



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for
Communications Regulation

Update of the exemption for indoor mobile phone repeaters

Information Notice

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An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for Communications Regulation

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Commission for Communications Regulation (“ComReg”) is the statutory body responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications telecommunications, radio communication and broadcasting networks, postal, and premium rate sectors in Ireland in accordance with European Union (EU) and Irish law and manages the national numbering resource, among other responsibilities.
- 1.2 One of ComReg’s core statutory functions is to manage the radio frequency spectrum (“radio spectrum” or “spectrum”). Radio spectrum is a valuable, finite national resource underpinning many important economic and social activities.
- 1.3 The principle of allowing the use of mobile phone repeaters on a licence exempt basis was fully consulted upon in 2017¹ with the final decision being made in 2018². Following that consultation Exemption Order (S.I. No. 283/2018)³ was made under section 3(6) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926, as amended, to allow the use of mobile phone repeaters in the following frequency bands on a licence-exempt basis to improve indoor mobile coverage:
- 800 MHz – 791-821 MHz (Downlink) 832-862 MHz (Uplink);
 - 900 MHz – 880-915 MHz (Uplink) 925-960 MHz (Downlink);
 - 1800 MHz – 1710-1785 MHz (Uplink) 1805-1880 MHz (Downlink); and
 - 2100 MHz – 1920-1980 MHz (Uplink) 2110-2170 MHz (Downlink).
- 1.4 A mobile repeater is an electronic device that can be used to improve indoor coverage of mobile phone services. These services are ideal for people with poor indoor reception. Poor indoor signal is caused by many factors, including the type of insulation used in the home. Only repeaters that comply with ComReg’s standards and carry the CE and EU quality standard mark are permitted. More information on mobile phone repeaters is available on the ComReg website⁴.
- 1.5 ComReg regularly reviews exemption orders as part of its spectrum management programme to ensure they are still required and are relevant with respect to available technology.

¹ ComReg Document 17/103 – Consultation on Permitting the General Use of Mobile Phone Repeaters – published 8 December 2017. [ComReg 17/103](#)

² ComReg Document 18/58 – Mobile Phone Repeaters - Response to Consultation and Final Decision published 27 June 2018. [ComReg-1858-2.pdf](#)

³ S.I. No. 283/2018 – Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926 (section 3) (Exemption of Mobile Phone Repeaters) Order 2018

⁴ <https://www.comreg.ie/advice-information/mobile/get-the-most-out-of-your-mobile-service/mobile-phone-repeaters/>

- 1.6 In 2022 ComReg completed the main stage of the second Multi Band Spectrum Award (“MBSA2”)⁵ which awarded harmonised spectrum to four winning bidders⁶ in the 700 MHz, 2.1 GHz, 2.3GHz and 2.6 GHz frequency bands for the provision of new 5G services, as well as the advancement of other fixed and mobile WBB⁷ services, such as 4G (LTE) or FWA⁸ services in Ireland to provide improved services and meet consumer demand for mobile data.
- 1.7 On 12 January 2023, the specific frequency locations to be assigned to each of the Winning Bidders was determined (see Document 23/06⁹). Subsequently, on 19 January 2023, and following the submission of complete applications, a MBSA2 Liberalised Use Licence was issued to each winning bidder with a commencement date of 20 January 2023. Since 2 April 2023 all MBSA2 spectrum rights have commenced.¹⁰
- 1.8 In order to authorise the use of indoor mobile phone repeaters in these frequency bands (including the 800 MHz,¹¹ 900 MHz,¹² and 1800 MHz¹³ Bands) it is necessary for ComReg to put in place an appropriate mechanism to permit their use. The purpose of this Information Notice is to set out ComReg’s decision to revoke and replace S.I. No. 283/2018 with a new exemption order to include frequency bands (700 MHz, 2.1 GHz, and 2.6 GHz) which were awarded as part of the second Multi-Band Spectrum Award.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 The technical requirements set out within S.I. No. 283/2018 are derived from relevant ETSI standards EN 303 609,¹⁴ EN 301 908-11,¹⁵ and EN 301 908-15¹⁶,

⁵ <https://www.comreg.ie/industry/radio-spectrum/spectrum-awards/proposed-multi-band-spectrum-award/>

⁶ The four Winning Bidders were:

- Imagine Communications Ltd. (“Imagine”)
- Meteor Mobile Communications Ltd. (“Eir”)
- Three Ireland Hutchison Ltd. (“Three”); and
- Vodafone Ireland Ltd. (“Vodafone”).

⁷ Wireless Broadband

⁸ Fixed Wireless Access

⁹ Multi Band Spectrum Award Final Assignment Plan Information Notice - [ComReg-2306.pdf](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.comreg.ie/industry/radio-spectrum/licensing/search-licence-type/mobile-licences-3/>

¹¹ 791-821 MHz and 832-862 MHz

¹² 880-915 MHz and 925-960 MHz

¹³ 1710-1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz

¹⁴ ETSI EN 303 609 Global System for Mobile communications (GSM); GSM Repeaters; Harmonised Standard covering the essential requirements of article 3.2 of the Directive 2014/53/EU

¹⁵ ETSI EN 301 908-11 IMT cellular networks; Harmonised Standard covering the essential requirements of article 3.2 of the Directive 2014/53/EU; Part 11: CDMA Direct Spread (UTRA FDD) Repeaters

¹⁶ ETSI EN 301 908-15 IMT cellular networks; Harmonised Standard for access to radio spectrum; Part 15: Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access (E-UTRA FDD) Repeaters

and provide protection to mobile network networks from harmful interference.

