



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Issue of analogue transmission public service broadcasting licences to RTÉ & TG4

Information Notice

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1. The Broadcasting Act 2009 provides that Raidió Teilifís Éireann ("RTÉ") and Teilifís na Gaeilge ("TG4") can only exercise certain powers relating to the transmission of its programme services under public service broadcasting licences issued by the Commission for Communications Regulation ("ComReg").
2. The current licence issued by ComReg to RTÉ (published as ComReg documents 05/13, 05/13a and 05/13b) expires on the 28 February 2012. This licence relates to the establishment, operation and maintenance of wireless telegraphy for the purposes of analogue broadcasting (which includes analogue television and analogue radio).
3. On 14 October 2011, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources announced that the analogue TV signal in Ireland would be switched off on 24 October 2012¹.
4. The Ministerial announcement of the 14 October 2011 does not relate to analogue radio (i.e., VHF Band II or LF, MF AM radio) services.
5. On 27 February 2012 ComReg issued analogue transmission public service broadcasting licences to RTÉ and TG4 with effect from 29 February 2012.
6. In summary: -
 - The newly issued public service broadcasting licences permit the transmission of RTÉ radio and television services and TG4 television services. The licences ensure that the public service broadcasters can continue to deliver television and radio to viewers and listeners;
 - The public service broadcasting licences (one issued to RTÉ and one to TG4) which allow the transmission of analogue television service will expire on the 24 October 2012, in line with the Ministerial announcement on analogue switch off;

¹ Announcement of ASO by Minister on the 14th October 2011.

- The public service broadcasting licence (issued to RTÉ) which allows the transmission of its analogue radio services of RTÉ in VHF Band II and the LF Band will expire on the 13 May 2019. This date was chosen because RTÉ also has a digital radio multiplex licence for the provision of Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting (T-DAB) services, issued in 2008 and due to expire in May 2019. ComReg believe it appropriate that RTÉ's analogue radio services co-expire with its digital radio multiplex licence.

7. Copies of the public service broadcasting licences issued can be found on ComReg's website as follows: -

- Document 12/13a allows the transmission of RTÉ's analogue television services;
- Document 12/13c allows the transmission of TG4's analogue television services;
- Document 12/13b allows the transmission of RTÉ's analogue radio services;