



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Telecoms Regulator Consults on the Market for Directory Information Services and Products in Ireland

In a consultation paper published today (16th November 2000), the Telecoms Regulator, Eoin Doyle examines the market for directory information services in Ireland and invites comments on how competition in this market can be improved.

According to the Regulator “ Our role is to ensure the provision and choice of the widest range of directory information services and products. Growth in directory services competition should lead to improvements in service quality, variety and value for money while also promoting the further use of telecommunications services. We need to identify and remove any barriers that hinder the development of full and effective competition.”

The objectives of this consultation process are to:

- seek views on the price, choice and quality of directory information services currently available in the market;
- identify any barriers to entry or operational difficulties in the directory information market;

- examine the regulatory, technical and operational issues associated with the national database and the provision of directory services under the universal service obligation; and
- ensure that competition can develop in the supply of directory information services and directories in a way that maximises benefits to customers and subscribers.

The paper seeks views on a range of issues relating to the compilation of directory information, access to directory data, the status of ex-directory customers and the Universal Service Obligations for directory services. An important factor in implementing any regulatory change will be the interests of consumers and the Regulator therefore, welcomes comments from consumers and consumer groups, as well as from telecommunications operators and potential new service providers.

The consultation document ODTR 00/87 “ The Market for Directory Information Services and Products in Ireland – Consultation Paper” is available on the ODTR website (www.odtr.ie) and copies can also be obtained from the ODTR. The consultation period runs from 16th November 2000 to 12th January 2001.

ENDS

Issued by

Brigid Smyth, Public Affairs Manager, ODTR

Ph: 01 8049639 Mobile 086 8270905