



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**21st December 2001**

## **ODTR to Consider Licensing local and regional DTT in the 12ghz band and single multiplex services in the UHF band.**

The ODTR today (Friday 21st December 2001) announced its intention to seek expressions of interest in providing digital television services on a regional or local basis from prospective licensees at 12GHz and potential operators of single multiplex services in the UHF band. The ODTR however believes that licences for these services should only be offered if they do not constrain the spectrum needed for the development of National DTT

In August this year the ODTR consulted on Licensing Regional or locally based DTT services. Eighteen responses were received from telecommunications, broadcast, deflector, satellite operators and other interested parties following the public consultation. A number of respondents indicated that they might be interested in providing digital television services on a regional or local basis and the Regulator will shortly invite them to provide more detail of their interest.

The Director considers that in the context of the ongoing need to provide UHF spectrum for four national analogue television channels and until the planning of the spectrum needs for the national digital terrestrial television service is complete, it would not be possible to guarantee the availability of UHF spectrum for local or regional multifrequency services long term. She has therefore decided that the licensing of multiple frequency regional and local DTT operators should not be considered at this time..

**ENDS**

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