



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Proposed revision of the Register of Users on the Managed Digital Radio Services (MDRS) Network

Response to Consultation

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1 Introduction

1. In August 2008, the Commission for Communications Regulation ('ComReg') granted a licence to Tetra Ireland Ltd for the provision of a Managed Digital Radio Services (MDRS) network. The MDRS network is for the exclusive provision of digital radio communications services to State security and emergency services and to non-commercial bodies engaged in the provision of services to State agencies or related ancillary services.
2. Following the award of this licence to Tetra Ireland, ComReg published Information Notice 08/68 (subsequently revised and published as 08/68R2¹) listing the organisations and agencies permitted to use the MDRS network. This document is known as the "Register of Users" and any additions to this list, and consequently to the MDRS Network, can only be made with the prior approval of ComReg.
3. Following the 2013 consultation process, ComReg agreed a formal application process with Tetra Ireland requiring all future proposed additions to the MDRS network to complete Application Form 14/14². This application process requires all agencies seeking to be added to the MDRS network to justify their stated requirement to be on the network and to obtain formal written consent from the relevant Government Department and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.
4. In Consultation 15/01³ ComReg proposed to add a further three agencies to the MDRS network, namely the Office of Public Works and the Department of Social Protection and Galway County Council while it also sought to increase the maximum number of handsets that may be used by the ESB and the Irish Coast Guard - see Table 1 below. All of the proposed additions had been approved by the appropriate agency and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Type of service	Department/Agency	Operational Agency/Division	Maximum Number of users/units
Security of State Services	Galway County Council	Galway County Council	150
Emergency services	Department of Transport	Irish Coastguard	From 60 to 250

¹ ComReg document 06/68R2 Revised register of Users on the Managed Digital Radio Service Network

² ComReg Document 14/14R1 Application Form Application for amendment to the MDRS Register of users - See more at:
http://www.comreg.ie/publications/application_form_application_for_amendment_to_the_mdrs_register_of_users.583.104563.p.html#sthash.GHknvBif.dpuf

³ ComReg document 15/01 Proposed Revision of the Register of Users on the Managed Digital Radio Services Network (MDRS)

Type of service	Department/Agency	Operational Agency/Division	Maximum Number of users/units
Security Services	Department of Social Protection	Social Welfare Officers	100
Security of State Services	Office of Public Works	OPW	22
Emergency Services	Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources	ESB	From 150 to 1100

Table 1: Proposed additions and changes to the MDRS network.

5. In Consultation 15/01, ComReg asked the following question:

Q. 1 Do you agree with ComReg's proposal to amend the Register of Users of the MDRS network as set out in this document?

6. ComReg received no submissions to Consultation 15/01.

2 Final Position

7. Having regard to ComReg's statutory functions, objectives and duties with regard to the radio frequency spectrum⁴, the following represents ComReg's final position on the proposed additions to the Register of Users.
8. ComReg has decided to add the Office of Public Works, the Department of Social Protection and Galway County Council to the MDRS network and permit an increase in the maximum number of handsets that may be used by the ESB and the Irish Coast as outlined in Table 2 below.

Type of service	Department/Agency	Operational Agency/Division	Maximum Number of users/units
Security of State Services	Galway County Council	Galway County Council	150
Emergency services	Department of Transport	Irish Coastguard	250
Security Services	Department of Social Protection	Social Welfare Officers	100
Security of State Services	Office of Public Works	OPW	22
Emergency Services	Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources	ESB	1100

Table 2: Final additions to the Register of Users.

⁴ See, in particular, Sections 10 and 12 of the Communications Regulation Act 2002, Regulations 16 and 17 of the Framework Regulations (SI 333 of 2011) and Regulations 9, 10 and 11 of the Authorisation Regulations (SI 335 of 2011).