



Commission for
Communications Regulation

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

Consultation

Reference: ComReg 15/01

Version: Final

Date: 12/01/2015

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Content

Section	Page
1 Background	5
2 Discussion	7
3 Submitting Comments	9

Annex

Section	Page
Annex: 1 Application Details	10

1 Background

- 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 08/68R1¹) 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 On 6 June 2013, ComReg commenced a public consultation in respect of an application by Tetra Ireland for the addition of the Coast Guard, Mountain Rescue, ESB and Bord Gáis to the MDRS network (Doc 13/54). In that consultation paper, ComReg expressed the view that it was satisfied with the proposed addition of the Coast Guard and Mountain Rescue, as both of these services are specifically mentioned in the definition of "Emergency Services" in the Regulations. Tetra Ireland had also requested that both ESB and Bord Gáis be added to the MDRS network, with a number of handsets allocated to each utility. ComReg noted, in regard to this request, that the definition of the MDRS network in the Regulations makes provision for electricity and gas utilities to use the network in emergency situations only. On that basis, ComReg stated that it considered it appropriate that ESB and Bord Gáis be permitted access to the MDRS network, provided that Tetra handsets would be used strictly for emergency use such as "black start" operations and not for day-to-day operational communications such as regular repair and maintenance work.

¹ ComReg document 06/68R1 Revised register of Users on the Managed Digital Radio Service Network

- 4 On 9 November 2013, ComReg published its response to Consultation 13/54 (Doc 13/94). In its response, having noted the concerns expressed by one of the two respondents to the consultation vis-à-vis the possible distortion of competition in the market by conferring of a commercial advantage on Tetra Ireland², ComReg expressed the view that no distortion of competition should occur provided that the categories of both user and use of the MDRS network were restricted in accordance with Regulation 11(o) of the Regulations, which provides as follows:

“the Managed Digital Radio Services network may only be used by State security and emergency services, non-commercial bodies engaged in the provision of security and emergency services or related ancillary services, and electricity or gas utility undertakings when they are making essential and urgent repairs to their network in an emergency situation (to clarify, such utility undertakings cannot use the MDRS Network when carrying out regular repair and maintenance work).”

- 5 The Response to Consultation, paper 13/94, concluded with ComReg setting out its decision that it would add the Coast Guard, Mountain Rescue, Bord Gáis Networks and ESB Networks to the Register of Users. ComReg subsequently published a revised Information Notice for the Register of Users³ on the MDRS Network (08/68R2) to reflect these changes.

² ComReg document 13/94 Response to Consultation, Proposed revision of the Register of Users on the Managed Digital Radio Services Network

³ ComReg document 08/68R2 Register of users on the Managed Digital Radio Services Network.

2 Discussion

- 6 Following the consultation process that took place in 2013 ComReg agreed a formal application process with Tetra Ireland requiring all future proposed additions to the MDRS network to complete Application Form 14/14⁴. 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.
- 7 In August 2014, Tetra Ireland contacted ComReg seeking permission 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. The full applications for each of these agencies are set out in Annex 1.

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
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.

- 8 On the basis that all of the proposed additions have been approved by the appropriate agency and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, ComReg is proposing to amend the Register of users as set out in Table 1.

⁴ ComReg Document 14/14R1Application 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

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?

3 Submitting Comments

- 9 The consultation period will run for period of 4 weeks commencing **12th January 2015** and closing **9th February 2015**.
- 10 Responses must be submitted in written form. If responses are submitted electronically, they must also be unprotected so as to facilitate online publication. In submitting any response, please also set out your reasoning and all supporting information for any views expressed.
- 11 Finally, it is sometimes necessary for respondents to provide confidential information in their submissions. Confidential information must be clearly identified as such. ComReg will publish all of the responses it receives to this consultation, subject to its guidelines on the treatment of confidential information⁵.
- 12 All responses to this consultation should be clearly marked:- “Submission re ComReg 15/01” and sent by post or e-mail to arrive on or before 5pm on **9th February 2015** to:

