



Media Release- 23 March 2005

ComReg announces establishment of Consumer Advisory Panel

The Commission for Communications Regulation today announced that it has established a Consumer Advisory Panel to assist ComReg in developing and enhancing its understanding of consumer issues in relation to the communications sector.

The Panel will include six external members who represent a wide range of consumer, business and regional interests.

The 2002 Communications Regulation Act provides that among ComReg's objectives is the promotion of the interests of users in relation to the use of electronic communications networks and services.

The Consumer Panel will add to ComReg's expertise in relation to emerging consumer issues. The panel will have the following remit:

- To provide independent advice to ComReg on the diverse range of consumer issues that arise in the communications industry;
- To provide assessments on how ComReg's activities are impacting on consumers;
- To inform ComReg of views and needs of different groups such as residential, small to medium enterprises and large businesses, and people with disabilities;
- To make recommendations and suggestions to ComReg on current consumer concerns;
- To advise ComReg on consumer interests in the markets regulated by ComReg.

The Consumer Advisory Panel will meet three times per year. The external members of the Group are:

Mr. Ciaran Close	Intel Ireland Ltd;
Mr. Gerry Finn	Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly;
Mr. Dermott Jewell	Consumers' Association of Ireland;
Ms. Angela Kerins	National Disability Authority;
Mr. Sean Murphy	Chambers of Commerce of Ireland;
Ms. Ursula O'Sullivan	Health Services Executive - Southern Area

ComReg Commissioner, Mike Byrne said: “ComReg has a legislative responsibility to protect and promote the interests of consumers. To date ComReg has implemented many initiatives designed to inform consumers and raise awareness about key issues.”

“It is gratifying that individuals of such experience have agreed to join ComReg’s Consumer Panel. I believe their input will add greatly to ComReg’s knowledge of current and emerging consumer issues.”

ENDS

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