



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
12th January, 1999

“TELEVISION TRANSMISSION LICENCES – REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION PROCESS”- UPDATE FROM ODTR

The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation has completed its work in respect of setting out the framework for the delivery of digital television services on cable and MMDS networks. The new framework provides for the upgrading of networks, enhanced consumer protection and the setting of milestones to ensure early introduction of digital services and improved quality of service. The draft regulations for licences have been set out in full detail in **ODTR 98/63 – 68**.

The cable and MMDS companies had been given until midnight 11th January to decide if they wished to be licensed for the new commercial prospects provided for in the proposed licences over the next 15-20 years, thereby rising to the challenge of quickly providing advanced television transmission services to the Irish people. One company – Casey Cablevision, has indicated its willingness to surrender its existing licence in favour of the new regime as invited in ODTR 98/63. The other companies have indicated their intention to respond in the next few days as they hold board meetings.

The Regulator has indicated that the regime as set out in ODTR 98/63-68 is complete. “There are no additional understandings or commitments and the companies fully understand this position” she said. The ODTR confirms that a number of the companies were in touch with the Office since 24th December. Questions raised did not cover any new ground and the ODTR has responded to all of these. The ODTR is also heavily engaged in the organisation and resourcing of its work programme for 1999.

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The ODTR will, in the next couple of days, detail the next steps in this process and a full statement will issue on Friday morning next. If any of the remaining companies respond within these days their response will be considered. The plans of the ODTR are already outlined in 98/20 and 98/63 and remain unchanged.

The full text of ODTR 98/63 “Television Retransmission Licences – Report on the Consultation Process” is available on the ODTR website: www.odtr.ie.

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