Licensing Operations
Commission for Communications Regulation
Irish Life Centre
Abbey Street
Freepost
Dublin 1
Ireland

Ph: +353-1-8049600

Email: Licensing@comreg.ie

⁵ See Document 05/24 at <http://www.comreg.ie/fileupload/publications/ComReg0524.pdf>

Annex: 1 Application Details

APPLICATION TO BE ADDED TO THE MDRS NETWORK**ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL**

Name of Applicant	ESB Networks
Department/Agency:	
Registered Address:	27 Lower Fitzwilliam Street
	Dublin 2
Contact Person:	Noel Rushe
Phone:	██████████
Email Address:	Noel.Rushe@esb.ie
No. of Handsets required:	1,100

Principal functions and duties of Applicant Department/Agency

This is an application to amend the register of users on the MDRS network to increase the number of users allowed to ESB Networks.

ESB Networks

ESB Networks builds, operates, maintains and develops the electricity network in the Republic of Ireland and has a 3,000 strong workforce throughout the country.

It is responsible for constructing and managing the medium and low voltage electricity network infrastructure in the country. This includes all distribution stations, overhead electricity lines, poles and underground cables that are used to bring power to Ireland's 2.3 million domestic, commercial and industrial customers. ESB Networks also owns, builds, maintains and operates the high voltage electricity network in Ireland on behalf of the Transmission System Operator (TSO) EirGrid.

ESB Networks operates approximately 980 service vehicles which work on network operations and repair. With the addition of supervisory and management staff to coordinate a major incident on the electricity network, ESB Networks would need up to 1,100 handsets together with fixed radios at control centre and emergency management locations in order to have all regions fully equipped with appropriate resilience to respond effectively to all emergency scenarios.

The geographic scope of the rollout is the full extent of the ESB distribution network which reaches to the premises of all 2.3 million customers. Therefore the scope is the whole of the Republic of Ireland.

The attached report *ESB Networks Case For Usage of National MDRS* provides details of the quantity of emergency repair calls ESB Networks handles. To give a highlight: in the 18 month period from the beginning of Q1'12 to the end of Q2'13 inclusive ESB Networks received 19,738 calls which involved emergency situations as defined by ESB response processes. ESBN's emergency response system is focused on prioritising response to situations where safety of the public is at issue. The details of this are given in the report referenced.

ESB Networks needs mobile voice service to respond quickly and effectively to emergency repairs required for the electricity network. The MDRS network has the redundancy and backup power

characteristics that make it suitable for this use by ESB Networks.

In the course of responding to emergency repair incidents ESB Network has a requirement from time to time to coordinate and communicated with other responding organisations. This includes:

- The Emergency Services - An Garda Siochana, The Fire Services and Health Service Executive
- Local Authority personnel
- The Defence Forces, Civil Defence
- Other electricity industry stakeholders - DCENR, CER and EirGrid

Description of proposed use as detailed in Paragraph 5 above

ESB Networks has a responsibility to maintain the electricity network throughout Ireland.

A high availability mobile voice service is needed, particularly in the case that there is widespread disruption to the electricity network. This is known to have the secondary effect of causing service outages in commercial telecommunications services – mobile and fixed.

A mobile voice service is needed in order to facilitate timely response to dangerous situations (safety of public is the key priority) on the network and in order to respond to electricity outages effecting essential services, important state agencies and vulnerable users of electricity. This service is most critical during the response to a major storm.

The communications system will be used to communicate between control centres and field personnel who are carrying out emergency repair work, and between field workers themselves as they work on emergency repairs.

On approval of this application, ESNB intends to move to roll out service to field staff without delay. It is envisaged that this would happen within 6 months of getting approval.

Description of any relevant organisation to which the Applicant is linked or belongs to:

ESB Networks as Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) provides operational services to EirGrid the electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO) in Ireland. The service provided includes maintenance and construction of the high voltage transmission system and responding to all operational requirements including fault response and provides all field staff and operational response in the event of a Blue Alert/Black Start of the Transmission System.

