



Media Release – 10th August 2005

ComReg removes requirement on eircom to publish telephone directories in CD format

ComReg has today issued a Decision Notice that no longer requires eircom, as the designated Universal Service Provider, to make CD versions of telephone directories available to users.

As part of the Universal Service Obligations imposed on eircom in July 2003, eircom was required to make CD-ROM versions of telephone directories commercially available and to update these on an annual basis. Eircom requested ComReg to remove this requirement and demonstrated to ComReg's satisfaction that there was a virtual absence of consumer demand for the product. The low demand is attributed in part to the availability of free web-based directory searches. Additionally, there is an alternative commercially available CD-ROM directory marketed in Ireland.

ComReg Chairperson Isolde Goggin said; *"In considering the eircom request, ComReg took into account the position of consumers who might wish to avail of a commercially available CD directory. ComReg is satisfied that those end-users who require such facilities can use the commercial offering available, or alternatively could use one of the free online telephone directory services. In addition, the requirement on eircom to provide directory enquiry services free of charge for people who may be unable to use the printed directory because of a disability is unaffected by today's decision."*

ENDS

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