



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 4th May 2001

REGULATOR EXTENDS TIMESCALE FOR DEFLECTOR LICENSING SCHEME

Etain Doyle, Director of Telecommunications Regulation, today issued new regulations ¹ which provide for the extension of deflector licences beyond 31 December 2001.

A total of 31 deflector licences are currently in force and are listed on the ODTR website (www.odtr.ie/deflector_licenses.asp) along with an indication of the areas served.

In 1999, following a consultation process, a framework for licensing deflector operations was put in place by the Director. A feature of the framework was that deflector licences would not be extended beyond 31 December 2001. This was in the expectation that Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) would launch by 2000/2001 and that spectrum used by deflectors would be required for DTT. As DTT has not launched yet, the Director considers it appropriate to provide for an extension of deflector licences if communities are not to be deprived of access to

¹ WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (CARRIGALINE UHF TELEVISION PROGRAMME RETRANSMISSION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2001 (S.I. No 189 of 2001), and WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (UHF TELEVISION PROGRAMME RETRANSMISSION) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2001 (S.I. No 190 of 2001)

multichannel television services.

Under the amended regulations, which were made with the consent of the Minister for Public Enterprise, the Director may extend licences to no later than 31 December 2003. Extension of licences will continue to be subject to the non-availability of DTT in the area served by the relevant deflector licensee.

ENDS

Issued By

Brighid Smyth

Public Affairs Manager

ODTR

Ph: 01 804 9639

Mobile: 086 8270905