



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **Cable Television Licence discussions with ntl**

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### Information Notice

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## INFORMATION NOTICE

ntl is licensed under the Wireless Telegraphy (Programme Services Distribution) Regulations, 1999 to provide cable television services in Dublin, Galway and Waterford. Under the terms of the licences the company is obliged to meet specified time related roll out targets for the provision of digital services.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2001 NTL, announced that it was ‘conducting a review of the business, which will result in a delay in roll-out of our new services’. At that time the Director while cognisant of the downturn in capital markets, reminded the company of its regulatory obligations and asked it to review its position. She also advised it that under the terms of their licences, penalties apply in the event of failure to meet its licensing obligations, which include roll out and network quality/ resilience issues. The company advised the Director that it would report back to the ODTR in March after the review of its Irish operation was completed.

The priority for the ODTR is to ensure that quality digital services are made available to customers in accordance with the licence terms. Since the ntl announcement the ODTR has been involved in detailed discussions with the company to resolve the issue. The Director is satisfied with the progress made to date in the discussions.

ntl has indicated that it will make digital television available by September which will remedy the breach under S9(1) within the period provided in S 9(3). The areas to be provided with Digital Services by this deadline are included in the annex to this note. They indicate that they are committed to meeting the milestones for subsequent years within the plan as initially agreed. The Director requested further assurances in this regard.

ntl has indicated that it intends to comprehensively upgrade its networks. However, the roll-out of digital television for September will be done without the complete upgrade of its network to telecommunications standards as originally envisaged by ntl. ntl indicates that it will provide enhanced resources in terms of capital, infrastructure and staff to underwrite its quality commitments. This will include the formation of a dedicated team to tackle network quality issues and that the upgrade of problem areas within each network will be prioritised. These plans are being examined by the ODTR and they and ntl are engaged in continuing discussions about the implications of this in the context of the new plans.

The Director reserves her right under the regulations to take whatever action she considers necessary to ensure that the licence terms are met.

**Annex**

Areas to receive digital services by September 2001

**1 Dublin**

Leixlip	Finglas	Tallaght
Ballyfermot	Castleknock	St. Helen's (Tolka Park)
Clondalkin	Clonsilla	Santry
Lucan	Navan Road	Coolock
Baldoyle	City Centre	

**Waterford**

Whole licensed area

**Galway**

Whole licensed area