ESB Networks 10/6/2014

Section 2

To be completed by Sponsoring Body	
Name of Sponsoring Body:	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (D/CENr
Name of individual action on behalf of sponsoring body:	Caoimhin Smith
Position held:	Electricity and Gas Regulation Division (AP equivalent) /
Signature:	
Date:	6 August 2014

Reasons for Addition of Applicant organisation onto the MDRS Network


A key reason for the inclusion of TETRA units for ESB-N on the MDRS Network, is that during the storms in February 2014, mobile phone networks did not work and ESB emergency staff were unable to communicate when carrying out emergency repairs. Therefore this is needed as a back-up system

D/CENR supports the application on the understanding, from discussions with the ESB-N representative, Derek Hynes, that:

- a total of 1100 tetra radios are planned to be deployed
- These tetra units are not being used to replace GPRS operational devices
- These radios will only be used as emergency backup to the existing mobile phone network which is currently used by these staff
- All laws and regulatory requirements of ComReg and any other relevant authorities will be complied with by ESB-N.
- This does not absolve the ESB-N or any other party from any of its regulatory or other legal obligations
- D/CENR is not providing any funding for this project.

Please note that this section of the application form (i.e. section 2 "To be completed by Sponsoring Body") is the only part that has been completed by D/CENR)

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Approval from Office of the Government CIO	
Name of Officer: <i>SIM LEAHY</i>	
Position held: <i>HEAD Treasury</i>	
Signature: 	
Date: <i>14/8/2014</i>	



Galway County Council

APPLICATION TO BE ADDED TO THE MDRS NETWORK**ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL**

Name of Applicant Department/Agency:	Galway County Council
Registered Address:	Galway County Council, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway
	+353 (0)91 509000
Contact Person:	Julie-Ann Gavin
Phone:	
Email Address:	
No. of Handsets required:	150

Principal functions and duties of Applicant Department/Agency

Galway County Council is responsible for the administrative area of County Galway.

The Council is responsible for the planning, design and construction of important infrastructures such as roads, water supply & drainage facilities.

The Council also has a responsibility to assure that ancillary services required by the Emergency Services responding to an incident (be it a road traffic accident or a fire) are in place and available.

Major Emergency Plan:

This plan provides for a co-ordinated response to major emergencies arising, for example, from fires, explosions, gas releases, transportation accidents and spillages of dangerous substances.

When such emergencies result in a situation, such as a major gas explosion, this requires the activation of the Major Emergency Plan.

Galway County Council's Major Emergency Plan was drawn up in association with a multi-agency group comprising of:

- The Emergency Services - An Garda Síochána, The Fire Services and Health Service Executive
- Neighbouring Local Authority's - Galway City Council
- The Defence Forces, Civil Defence

The purpose of the plan, is in the event of such an emergency:

- Outline generally the procedures to be followed and the functions to be undertaken by the local authority services
- Co-ordinate the procedures to be followed and functions to be undertaken by the local authority, with those of the health board, Garda and any other agencies responding to the emergency.

The Major Emergency Plan is the combined, co-ordinated plans of the local authority, health board and Garda in the area where the emergency occurs.

Description of proposed use as detailed in Paragraph 5 above

The MDRS will be required by council staff for the protection of state and county assets and facilities, in addition the network will be utilised by staff involved in combating the effects of major weather situations. Galway County Council also has an obligation to provide ancillary services to Emergency Services to ensure that they can function as mandated. This requires access to the high availability radio communication MDRS network which will provide full countywide coverage, and a range of features that will assist the councils personnel to provide these services.

