



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

Notification of extension to deadline for responses to:

ComReg 05/16, The Universal Postal Service -
Formulating a working definition

Document No:	05/28
Date:	29th March 2005

1 Foreword

On 2 March 2005 the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) published a consultation paper (ComReg document 05/16) starting a consultation process about what services should be provided as part of the universal postal service in Ireland.

Using this consultation, ComReg will put flesh on the bones of the very broad framework of the universal service requirement and thus formulate a customer focussed working definition of the universal service. This process will help ensure that ComReg safeguards the services that postal customers need.

This consultation paper invites all interested parties to respond by Wednesday 6th April, 2005.

ComReg has received an application from An Post requesting a revised deadline date for receipt of submissions to the consultation paper. ComReg has given due consideration to the request and appreciate that the timeframe provided is challenging and are hereby notifying all interested parties of an extension of 4 weeks to Wednesday 4th May, 2005. All comments / submissions are to be in accordance with Appendix A of this document.

**Mike Byrne,
Commissioner, Commission for Communications Regulation.**

Appendix A - Submitting Comments

All comments are welcome, however it would make the task of analysing responses easier if comments were referenced to the relevant question numbers from this document.

The consultation period is now extended to 4th May 2005 during which the Commission welcomes written comments on any of the issues raised in this paper.

Having analysed and considered the comments received, ComReg will review the working definition of the universal service and publish a report on the consultation which will, inter alia summarise the responses to the consultation.

In order to promote further openness and transparency ComReg will publish the names of all respondents and make available for inspection responses to the consultation at its Offices.

Please note ComReg may publish all submissions with the Response to Consultation, subject to confidentiality requests.

ComReg appreciates that many of the issues raised in this paper may require respondents to provide confidential information if their comments are to be meaningful. Respondents are requested to clearly identify confidential material and if possible to include it in a separate annex to the response. Such information will be treated as strictly confidential.

Appendix B – Consultation Questions from ComReg 05/16

Q.1 Is one ‘single tier’ letter service, within the universal service, sufficient? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.2 Should the universal service include a deferred delivery option for meter customers? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.3 Should the universal service include a special Christmas Card stamped mail service? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.4 Should the universal service include a bulk mail service? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.5 If you answered Q.4 in the affirmative, what bulk mail services should be included as part of the universal service? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.6 Should different considerations apply to international bulk mail services, where markets are already fully open to competition? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.7 Should the universal service include a lower cost service, providing proof of delivery only, without the secure handling necessary for transporting valuable goods?

Q.8 What limit should be placed on the compensation payable for items lost or delayed in the insured service?

Q.9 Do you agree that the universal service should include one single standard parcel offering to all destinations (as suggested by ComReg)? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.10 Do you agree that Redirection, Mailminder, Private boxes / bags and Certificates of posting, when provided for universal postal services, constitute part of the universal service? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.11 Are there any other services which you think should be characterised as part of the universal service? Are there any other issues which you think are relevant? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.12 How, in your opinion, will having clarity about the services to be provided as part of the universal service, impact on the provision of an affordable universal postal service to all and on the Government’s core policy goal for the postal sector of a high quality service on a par with the highest quality standards in key comparator economies in the EU? Please give reasons for your answer.

Q.13 How, in your judgment, will your proposed working definition of the universal service impact on the following issues;

- (a) your ability to get the services you require,
- (b) the price you pay for postage,
- (c) your choice of operator,
- (d) the quality of the postal service,
- (e) the general development of the postal sector.

Where possible, please quantify the overall financial effect on you / your company or organisation.

Q.14 How, in your opinion, will your working definition of the universal service impact on the costs of providing the universal service?