



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
5th July, 1999

IRELAND MOVES UP IN LIBERALISATION RANKINGS

The Irish telecommunications industry is now ranked third in Europe in terms of its progress in liberalising the telecoms market, according to a new report. This represents a rise of one place from its fourth place ranking in February 1999 and a massive climb from its position in September 1998 where a similar study, carried out before the market was deregulated, rated Ireland ninth out of the 10 countries surveyed.

The report **Liberalisation Milestones*** was carried out by British Telecom and its allied companies throughout Europe. It compares the regulation and liberalisation processes in 10 European countries. It found that Ireland has been moving quickly to establish a competitive and open market following full liberalisation in December 1998.

Welcoming the report, the Director for Telecommunications Regulation, Etain Doyle said, "I am pleased to see this recognition of the hard work of the ODTR team as the Office enters its third year. The impending introduction of Wireless in the Local Loop licences, our ambitious programme of consultation on key issues and the decision to introduce Carrier Pre-Selection in January 2000 is clearly impacting the development of full competition in Ireland.

"Despite the later start to liberalisation in Ireland, in December rather than January 1998, Ireland has developed quickly and is well placed among the most advanced of the newly liberalised countries. We still have a great deal to do and some way to go before we reach the degree of market maturity represented by countries such as the UK that liberalised their markets very much earlier, but we are starting to see results which will benefit the consumer and the economy".

MORE

* Liberalisation Milestones Issue 3, June 1999. This report can be accessed at:<http://www.bt.com/liberalisation>

The market that has made the most progress towards full liberalisation is Britain, followed by the Netherlands. Ireland is now ranked third, along with France, followed by Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, Italy and Spain.

ENDS

Ranking	Country	Score
1	UK	95
2	NL	77
3	IRE	68
3	FRA	68
5	GER	67
6	SWI	64
7	SPA	61
7	BEL	61
9	SWE	60
10	ITA	57

▲
Issue 3 – June 1999

Ranking	Country	Score
1	UK	94
2	NL	70
3	GER	66
4	FRA	65
4	IRE	65
6	SWI	64
7	BEL	62
8	SWE	60
9	ITA	53
10	SPA	48

▲
Issue 2 – January 1999

Ranking	Country	Score
1	UK	95
2	NL	72
3	GER	68
4	FRA	67
5	SWI	66
6	SWE	61
7	BEL	58
8	ITA	48
9	IRE	27
10	SPA	22

▲
Issue 1 – September 1998

Ireland	September 1998	January 1999	June 1999
Effective Regulation	18	18	18
Fair Interconnect	0	16	16
Infrastructure Competition	0	18	21
Non-discrimination	9	13	13

▲
Ireland's Scores – Issues 1 to 3