MDRS Operational Usage

The MDRS will be used as follows:

- Communications to enable the provision of ancillary services to Emergency Services.
- Communications to ensure protection of County and State assets
- Communication with other agencies
 - e.g.
 - An Garda Siochana
 - Fire Service
 - IRCG
 - National Ambulance Service

Description of any relevant organisation to which the Applicant is linked or belongs to:

[Empty space for description of relevant organisation]

Section 2

To be completed by Sponsoring Body	
Name of Sponsoring Body:	GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
Name of individual action on behalf of sponsoring body:	MARTIA LAVELLE
Position held:	SENIOR ENGINEER, WATER SERVICES
Signature:	[Redacted Signature]
Date:	1st July 2014

Reasons for Addition of Applicant organisation onto the MDRS Network

[Empty space for reasons for addition of applicant organisation onto the MDRS Network]

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Approval from Office of the Government CIO	
Name of Officer:	SIM LEANT
Position held:	NORS MANAGER
Signature:	[Redacted]
Date:	8/7/14



Irish Coastguard



APPLICATION TO BE ADDED TO THE MDRS NETWORK**ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL**

Name of Applicant	Irish Coastguard
Department/Agency:	(Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport)
Registered Address:	Leeson Lane Dublin 2
Contact Person:	Declan Geoghegan
Phone:	██████████
Email Address:	declangeoghegan@transport.ie
No. of Handsets required:	250

Principal functions and duties of Applicant Department/Agency**Irish Coast Guard**

The Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) is a nationwide emergency organisation and is a division of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The purpose of the IRCG is to establish, promote and enforce safety and security standards, and by doing so, prevent as far as possible, the loss of life at sea, and on inland waters, mountains and caves, and to provide effective emergency response services and to safeguard the quality of the marine environment.

The Irish Coast Guard (IRCG) has responsibility for our national system of marine emergency management in Ireland's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and inland waterways. It is responsible for response to, and coordination of, maritime accidents which require Search & Rescue and Counter Pollution & Salvage operations. It also has responsibility for vessel traffic monitoring.

Operations in respect of maritime security, illegal drug trafficking, illegal migration and fisheries enforcement are coordinated by other bodies within the Irish Government

The Roles of Rescue of the Irish Coast Guard

The main roles of the Irish Coast Guard are to rescue people from danger at sea or on land, to organise immediate medical transport and to assist boats and ships within the country's jurisdiction. Each year the IRCG co-ordinates the response to thousands of incidents at sea, and on the cliffs and beaches of Ireland. It does this through its Marine Rescue Centres which are currently based in Dublin, Malin Head (Co Donegal) and Valentia Island (Co Kerry). Each centre is responsible for search and rescue (SAR) operations.

The Dublin centre provides marine search and rescue response services and coordinates the response to marine casualty incidents within the Irish Pollution Responsibility Zone/EEZ. MRSC Valentia and MRSC Malin Head are 24/7 Centres coordinating SAR response in their areas of responsibility. SAR Operations are supported by a decision support systems including SarMap, OilMap and ChemMap, which provides incident management and recording; resource selection and alerting; logging and databases, predict the movement of drifting targets at sea; automated weather inputs and production of search areas and optimum

search coverage plans for search units.

The Marine Rescue Sub Centre (MRSC) Valentia is the contact point for routine operational matters in the area between Ballycotton and Clifden. MRSC Malin Head is the contact point for routine operational matters in the area between Clifden and Lough Foyle. MRCC Dublin is the contact point for routine operational matters in the area between Carlingford Lough and Ballycotton. Each MRCC/MRSC broadcasts Maritime Safety Information (MSI) on VHF and, in some cases, MF radio in accordance with published schedules. MSI includes navigational warnings as issued by the UK Hydrographic Office; Gale Warnings, Shipping Forecasts, Local Inshore Forecasts, Strong Wind Warnings and Small Craft Warnings as issued by the Irish Meteorological Office. This communications watch includes a distress watch on the international VHF distress frequency.

The IRCG, within its area of responsibility and accountability, administers a search and rescue, medical advice and evacuation system which ensures efficient and effective mobilisation, availability and appropriate use of declared facilities and facilities of opportunity. Assistance is provided to any persons in distress or who appear to be in distress regardless of their nationality or status or the circumstances in which those persons are found. Within each Coast Guard Division there are many declared SAR resources such as:

- Coast Guard Volunteer Coastal Units (CG CUs) capable of search, cliff and coastal rescue

- Lifeboats provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Community Rescue Boats Ireland

- Four SAR helicopters under contract to the IRCG (Dublin, Waterford, Shannon and Sligo)

At the Marine Rescue Centres, there is a 24-hour watch in order to react to emergency calls as quickly as possible. It is necessary for the IRCG to maintain thorough information on the location of ships and boats. Many ships are equipped with automatic location equipment, which transmits information about their location at regular intervals, so that their whereabouts can be monitored on the screen at the Marine Rescue Centres.

