



Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

# **Universal Service Obligation**

## **Application for funding from the Universal Service Provider for the period 2009/2010**

### **Information Notice**

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**An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide**

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## Background

On 31 May 2011, the Commission for Communications Regulation (“the Commission”) issued Decision No. D04/11<sup>1</sup> in relation to the principles and methodologies to be used in calculating the net cost for the provision of the universal service by the universal service provider (currently Eircom Limited).

On 28 October 2011, the Commission also issued a consultation document on the principles and methodology for a sharing mechanism for any universal service fund<sup>2</sup>. A response to this consultation will be published in due course.

In addition, the Commission has recently published a consultation on the provision of telephony services under the universal service obligation<sup>3</sup>.

The Commission had previously indicated<sup>4</sup> that when it received Eircom Limited’s application for universal funding, it would publish the total net cost, including the intangible benefits, being applied for by Eircom Limited.

## Current status

On 31 May 2012, the Commission received an application from Eircom Limited for funding for the provision of the universal service for the period 2009/2010. In light of this, the Commission now wishes to confirm that Eircom Limited has claimed a net cost of €6,225,219 (€6.22M) including the intangible benefits it receives, for its provision of the universal service, which it is seeking to receive funding for.

The Commission must now begin the process of carefully assessing Eircom Limited’s application for universal service funding in accordance with Commission Decision No. D04/11. Accordingly, the Commission must calculate if there is a net cost, determine whether or not any such net cost constitutes an unfair burden on Eircom Limited, and decide whether or not to establish a universal service fund.

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<sup>1</sup> Document No. ComReg 11/42.

<sup>2</sup> Document No. ComReg 11/77.

<sup>3</sup> Document No. ComReg 12/39.

<sup>4</sup> Document No. ComReg 12/14.