



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

ComReg - Eircom Correspondence on Copper Switch Off

Information Notice

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En Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for Communications Regulation

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Additional Information

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1. The Commission for Communications Regulation (“ComReg”) is the statutory body responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications sector (telecommunications, radio-communications and broadcasting transmission). ComReg has a range of functions and objectives in relation to the provision of electronic communications networks, electronic communications services (“ECN” and “ECS” respectively) and associated facilities in accordance with European Union and national legislation.
2. On 4 March 2021, Eircom shared with ComReg a “whitepaper” entitled “Copper switch-off: Leaving a legacy for the Future” under cover letter from Carolan Lennon, Eircom’s CEO. This letter is attached in Appendix 1.
3. Eircom subsequently published its whitepaper on its website at https://www.openeir.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/White-paper_Leaving-a-Legacy.pdf.
4. On 1 April 2021, ComReg wrote to Eircom welcoming this initiative. ComReg’s letter is attached in Appendix 2.
5. ComReg looks forward to engaging with Eircom and other stakeholders on this important matter and will consult publicly in due course

Appendix 1:



2022 Bianconi Avenue
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin 24 D24 HX03
T +353 1 671 4444
eir.ie

Garrett Blaney
Chairperson
Commission for Communications Regulation
1 Dockland Central
Guild Street
Dublin 1
D01 E4X0

By email only: garrett.blaney@comreg.ie

4 March 2021

Re: Establishing a protocol for Copper switch-off

Dear Garrett,

I am writing to share with you **eir's white paper, Copper switch-off: Leaving a legacy for the future**. In this paper we put forward our proposed approach to facilitating a timely and efficient migration from copper based services to unlock the economic and societal benefits that accrue from fibre to the premises technology. We believe the time is right to have this discussion **given eir's substantial and on-going commercial investment in Ireland's Fibre Network** and the commencement of the roll-out of the State subsidised National Broadband Plan. The protocol we propose is to facilitate a national transition.

In submitting this paper we are conscious of our existing obligations under the market review **Decisions to "not withdraw Access to facilities already granted without the prior approval of ComReg and in accordance with terms and conditions as may be determined by ComReg". We** have also considered the requirements of Article 81 of the Code regarding Migration from legacy infrastructure and believe that the proposed protocol will meet those requirements **providing "a transparent timetable and conditions, including an appropriate notice period for transition, and establishes the availability of alternative products ... to safeguard competition and the rights of end-users"**. The protocol has been developed taking into account good precedents from other countries that are more advanced in their migration plans.

We look forward to engagement with ComReg on this important matter. eir is keen to hear the views of other stakeholders and will publish the white paper on the open eir website. We also intend to discuss the matter at the relevant industry forums.

Directors: Carolan Lennon, Stephen Tighe

eir is a trading name of eircom Limited,
Registered as a Branch
in Ireland Number 907674
Incorporated in Jersey Number 116389

Branch Address: 2022 Bianconi Avenue,
Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24
D24 HX03
VAT registration: IE 3286434NH



We hope that the protocol can be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolan Lennon'.

**Carolan Lennon
CEO**

Appendix 2:



Carolan Lennon
CEO
Eircom Ltd
2022 Bianconi Avenue
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin 24
D24 HX03

By email: carolan.lennon@eir.ie

1 April 2021

RE: Your letter of 4 March 2021

Dear Carolan,

Thank you for your letter dated 4 March 2021 and your white paper “Copper switch-off: Leaving a legacy for the future”. ComReg welcomes this initiative and is supportive of an efficient migration from copper to fibre based networks.

In your letter, you correctly note that under certain regulatory obligations, Eircom may not withdraw Access to facilities already granted without the prior approval of ComReg and in accordance with terms and conditions as may be determined by ComReg. Additionally, you note the relevance of Article 81 of the European Electronic Communications Code regarding migration from legacy infrastructure. We will facilitate this important step in a manner that facilitates the widespread availability and adoption of high capacity connectivity (and other services) in a manner that safeguards competition and the rights of end users.

We have already been in contact with your staff to arrange a meeting between the relevant ComReg and eir personnel to initiate an engagement. ComReg will also meet with other industry players and key stakeholders eliciting input to assist in the development of our thinking.

It is our intention to consult publicly on this matter in due course. This may include a public call for inputs. We welcome your commitment to engage with stakeholders and to discuss the matter at the relevant industry fora.

We look forward to engaging with Eircom and others on this key initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Mourik
Commissioner

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