



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for
Communications Regulation

Universal Service Funding

Update

Information Notice

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Commission for Communications Regulation
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1. The European Union (Electronic Communications Code) Regulations 2022¹ provide that a universal service provider (“USP”) may submit to the Commission for Communications Regulation (“ComReg”) a request for compensation. ComReg is then required to determine, whether the provision of the universal service obligation (“USO”) represents an unfair burden on the USP.
2. As the designated USP up until 30 June 2023, Eircom Limited (“eir”) was entitled to submit to ComReg a request for compensation in relation to the net cost of providing USO services in years prior to this.

USO funding for 2010-2016

3. In 2023, following the conclusion of eir’s appeal of ComReg’s decisions in respect of the funding of the universal service², ComReg began to assess whether the net costs of the USO in 2010-2011, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 represent an unfair burden on eir in the financial year in question. Between the end of 2023 and September 2025, ComReg conducted and concluded these assessments. For each of these years it was determined that the net cost of the provision of the USO does not represent an unfair burden on eir.

USO funding for 2016-2023

4. No requests for funding have been received by ComReg from eir relating to the provision of the universal service in 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 or 2022-2023, within the prescribed time period³, or at all.

Conclusion

5. ComReg considers that the matter of USO funding relating to periods prior to June 2023 is now finalised.

¹ S.I. 444 of 2022, Regulation 75.

² Eircom Limited v. The Commission for Communications Regulation, High Court Commercial, Record No 2019/167 MCA.

³ “Costing of universal service obligations: Principles and Methodologies”, Decision D04/11, ComReg Document No. 11/42, published on 31 May 2011 (“D04/11”) sets out how the USP, should it so choose, is to submit a request for USO funding. Decision 33 of D04/11 provides: “Subsequent requests for USO funding by a USP(s) may be submitted to ComReg in respect of a relevant financial year. If a USP intends to submit such a request to ComReg, the USP(s) shall do so no later than 9 months following the end of the financial year in respect of which the request is intended to be made. ComReg may extend this deadline, but only where it considers that there are exceptional reasons for doing so.”