

**21/06/2016**

## **ComReg publishes its Radio Spectrum Management Strategy for 2016 to 2018**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today issued its Radio Spectrum Management Strategy for 2016 to 2018 which sets out ComReg's radio spectrum work plan priorities over the next two years.

Ireland's radio spectrum is a highly valuable national resource which supports a wide variety of everyday services and applications used by consumers, businesses and public services. Based on 2014 data, the use of the radio spectrum is estimated to make a contribution of €4.7 billion to Ireland's Gross Domestic Product (or 2.5% of GDP) and supports almost 29,000 jobs.

ComReg Commissioner Gerry Fahy said: "ComReg's Radio Spectrum Management Strategy comprehensively sets out our radio spectrum work plan priorities so as to best utilise this key resource for the benefit of all users, commercial and non-commercial alike. Our challenging strategy could see the radio spectrum available for wireless broadband delivery increasing by almost 200% by 2019. Indeed, the upcoming release of the 3.6 GHz band, plus the planned release of further spectrum bands (700 MHz, 1.4 GHz, 2.3 GHz and 2.6 GHz) could go a significant way to meeting the increasing demands for mobile data, including supporting broadband availability for all users and in as many locations as possible."

"ComReg recognises that the increased lifestyle dependence on the smartphone appears to have led to a broadly based public view of reducing mobile voice coverage and a growing societal frustration with the experience of services delivered by wireless means. ComReg will work to gain a detailed understanding of the drivers of this issue and identify potential solutions, some of which ComReg may be in a position to promote or facilitate. ComReg will also support the commitment in the Programme for Government to provide solutions to the broadband/phone coverage deficit."

In its Radio Spectrum Management Strategy ComReg identifies a number of measures that could contribute to improve mobile coverage including:

- better informing consumers, for example, on the expected mobile coverage of all mobile networks, or on how the antenna performance of mobile phones can vary and how this can affect the consumer experience;
- ready and timely access by mobile network operators to additional sites to provide increased coverage, noting that such sites could be macro sites to provide wide area coverage or other sites to target coverage and/or capacity; and

- the ability to use fixed broadband connections (e.g. via native Wi-Fi calling) for the provision of both voice and data mobile services, or the use of mobile repeaters, to address indoor reception.

Many other work items are also foreseen, such as spectrum that could be used for smart meters, ground station facilities for mobile satellite communications, the backbone delivery of communications in networks, broadcasting, business radio, aeronautical, maritime and scientific uses.

The full Radio Spectrum Management Strategy 2016 to 2018 ComReg 16/50 is available on ComReg website [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie)

**ENDS**

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