



Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

## Information Notice

### **Revised Fee Structure for Radio Link Licences**

#### **Information for Radio Link Licensees**

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## **1 Introduction**

In its Spectrum Management Strategy Statement: 2008 – 2010 the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) committed itself to introducing administrative incentive pricing, based on bandwidth used and location of equipment, to encourage the use of more bandwidth efficient technologies and the use of alternative platforms in congested bands/areas. This followed from a consultation conducted by ComReg in July 2005 entitled “Review of fees applicable to Rights of Use for Radio frequencies” (document 05/58) (“the Consultation”). The Consultation sought views on proposed amendments to the licence fees applicable to specific radio communications services – including those which would bring these fee structures in line with ComReg’s objective of the efficient management and use of the radio spectrum.

In its response to the Consultation (document 05/89), ComReg committed to implementing the proposals as outlined in the consultation, with some modifications which reflected the views expressed by respondents.

This Information Notice details the new fee structure that will apply to Point-to-Point and Point-to-Multipoint Radio Link licences. The new fees for Radio Links, will be issued under Statutory Instrument No. 370 of 2009, Wireless Telegraphy (Radio Link Licence) Regulations (“the Regulations”), and will come into effect on 1 December 2009.

In tandem with this new fee structure, ComReg will be introducing a new online application facility for Radio Links Licences.

## 2 Revised Fee Structure

The revised fee structure is designed to encourage the use of the most spectrum-efficient equipment in highly congested areas and in the bands used for high capacity. This is particularly the case with long haul links where demand can be particularly high at certain key nodal sites. The revised fees are set out below.

### 2.1 Point to Point Links:

The new fees payable for Point-to-Point links are set out in Tables 1 and 2 below.

Bandwidth (BW) \ Frequency (F)	BW < 3.5 MHz	3.5 MHz < BW < 20 MHz	20 MHz < BW < 40 MHz	BW > 40 MHz
F < 1 GHz	€750	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 GHz < F < 17 GHz	€1,000	€1,100	€1200	€1,500
17 GHz < F < 37 GHz	€750	€825	€900	€1,125
37 GHz < F < 39.5 GHz	€550	€605	€660	€825
F > 39.5 GHz	€100	€110	€120	€150

**Table 1: Annual Fee (€) for a Point-to-Point Radio Link not being on a High Usage Path or in a Congested Area.**

Bandwidth (BW) \ Frequency (F)	BW < 3.5 MHz	3.5 MHz < BW < 20 MHz	20 MHz < BW < 40 MHz	BW > 40 MHz
F < 1 GHz	€900	N/A	N/A	N/A
1 GHz < F < 17 GHz	€1,200	€1,320	€1,440	€1,800
17 GHz < F < 37 GHz	€900	€990	€1,080	€1,350
37 GHz < F < 39.5 GHz	€660	€726	€792	€990
F > 39.5 GHz	€120	€132	€144	€180

**Table 2: Annual Fee (€) for a Point-to-Point Radio Link being on a High Usage Path or in a Congested Area.**

**Congested Area:** Currently, the congested area applies to links in Grid 3122 and 3123 in the 18 GHz and 23 GHz bands as set out in ComReg 03/124 (S 5.3, Fig. 1). A link is considered to be in the Congested Area when either end of the link path is within the defined congested geographical area. (i.e. in Grid 3122 or 3123).

**High Usage Path:** A High Usage Path is defined as a link path where the Licensee has 5 or more licensed radio links. The High Usage charge is to encourage spectrum

efficiency and to encourage a move to fibre in the longer term. As a Licensee's use of any particular radio link path will vary throughout the year, the fee for the High Usage Path will be calculated and invoiced on a quarterly basis. The High Usage Path fee will be calculated using Table 2 above.

A single Radio Link fee will apply where a Licensee uses both Horizontal (H) and Vertical (V) Polarisation on the same path and on the same frequency.<sup>1</sup> Currently, this is charged as two Radio Link licence fees. This new structure is intended to encourage the efficient use of spectrum and provide an incentive to Licensees which have multiple links on the same path to consider using both H and V Polarisation on the same frequency. In addition, from December 1, the current €12 processing fee will no longer be payable.

## **2.2 Point – Multipoint Radio Links**

Point-to-Multipoint Radio Links will be charged on the basis of 4 times the Point-to-Point Licence fee. This reflects the greater area that is typically subjected to interference by such links, relative to Point-to-Point Radio Links.

## **2.3 Temporary Licence Fee**

Licence fees applicable to temporary Radio Link licences, which may be issued for any period up to a maximum of six months, will be calculated on a pro-rata basis relevant to the annual licence fee using the number of months for which the temporary Radio Link licence is granted. Please note that if a temporary Radio Link licence is granted for a period of less than one month, then it will be considered as being granted for a period of one month for licence fee purposes.

## **2.4 Amendment Fee**

Amendments to Radio Link licences will continue to be permitted. An amendment fee will apply when the frequency and or the bandwidth category of the Radio Link licence is proposed. An amendment fee is due when either/or both the bandwidth or frequency channel on which the link operates has changed such that the annual cost of the link increases. The amendment fee charged is the difference between the old and new fee. There is no amendment fee where the annual cost of the link decreases on amendment.

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<sup>1</sup> Where both Horizontal (H) and Vertical (V) Polarisation are used on the same frequency and path, a licensee can effectively double the transmission capacity, while at the same time only use a single frequency.

### 3 Online Applications

With the introduction of the new fee structure for Radio Link licences, ComReg will also be introducing an online application facility for Radio Links licences. This new facility will enable operators to submit and pay for their applications simultaneously thereby greatly improving turnaround times and facilitating convenient access to the application process.

The main elements of the online applications facility will be as follows:

- The facility will be available via the elicencing website - [www.elicencing@comreg.ie](mailto:www.elicencing@comreg.ie) ;
- The applicant must be an account holder with ComReg;
- If not, applicants can register using the registration facility - also available on [www.elicencing@comreg.ie](mailto:www.elicencing@comreg.ie) ;
- The application data is compiled into a data file (.xml) by the applicant prior to making the application;
- This file is then uploaded during the online application process;
- Full details on how to compile this .xml file will be available on the ComReg website [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie) . In addition, workshops will be arranged by ComReg prior to December 2009 to ensure that stakeholders are familiar with the new process;
- Payment options when using the on-line facility will be either:
  - credit card; or
  - by having a credit available on your ComReg account to, at least the value of the application being made, at the time of application;
- The introduction of the Regulations necessitates payment at application stage; and
- Applicants may continue to submit applications as at present using a combination of Application Form and data file. However, the data file (.anx) will no longer be used. This has been replaced by an .xml file with a different structure.

#### **4 Next Steps**

ComReg will be writing to all licensed Radio Link Operators informing them of the implications of the new Radio Link fee structure to them. In addition, ComReg will hold workshops for all interested parties to provide information on the new online application process for Radio Links. A new Guidelines document on the licensing of Radio Link licences will be published by ComReg before 1 December 2009 to coincide with the introduction of the new fee structure.