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ComReg publishes first interim report on measurement of Non-Ionising Radiation

- No sites found to be in breach of limits

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published its first interim report in relation to its current programme of measuring Non-Ionising Radiation from emissions from electronic communications mast sites.

This programme is being carried out in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. It will include measurements at 400 electronic communications sites throughout the country.

The ComReg report shows that of the first 100 sites surveyed all were found to be significantly below the public exposure emission limits for non-ionising radiation set down by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)

Today's interim report is the first of three which will contain the results of the site surveys on an on-going basis. It is intended that a final report will be available in July 2004.

The survey on behalf of ComReg was conducted by consultants Mason Communications Ireland Ltd., in conjunction with Radio Frequency Investigations Ltd.

Chairperson of ComReg, Etain Doyle said today: "The current project represents a much more extensive survey than previously conducted by ComReg. The results so far have not been surprising bearing in mind the work carried out previously by ComReg in auditing the operators' procedures and arrangements in relation to Non-Ionising Radiation emissions. ComReg will take measurements at the remaining 300 sites in the period to June".

Note for editors

Non-ionising radiation is electromagnetic radiation at frequencies below 2420 million MegaHertz. It includes radio waves, infra-red radiation and visible light. Ionising Radiation includes x-rays and gamma rays. ComReg only licences the use of frequencies of the non-ionising section of the electromagnetic spectrum and is not responsible for licensing the use of frequencies for the ionising part of the spectrum.

International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection is an independent scientific organisation established in 1992 for the purpose of advancing Non Ionising Radiation Protection for the benefit of people and the Environment, and in particular to provide guidance and recommendations on protection from NIR exposure. It operates in co-operation with the Environmental Health Division of the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Individual site reports may be obtained through the Non-Ionising Radiation Section of the ComReg website.

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