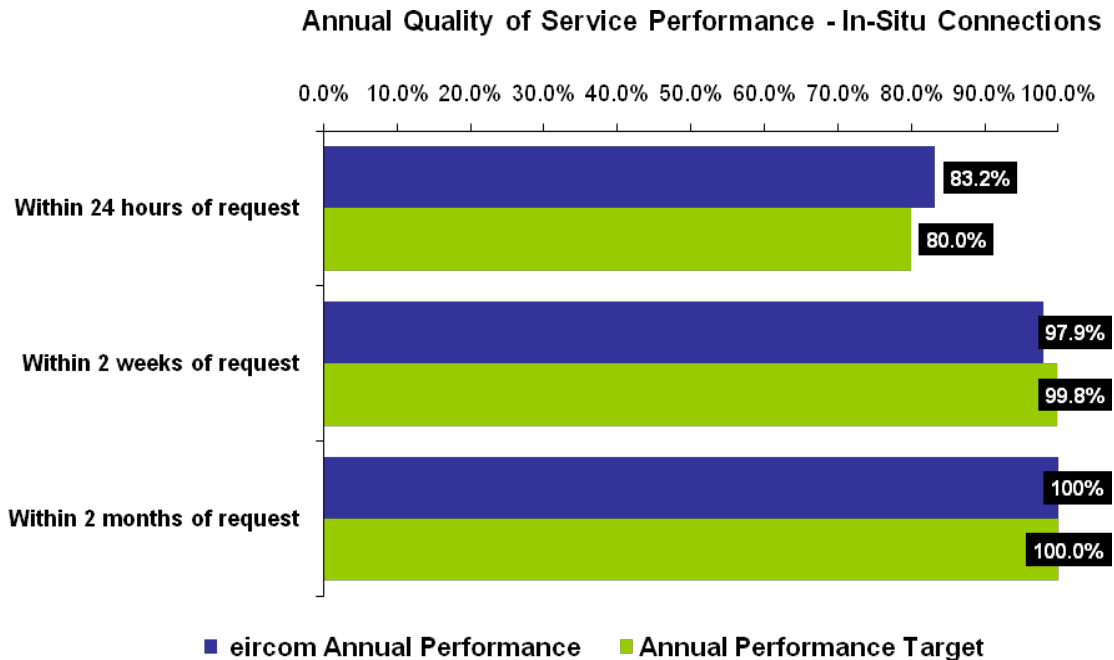
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<sup>13</sup> Universal Service Requirements: Provision of Access at a Fixed Location – Connections to Public Telephone Network and Provision of Functional Internet Access

<sup>14</sup> Universal Service Obligations - Removal/Relocation of Public Pay Telephones

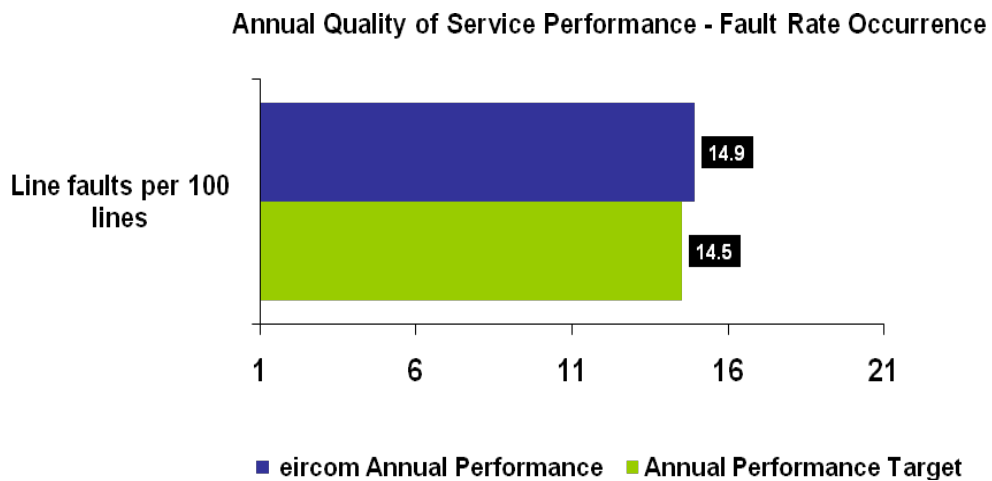
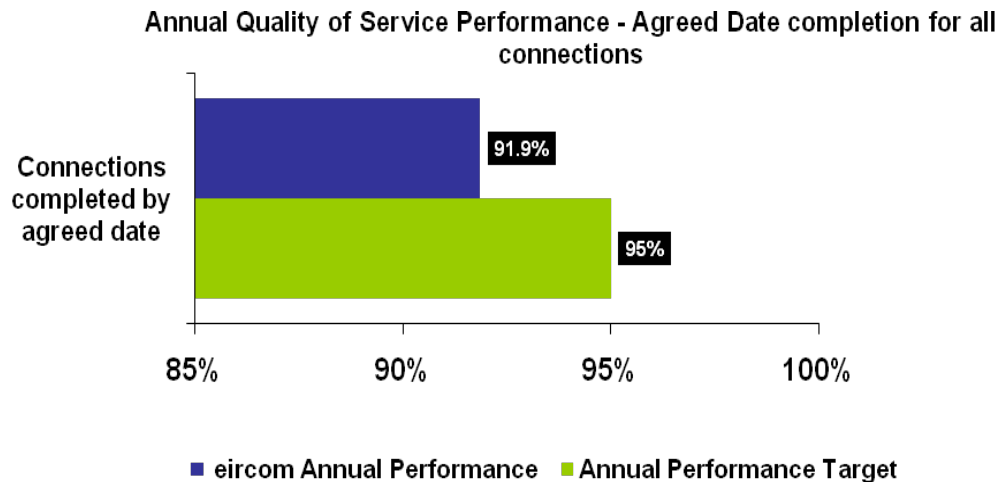
<sup>15</sup> Decision Notice (And Decision Instrument): Response to Consultation – Eircom's Universal Service Obligation : Quality of Service Performance Targets