Description of proposed use as detailed in Paragraph 5 above

The Irish Coastguard requires a resilient, high availability radio network providing nationwide coverage, in order to fulfil its statutory obligations. The NDRS fulfils those criteria in addition to providing the features and functionality required by an emergency service response organisation

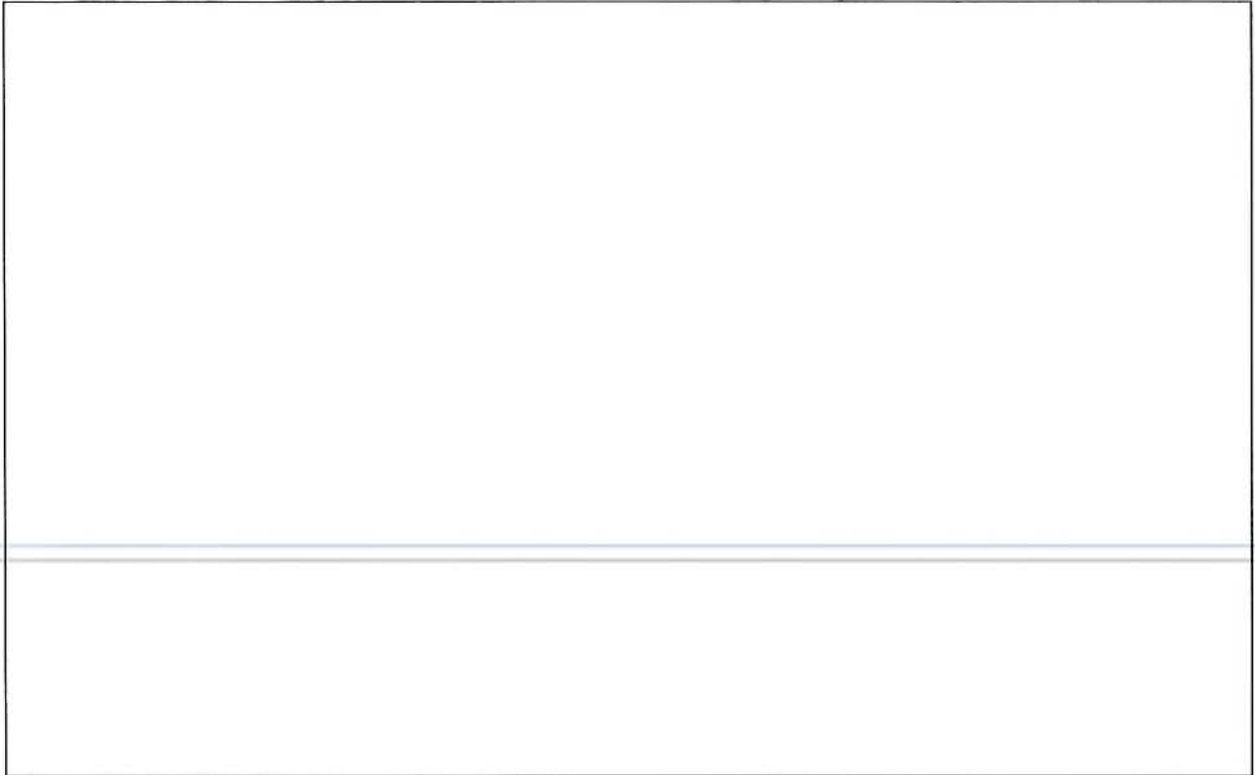
NDRS Operational Usage

The NDRS will be used as follows:

- (A) Mobilise Emergency Helicopter Crews
- (B) Communication with the Helicopter during an incident
- (C) Communication with Cliff & Coast Rescue teams
- (D) Communication with other Agencies

e.g.

