



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

PRESS RELEASE

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REGULATOR FLAGS PLANS FOR CONSULTATION ON INTERCONNECTION REGIME

The Director of Telecommunications Regulation, Eoin Doyle today (Monday 8th March) welcomed the publication by Telecom Eireann of a consolidated Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO).

The Telecom Eireann RIO is a vital document in the liberalised telecommunications market. It is in effect a “catalogue” for competitors. It sets out TE’s stall of services and the charges for those services. Individual operators can then choose the elements they require to build their services and negotiate a specific agreement with TE on those issues. The existence of the RIO gives new entrants and operators a starting point from which to negotiate. In a market where Telecom Eireann is by far the strongest player, this is essential tool for new players.

The RIO made available by Telecom Eireann today incorporates a number of outstanding issues that the Regulator had determined in position papers 98/52 and 98/60 published in November 1998.

Amongst the most significant changes, the consolidated RIO confirms the current position concerning:

- Transit to national fixed geographic numbers in accordance with ODTR paper 98/52;
- National and international ISDN interconnect services. These are currently available at the same rates as PSTN interconnect services;
- Supplementary ISDN services. These are being developed by TE.

MORE

The Regulator said “This consolidated text, conforming to a number of determinations that were made in time for the liberalised market on 1st December 1998, provides a basis for moving the interconnection regime forward.” She added, “My Office will be issuing a consultation paper on this RIO shortly which will address a number of vital issues for the market, including new services and network routing principles.”

This is one of a number of related papers that will issue on the interconnection regime over the coming weeks and months.

The Regulator said “The Telecom Eireann RIO is a living document and will change with the requirements of the market. The telecommunications market in Ireland is fast moving and dynamic – the evolution and development of the interconnection regime will have to keep pace with that market.”

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