



Information Notice

Discontinuation of Mobile TV licence award

Document No:	11/01
Date:	7, January 2011

This document is not a binding legal document and also does not contain legal, commercial, financial, technical or other advice. The Commission for Communications Regulation is not bound by it, nor does it necessarily set out the Commission's final or definitive position on particular matters. To the extent that there might be any inconsistency between the contents of this document and the due exercise by it of its functions and powers, and the carrying out by it of its duties and the achievement of relevant objectives under law, such contents are without prejudice to the legal position of the Commission for Communications Regulation. Inappropriate reliance ought not therefore to be placed on the contents of this document.

Contents

1 Update: Discontinuation of licence award for Mobile TV in Ireland 2
Annex 1.0 – Response to 10/89 3

1 Update: Discontinuation of licence award for Mobile TV in Ireland

The Commission for Communications Regulation (“ComReg”) commenced its consultation process in 2008 to define and potentially award rights of use of 8 MHz of Ultra High Frequency (“UHF”) spectrum in the five urban areas of Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Waterford (the “Coverage Area”).¹ In 2009, a procedure to grant an authorisation for a Mobile TV service in the Coverage Area was consulted on by ComReg² and, earlier this year, ComReg set out details of its proposal.³

As this consultation process progressed, it became apparent to ComReg that use of the identified spectrum to provide a Mobile TV service in Ireland was not the subject of particularly strong interest to potential operators, and interest in the proposed procedure to grant the authorisation diminished.⁴ After careful consideration of relevant submissions, and developments in relation to the authorisation of Mobile TV services elsewhere in Europe, ComReg sought clarification on the level of interest from potential operators by way of publication of Document 10/89 entitled “Mobile TV - Call for expressions of Interest”.⁵ It is rather telling that ComReg received only one response to Document 10/89, which is attached at Annex 1, and that the views and reasons given by this respondent accorded with those previously set out by ComReg.⁶

In light of the above, ComReg will not be proceeding further with this matter.

ComReg will, however, keep under review the potential for the identification of spectrum which would enable the award of dedicated licences for mobile TV. In addition, it is noted that any future awards by ComReg of UHF spectrum on a service and technology neutral basis could facilitate deployment of Mobile TV services, subject to the appropriate technical conditions.

ComReg is grateful to interested parties for all their views on the matters raised in the various consultations.

¹ ComReg Document No. 08/44 on “Award of available UHF spectrum in the urban areas of Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Waterford and related licensing options”

² ComReg Document No. 09/63 on “Response to Consultation”

³ ComReg Document No. 10/26 on “Information Notice – Mobile TV Wireless Telegraphy Licence award”

⁴ Only two responses to ComReg document 10/26 and no substantial comments were raised on the proposed comparative evaluation process to award the licence

⁵ ComReg document 10/89 on “Mobile TV – Call for expressions of Interest”

⁶ See section 1.1 on “Recent Developments” in ComReg Document No. 10/89. In particular ComReg was of the view that alternative means of providing Mobile TV had emerged, availability of more UHF spectrum on a service and technology neutral basis had progressed and the general economic conditions might have impacted the Mobile TV opportunity in Ireland.

Annex 1.0 – Response to 10/89



Vodafone Response to the ComReg Information Notice: Mobile TV – Call for expressions of interest

Vodafone Position

Vodafone agrees with ComReg's proposal not to proceed with a competition for the award of rights of use of spectrum for the provision of broadcast Mobile TV services. **[Redacted]**