



**2 October 2001**

## **ODTR approves ntl's cable price increase application – subject to conditions**

Etain Doyle, Director of Telecommunications Regulation, today (Tuesday, 2 October 2001) announced that she has approved a price increase application from ntl in respect of its basic cable television services. The decision follows an extensive public consultation and there are conditions attached to the Regulator's approval. The new rates approved by the Regulator are as follows: -

Annual	£ 136.00 (Euro 172.68)
6 Monthly	£ 71.04 (Euro 90.20)
Monthly	£ 12.21 (Euro 15.50)

According to the Regulator “ there were 78 responses to the consultation, including 71 from ntl subscribers, mainly in the Dublin area. This is an extremely high level of response to an ODTR consultation, reflecting the importance of the issues involved. Each issue raised by the respondents has been reviewed as set out in the Response to the consultation and ntl has been required to respond to each issue and to provide explanations and commitments to deal with outstanding issues.”

In August of this year ntl applied to the ODTR for a standard price in each of its three cabled areas (Dublin, Waterford and Galway) where it currently delivers identical services. The approved rates will result in increases ranging from £1.64 to

£3.09 in basic monthly subscriptions. The increases range from 15% in Galway to 34% in Dublin, with a 26% increase in Waterford (see Appendix 1).

Since the publication of the consultation paper, ntl has introduced digital services for 140,000 households, thereby repairing the failure to meet the end March 2001 deadline for service availability of 110,000 homes.

Arising from the issues raised in the Consultation, the following conditions will apply to the Regulator's approval of ntl's proposed prices:

- ntl will provide data to allow the ODTR to measure performance of specific customer service related parameters. The ODTR will publish results on a regular basis.
- ntl will provide separated accounts within a time-scale to be proposed by the ODTR, in a form provided by the ODTR for each of its licensed areas in respect of its current financial year and each subsequent year;
- Following a planned network audit in Dublin, ntl will, by end December 2001, have agreed a programme of remedial work which shall be completed by 30 September 2002;
- The upgrade to deal with the picture quality problem areas in Dublin identified in the responses to the consultation must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2002.

Failure to comply with the any of the above conditions in the specified timeframe will lead to the Regulator issuing a direction to ntl to reduce the approved price by 10%.

ntl has provided commitments in respect of its digital roll-out and the funding of the programme as set out above. ntl has agreed to the shortening of the in-platform exclusivity period in its licences to 1 March 2002, instead of the current end date of 19 April 2004. This will facilitate competition in the television market.

The ODTR intends to issue a consultation paper in early 2002 on licensing for television distribution in a market without in-platform exclusivity, with a view to establishing a new licensing regime.

The Regulator also indicated that she intends to review competition in the television distribution market in mid 2002. This will consider the future of price control,

whether the existing formula should be maintained, revised or replaced, and/or whether adjustments should be made to reduce or remove rate regulation.

A copy of the Response to Consultation 01/80 “ntl’s Price Increase Application for Cable Licensed Areas –Response to Consultation” is available on the ODTR website – [www.odtr.ie](http://www.odtr.ie).

**ENDS**

**Issued By**

**Brigid Smyth**  
**Public Affairs Manager**  
**ODTR**  
**Ph: 01 804 9639**  
**Mobile: 086 8270905**

**Note to Editors**

ntl's cable networks provide services in Dublin, Galway and Waterford. The company also has three MMDS licences and serves Counties Dublin, Galway, Mayo and Waterford and adjoining areas. ntl did not seek approval for any increase in MMDS prices which remain unchanged.

## **APPENDIX 1**

The tables below summarise the approved prices for each of ntl’s cable licensed areas.

### **DUBLIN**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Category of payment</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge (£)</b>	<b>Euro Equivalent</b>	<b>Increase (£)</b>	<b>Increase (%)</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	Annual	£101.65	£136.00	€172.68	£34.35	33.8%
	Six monthly	£53.06	£71.04	€90.20	£17.98	33.9%
	Monthly	£9.12	£12.21	€15.50	£3.09	33.9%

## **GALWAY**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Category of payment</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge (£)</b>	<b>Euro Equivalent</b>	<b>Increase (£)</b>	<b>Increase (%)</b>
<b>Galway</b>	Annual	£117.52	£136.00	€172.68	£18.48	15.7%
	Six monthly	£61.49	£71.04	€90.20	£9.55	15.5%
	Monthly	£10.57	£12.21	€15.50	£1.64	15.5%

## **WATERFORD**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Category of payment</b>	<b>Current Charge</b>	<b>Proposed Charge (£)</b>	<b>Euro Equivalent</b>	<b>Increase (£)</b>	<b>Increase (%)</b>
<b>Waterford</b>	Annual	£108.10	£136.00	€172.68	£27.90	25.8%
	Six monthly	£56.53	£71.04	€90.20	£14.51	25.7%
	Monthly	£9.72	£12.21	€15.50	£2.49	25.6%

All prices shown include VAT at 20% and take account of licence fee at 3.5%.