



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

**PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATION, ETAIN DOYLE
RE: CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING THIRD MOBILE
TELEPHONE LICENCE**

For Immediate Release 8th December, 1998

Further to certain reports in some of today's national newspapers regarding the third mobile telephone licence and proceedings in the High Court yesterday, I wish to put on record a summary account of the matter. **IN FACT THIS ACTION HAS NOT YET BEEN HEARD.**

In the light of the anticipated delays in progressing the appeal by Orange Communications against the decision to award Meteor Mobile Communications the third mobile telephony licence, which delays are being reduced to the minimum possible by all parties concerned, I considered that in the interests of the consumer, the common good and of competition, a motion seeking liberty to award an interim mobile telephony licence should be brought to the High Court, there being no statutory power to award such a licence. This was with a view to ensuring that the public would be able to use the service as soon as possible.

The motion was listed before the High Court for hearing on Monday, 7th December 1998 and was to be adjourned to allow Orange and Meteor to respond. It was hoped that the hearing could be dealt with before Christmas. The motion was adjourned yesterday by Mr Justice O' Sullivan to the hearing of the appeal. Liberty to mention the matter to the President of the High Court was granted in order to obtain the earliest possible date for a hearing, which is in the interests of all the parties concerned.

An application was made yesterday afternoon to the President of the High Court for the first available date of the hearing of the appeal. The appeal has been fixed for the first week in March, this being the first date free.