

Physical Infrastructure Access

One-off charges

Information Notice

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1.1 On 23 January 2024, ComReg published its decision on the analysis of the market for Physical Infrastructure Access ('PIA'), in ComReg Decision D03/24¹.

- 1.2 In ComReg Decision D03/24, ComReg designated Eircom with significant market power ('SMP') across the national PIA market. Given Eircom's position of SMP, ComReg decided to impose a suite of obligations on Eircom, including a price control obligation whereby Eircom must ensure that the prices it charges for access to its pole and duct network are cost oriented.²
- 1.3 In addition, ComReg further specified that Eircom may only recover certain PIA related costs by way of one-off charges in respect of the following:
 - (i) The costs associated with processing a PIA order;
 - (ii) The costs associated with the pole furniture removal and replacement;
 - (iii) Tree trimming costs associated with preparing aerial cable routes in advance of cable deployment.³
- 1.4 Eircom's Access Reference Offer ('ARO') price list stated that the one-off PIA charges for process costs, pole furniture and tree trimming would apply from 1 July 2024. However, in the absence of a notification to ComReg by 1 April in line with the requirements set out in ComReg Decision D03/24, ComReg sought confirmation from Eircom as to its intentions. Eircom has since informed ComReg that it is automating some of its systems and processes for the provision of access to its PIA, which is expected to be completed by August 2024, and does not intend on raising one-off PIA charges until this is completed. Eircom has undertaken to provide further clarity to ComReg as regards a date for notification and publication of its one-off PIA charges, after 23 August 2024.
- 1.5 In the meantime, Eircom is not permitted to raise any one-off PIA charges, until it notifies ComReg and provides Access Seekers with two months' advance notice of the proposed charges, as required by ComReg Decision D03/24.⁵ This is reflected by Eircom in its updated ARO price list.⁶

¹ <u>Market Review – Physical Infrastructure Access (PIA) Market Review | Commission for Communications Regulation (comreg.ie)</u>

² Section 14.1 of the Decision Instrument at Annex 1 of ComReg Decision D03/24.

³ Section 14.2 of the Decision Instrument at Annex 1 of ComReg Decision D03/24.

⁴ ARO price list Version 29 dated 29 February 2024.

⁵ Section 9 of the Decision Instrument at Annex 1 of ComReg Decision D03/24.

⁶ ARO price list Version 30 dated 29 April 2024 Reference Offers | Open Eir