## Appendix 2 – Graphical Representation of Quality of Service Performance

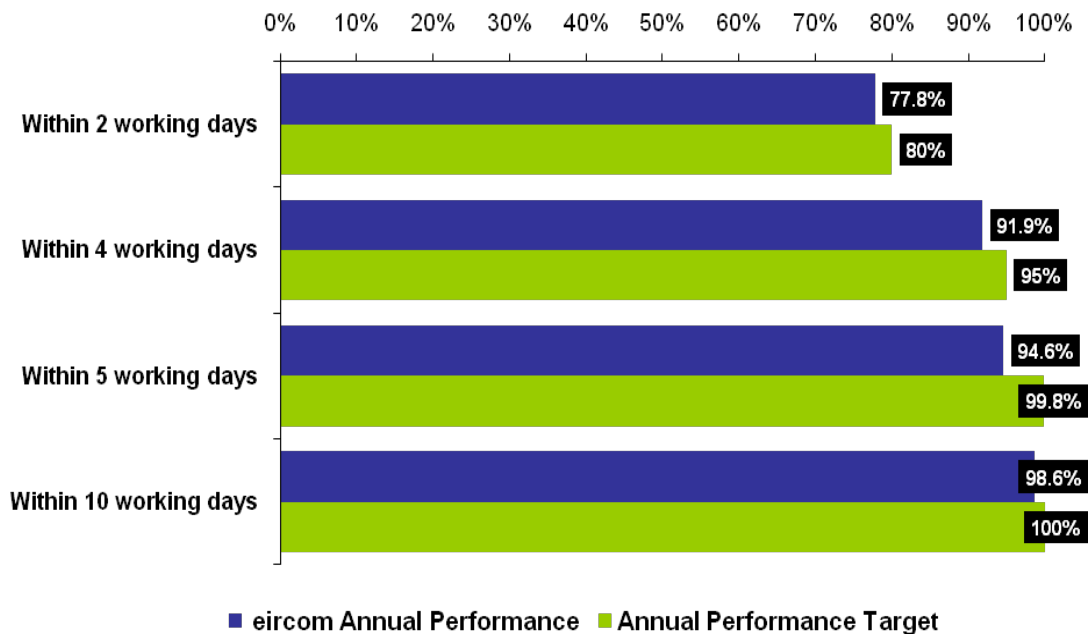




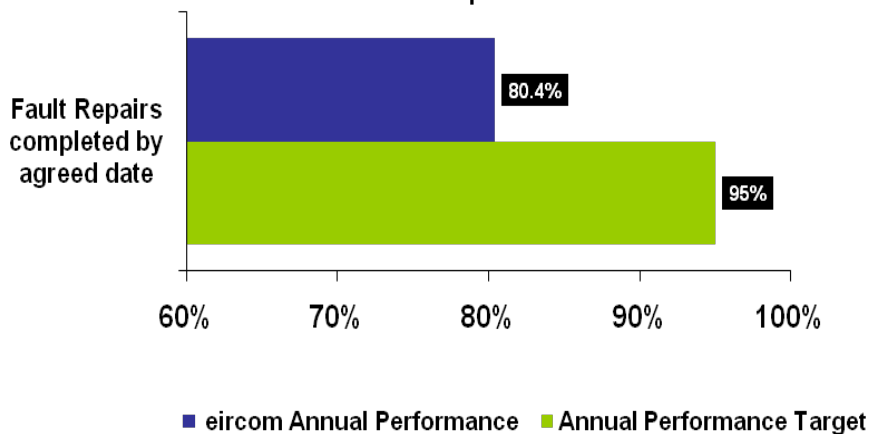
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**Annual Quality of Service Performance - Fault Repair Times**



**Annual Quality of Service Performance - Agreed Date completion for Repairs**



Appendix 3 – Performance Improvement Programme (PIP) - Annual quality of service performance targets and performance bonds

**Connections**

<b>Description of Target</b>	<b>Annual Performance Improvement Programme (PIP) Target %</b>	<b>Annual Performance Bond €</b>
<b>In-situ connections within 24 hours of request</b>	80%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>In-situ connections within 2 weeks of request</b>	99%	€4,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>In-situ connections within 2 months of request</b>	99.8%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>All other connections within 2 weeks of request</b>	80%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>All other connections within 4 weeks of request</b>	85%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>All other connections within 8 weeks of request</b>	90%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>All other connections within 13 weeks of request</b>	95%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target

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<b>All other connections within 26 weeks of request</b>	99.6%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>Connections completed by Agreed date</b>	93%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target

**Fault Repairs**

<b>Description of Target</b>	<b>Annual Performance Improvement Programme (PIP) Target %</b>	<b>Annual Performance Bond €</b>
<b>Fault repairs completed by Agreed Date</b>	95%	€2,500 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>Fault repairs completed within 2 working days</b>	80%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target.
<b>Fault repairs completed within 4 working days</b>	95%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>Fault repairs completed within 5 working days</b>	96%	€5,000 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target
<b>Fault repairs completed within 10 working days</b>	99%	€2,500 per 0.1% deviation below PIP Target

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**Fault Rate Occurrence**

<b>A maximum fault rate of line faults per 100 lines</b>	<b>30 June 2011</b>	<b>30 June 2012</b>
<b>Annual Performance Improvement Programme (PIP) Target</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>14.0</b>
<b>Annual Performance Bond</b>	<b>€1,000,000 per 0.1 above PIP Target</b>	