



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for
Communications Regulation

Provision of Public Payphones

Universal Service Review

Information Notice

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An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for Communications Regulation

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Additional Information

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1. The provision of Public Payphones

1. The Universal Service Regulations¹ provide that a designated undertaking shall ensure that public pay telephones (“Public Payphones”) and other public voice telephony access points are provided to meet the reasonable needs of end-users in terms of the geographical coverage, the number of telephones, accessibility of such telephones to end-users with disabilities and the quality of service. Public Payphones include those located on the street and in other public areas which are always available to the public.
2. In February 2019, Eircom Limited (“eir”) was designated as Universal Service Provider (“USP”) for the provision of Public Payphones, until 31 December 2020².
3. In D01/19², ComReg considered that the usage threshold continues to be the most appropriate method to ensure the reasonable needs of end-users are met.
4. ComReg, in D01/19, stated that it would conduct analysis, following year one of the designation, of the usage threshold, and of the payment methods permitted for Public Payphones³.
5. Given that the end of current payphone designation period is 31 December 2020, ComReg is also commencing its review of the requirement for a payphone designation, if any, after 31 December 2020.
6. In light of the above, ComReg now proposes to conduct a public consultation on the usage threshold and payment methods to be in place until the end of the current designation as well as the need, if any, for a public payphone universal service after the current designation.

¹ Regulation 5 of the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users’ Rights) Regulations 2011, S.I. No. 337 of 2011 (“**Universal Service Regulations**”).

² Provision of Public Payphones Universal Service: Scope and Designation, ComReg document 19/06, Decision 01/19, 25/02/19

³ The USP must ensure that all Public Pay Telephones facilitate a number of appropriate payment means including coins and/or credit/debit cards and/or pre-payment cards, including cards for use with dialling codes.

7. In April 2020, ComReg commenced this process, and issued an information request⁴ to the USP, in order to inform its analysis and decision-making process. ComReg plans to issue this consultation in early Q3 2020.

⁴ pursuant to ComReg's powers under section 13D of the Communications Regulation Acts, 2002 to 2011 as inserted by Section 6 of the Communications Regulation (Amendment) Act 2007