



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

Interim RIO Rates 2003/04

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An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide

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Contents

1 Introduction 2

2 Interim RIO rates 2003/04 3

1 Introduction

Under current Irish and EU legislation, an operator who is designated as having significant market power ('SMP') is subject to a number of obligations including the requirement to permit other authorised operators ('OAOs') to interconnect with its network. To facilitate this process, the SMP operator must publish a reference interconnect offer ('RIO') that sets out the terms and conditions for interconnection and the prices to be charged. The contents and production of the RIO are subject to statutory requirements, compliance with which is overseen by the Commission for Communications Regulation ('ComReg'). In particular, an SMP operator must justify to ComReg's satisfaction that the prices set are in accordance with the requirements of the legislation which include the need for these prices to be cost-oriented, non-discriminatory and transparent. If ComReg is not satisfied that prices are properly justified, it may direct changes to be made to the RIO.

Eircom is an operator designated as having SMP in the relevant market for interconnection. Following the introduction of a new regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services in Ireland on 25 July 2003, ComReg has commenced a process of market analysis to assess the competitiveness of markets in this sector and if appropriate, to impose appropriate regulatory obligations. Pending completion of this work, *eircom* continues, under Regulation 8 of the Access Regulations¹ to be subject to the obligations set out in the European Communities (Interconnection in Telecommunications) Regulations, 1998 (S.I. No. 15 of 1998) as amended.

Eircom had proposed in its submission to ComReg of 15 July 2003, revised interim interconnection conveyance rates for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004. ComReg has written to *eircom* indicating that it should publish these proposed rates in its RIO without amendment. Any settlements arising from these changes are expected to be made in line with past practice. These rates take account of the changes in methodology directed in ComReg Decision Notice D14/03. The revised rates mean that *eircom's* wholesale customers will pay less for interconnection; indeed ComReg estimates that these revised rates are amongst the lowest in the EU, at present only bettered in Denmark and France.

¹ S.I. No. 305 of 2003 the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Access) Regulations 2003 which transposes Directive 2002/19/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 7 March 2002 on access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and associated facilities.

2 Interim RIO rates 2003/04

<u>Interim Rates 03/04</u>	24 hour Cost per min	Day Cost per min	Evening Cost per min	Weekend Cost per min
Call Termination				
Primary	0.203	0.263	0.149	0.141
Short Tandem	0.396	0.513	0.291	0.275
Long Tandem	0.571	0.740	0.420	0.396
Call Origination				
Primary	0.207	0.268	0.152	0.144
Short Tandem	0.396	0.514	0.291	0.275
Long Tandem	0.514	0.666	0.378	0.357
Transit	0.211	0.274	0.155	0.147
	24 hour Cost per call	Day Cost per call	Evening Cost per call	Weekend Cost per call
Call Termination				
Primary	0.543	0.705	0.399	0.377
Short Tandem	0.774	1.004	0.569	0.538
Long Tandem	0.859	1.113	0.631	0.596
Call Origination				
Primary	0.547	0.710	0.402	0.380
Short Tandem	0.747	0.969	0.549	0.519
Long Tandem	0.781	1.013	0.574	0.542
Transit	0.411	0.533	0.302	0.285