- National Ambulance Service
- Hospital Emergency Department
- An Garda Siochana
- Air Corp
- Fire Service




Description of any relevant organisation to which the Applicant is linked or belongs to:



Section 2

To be completed by Sponsoring Body

Name of Sponsoring Body:	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
Name of individual action on behalf of sponsoring body:	Declan Geoghegan
Position held:	SARS Manager
Signature:	
Date:	01/7/2014


Reasons for Addition of Applicant organisation onto the MDRS Network

The IRCG requires the NDRS in order to fulfil its statutory obligations.

NDRS Operational Usage

The NDRS will be used as follows:

- (E) Mobilise Emergency Helicopter Crews
- (F) Communication with the Helicopter during an incident
- (G) Communication with Cliff & Coast Rescue teams
- (H) Communication with other Agencies
 - National Ambulance Service
 - Hospital Emergency Department
 - An Garda Siochana
 - Air Corp
 - Fire Service

Approval from Office of the Government CIO	
Name of Officer:	SIM LEAHY
Position held:	NDAS MANAGER
Signature:	
Date:	8/7/14



OPW

Office of Public Works



APPLICATION TO BE ADDED TO THE MDRS NETWORK

ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL

Name of Applicant	OPW -- Office of Public Works
Department/Agency:	
Registered Address:	The Office of Public Works. Head Office, Jonathan Swift Street, Trim, Co. Meath. (046) 942 6000
Contact Person:	
Phone:	
Email Address:	
No. of Handsets required:	22

Principal functions and duties of Applicant Department/Agency

The OPW is a service organisation.

Their remit covers areas such as –

Estate Portfolio Management including Heritage Services,
& Flood Risk Management.

Estate Portfolio Management and Heritage Services:

The OPW is mandated to maintain and protect state assets in the form of heritage sites and buildings including their state owned contents.

Flood Risk Management:

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead State body for the coordination and implementation of Government policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland. Close working relationships and communications with emergency services assists in minimising the impacts of flooding throughout the country.

Description of proposed use as detailed in Paragraph 5 above

OPW require a nationwide, high availability network which allows interoperable communications with emergency and security services. Communications must also be of a secure nature which the MDRS will provide.

The MDRS fulfils these requirements and in turn enables the office to fulfil its statutory obligations.

MDRS Operational Usage

The MDRS will be used as follows:

- Nationwide coverage will assist the OPW to carry out their flood risk management remit in remote areas
- Communications with the emergency services will allow for timely and well coordinated plans to be executed for flood risk scenarios.
- Secure communications will assist OPW to fulfil the obligation to protect state owned assets and heritage sites.

Description of any relevant organisation to which the Applicant is linked or belongs to:

[Empty box for description of relevant organisation]

Section 2

To be completed by Sponsoring Body	
Name of Sponsoring Body:	THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC WORKS
Name of individual action on behalf of sponsoring body:	JOHN J. KELLY PH
Position held:	CHARTERED ENGINEER SW REGION, FLOOD RISK
Signature:	[Redacted]
Date:	4/7/14
Reasons for Addition of Applicant organisation onto the MDRS Network	
OUTLINED IN SECTION 1.	

Approval from Office of the Government CIO

Name of Officer:

JIM LEACH

Position held:

NDAS MANAGER

Signature:

[Redacted Signature]

Date:

U 8/7/14



Department of Social Protection



APPLICATION TO BE ADDED TO THE MDRS NETWORK**ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL**

Name of Applicant Department/Agency:	Department of Social Protection Social Welfare Inspectors
Registered Address:	Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1
	01 704 3000
Contact Person:	Philip Cox
Phone:	
Email Address:	
No. of Handsets required:	100

Principal functions and duties of Applicant Department/Agency

The Department supports the Minister for Social Protection in the discharge of governmental, parliamentary and departmental duties. Their main functions are to:

- advise Government and formulate appropriate social protection and social inclusion policies;
- design, develop and deliver effective and cost efficient income supports, activation and employment services, advice to clients and other related services; and
- work towards providing seamless delivery of services in conjunction with other Departments, agencies and bodies

The Department has a broad ranging and comprehensive control strategy, which aims to keep fraud and abuse to a minimum.

