



An Coimisiún um  
**Rialáil Cumarsáide**  
Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

## Information Notice

Appointment of Adjudicators under section 76  
of the Communications Regulation and Digital  
Hub Development Agency (Amendment) Act  
2023

### Information Notice

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**Commission for Communications Regulation**

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1. The Communications Regulation and Digital Hub Development Agency (Amendment) Act 2023 (“the 2023 Act”) came into force on 9 June 2023. Among other things, this Act introduced a new adjudication regime for the regulation of electronic communications in Ireland. This regime aims to enhance regulatory enforcement by establishing an independent adjudication process for handling suspected breaches of regulatory obligations in the electronic communications sector in Ireland.
2. Under this regime, independent adjudicators, who have been appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, consider cases referred by ComReg Authorised Officers and take decisions on whether an operator of electronic communications networks or services has breached a relevant regulatory provision. If so, the adjudicators will go on to decide on what, if any, regulatory sanction should be imposed on the operator. The sanctions available to Adjudicators include directions to terminate a regulatory breach, orders to pay refunds in respect of overcharging, orders to pay compensation to victims of regulatory breaches, the imposition of financial sanctions and the suspension or withdrawal of a general authorisation or rights of use for radio spectrum or numbering.
3. Section 76 of the 2023 Act provides that the Minister shall appoint as adjudicators those persons nominated by ComReg pursuant to section 75 of the 2023 Act, so long as he is satisfied that the persons nominated meet the requirements and qualifications prescribed by the Minister (in the Communications Regulation and Digital Hub Development Agency (Amendment) Act 2023 (Part 7) Regulations 2023) and have the independence necessary to be appointed as an adjudicator.
4. On 21 November 2023, ComReg wrote to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications nominating a number of people to be appointed as adjudicators. On 15 March 2024, the Minister appointed the following 15 people to be adjudicators, for a 5-year term, commencing on 23 February 2024 and ending on 22 February 2029:
  - Geraldine Clarke
  - Barry Doherty BL
  - Paul Egan SC
  - Isolde Goggin
  - Dr Paul Gorecki
  - Rick Hill
  - John Holland
  - Johan Keetelaar
  - Marie Large
  - Dr Fred Logue
  - Laura McGovern

- Dr Dermot Nolan
- Maureen O'Neill
- Carol Plunkett
- Declan Purcell

5. Biographies of each of the above persons are available on ComReg's website here: [Personnel | Commission for Communications Regulation](#)
6. On 16 April 2024, ComReg appointed Maureen O'Neill as Chief Adjudicator for the period to 22 February 2027
7. An Adjudication Unit has been established within ComReg to support the adjudicators in carrying out their functions.
8. The adjudication function is now fully operational and prepared to take cases referred under the 2023 Act.