Types of Welfare Fraud:

The Department's analysis of welfare fraud demonstrates that the principle ways in which social welfare payments are fraudulently claimed are:

- **Concurrent working & claiming:** Where a person claims a payment, such as Jobseeker's Benefit/Allowance or an Illness payment, but takes up employment and does not notify the Department.
- **Non-disclosure of means:** Where a person claims a means tested payment, for example Jobseekers Allowance, but they do not fully disclose their means or sources of income to the Department.
- **Non residency in the State:** Where a person claims a social welfare payment, and is not resident in this jurisdiction, without notifying the Department but continues to claim the payment.
- **Multiple claiming:** Where a person makes a claim for more than one social welfare payment or by assuming and falsely using the identity and PPSN of another person.

- **Life events:** Where a person continues to claim a payment to which they are no longer entitled such as a lone parent who marries, enters into a civil partnership or is cohabiting, or someone who continues to claim carers allowance claim where caring duties have ceased.
- **Cohabitation:** Persons may be living as a "family unit" and fail to notify to Department of the situation in order to qualify for higher rates of payments, or payments to which they may not be entitled.
- **Social Insurance and employer non-compliance:** Where employers fail to maintain appropriate employment/wage records and where non-compliance or non-remittance of Pay Related Social Insurance occurs.

POWERS OF SOCIAL WELFARE INSPECTORS:

For inspection purposes an inspector can, within the law: -

- enter any place where there is reason to believe employment is taking place

"A social welfare inspector shall [for the purposes of this Act or section 121(1)(a) of the Pensions Act 1990,] have power ... to enter, without prior notification, at all reasonable times any premises or place liable to inspection under this section,"

- when accompanied by a Garda in uniform stop any vehicle which he or she reasonably suspects is being used in the course of employment or self-employment

"A social welfare inspector may, for the purposes of ensuring compliance with this Act, if accompanied by a member of the Garda in uniform -

- stop any vehicle which he or she reasonably suspects is used in the course of employment or self employment, and*
- on production of his or her certificate of appointment, where so requested, question and make enquiries of any person in the vehicle or require that person to give to the social welfare inspector any record relating to his or her employment or self employment which the person has possession of in the vehicle and examine it."*

Special Investigations, which are completed by a separate specialist unit (Special Investigation Unit –SIU) focus more on projects involving many linked cases.

These investigations typically involve more complex cases.

They often identify hard fraud cases, which can also be of a far higher yield.

Description of proposed use as detailed in Paragraph 5 above

The Department of Social Protection Inspectors require a nationwide, high availability network which allows interoperable communications with security services. Communications must also be of a secure nature which the MDRS will provide. The MDRS fulfils these requirements and in turn enables the department to fulfil its statutory obligations.

MDRS Operational Usage

The MDRS will be used as follows:

- Secure communications system for the departments inspectors which will assist them in carrying out their fraud investigation duties.
- Communication with other agencies
 - e.g.
 - An Garda Siochana
 - Revenue Commissioners

[Empty rectangular box]

Description of any relevant organisation to which the Applicant is linked or belongs to:


[Large empty rectangular box for description]

Section 2

To be completed by Sponsoring Body	
Name of Sponsoring Body:	DEPT SOCIAL PROTECTION
Name of individual action on behalf of sponsoring body:	Philip Cox
Position held:	PRINCIPAL OFFICER SIM
Signature:	[Redacted Signature]
Date:	23.6.2014

Reasons for Addition of Applicant organisation onto the MDRS Network

[Large empty rectangular box for reasons]

Approval from Office of the Government CIO	
Name of Officer:	JIM LEAHY
Position held:	NDRG MANAGER
Signature:	
Date:	/ 8/7/14