- 2.2 ComReg has reviewed S.I. No. 283/2018 to determine what changes might be required to allow the authorisation and use of mobile phone repeaters in the frequency bands which were awarded as part of MBSA2.¹⁷

3 ComReg's Decision

- 3.1 Following its review, ComReg has decided to make a new exemption order to revoke and replace S.I. No. 283/2018.
- 3.2 The new exemption order S.I. No. 86 of 2026 Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926 (section 3) (Exemption of Mobile Phone Repeaters) Order 2026 was published in "Iris Oifigiúil" of 13th March, 2026¹⁸ and ComReg's repeaters webpage will be updated to reflect the making of the new exemption order.
- 3.3 The following provides a summary of the frequency bands which have been included or not in the new exemption order, and the applicable technical requirements and transmit powers.

Frequency Bands

- 3.4 The following bands are included in S.I. No. 86 of 2026 along with the frequency bands which were set out in S.I. No. 283/2018:
- (i) 700 MHz – 703 to 733 MHz (Uplink), 758 to 788 MHz (Downlink) (the "700 MHz Band");
 - (ii) 2100 MHz – 1920 to 1980 MHz (Uplink), 2110 to 2170 MHz (Downlink) (the "2.1 GHz Band"); and
 - (iii) 2600 MHz (FDD) – 2500-2570 MHz (Uplink), 2620-2690 MHz (Downlink) (the "2.6 GHz FDD band")
- 3.5 The 2100 MHz paired frequency (1920-1980MHz and 2110-2170MHz) band was included in the existing Exemption Order as it was previously licensed specifically for the use of the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS or 3G) standard on public mobile networks. The 2.1 GHz Band is now liberalised, and the Licensees can deploy any relevant communication standards to deliver services.
- 3.6 ComReg notes that the 2300 MHz (TDD) Band (2300-2400 MHz) and the 2600 MHz

¹⁷ Multi Band Spectrum Award 2022 (MBSA2) <https://www.comreg.ie/industry/radio-spectrum/spectrum-awards/proposed-multi-band-spectrum-award/>

¹⁸ <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2026/si/86/made/en/print>

(TDD) Band (2570-2620 MHz) can only be used for TDD¹⁹ operation, and currently there is no harmonised ETSI standard for the operation of mobile phone repeaters in TDD mode. Therefore, the 2300 MHz (TDD) and the 2600 MHz (TDD) Bands have not been included in the new exemption order at this time. Should ETSI adopt a harmonised standard for TDD operation of mobile phone repeaters in the future, ComReg would consider the authorised use of those bands by mobile phone repeaters.

Technical requirements and transmit powers

- 3.7 The technical requirements and conditions of use for mobile phone repeaters in the frequency bands are based on ETSI standards EN 303 609, EN 301 908-11 and EN 301 908-15, and mobile phone repeaters used in Ireland would be required to comply with those standards and any future relevant amendments to such.
- 3.8 Both indoor and in-vehicle repeaters were included in S.I. No. 283/2018 as ComReg considered that there was no reason to exclude in-vehicle coverage and that its inclusion would be a benefit to consumers. As such both will continue to be covered in the new exemption order.
- 3.9 ComReg decided in document 18/58²⁰ that the maximum output power in the uplink should be limited to that of a terminal station²¹ operating within the relevant band to minimise interference to mobile networks and ensure spectral efficiency. ComReg remains of the view that it is appropriate that the maximum output power²² of mobile phone repeaters in the uplink should be limited to that of a terminal station. Therefore, the maximum output powers of terminal stations as set out in S.I. No. 264/2021²³ are reflected in the new exemption order.
- 3.10 ComReg has also decided to maintain the maximum downlink power of 17 dBm²⁴, which is similar to the power levels of a typical domestic Wi-Fi router,²⁵ as it has succeeded in allowing coverage within a typical domestic home, while preventing interference to other users in the locality. This limit was set out in S.I. No. 283/2018.

Decision

¹⁹ Time-division duplexing (TDD) is a method for emulating full-duplex communication over a half-duplex communication link.

²⁰ ComReg Document 18/58 – Permitting the General Use of Mobile Phone Repeaters Response to ComReg Consultation Document 17/103 and Final Decision [ComReg-1858-2.pdf](#)

²¹ Terminal Station means mobile user equipment and fixed customer premise equipment which communicates with a Base Station using the Liberalised Spectrum

²² Absolute power expressed in EIRP for in-door use and TRP for in-vehicle use.

²³ S.I. No. 264/2021 - Wireless Telegraphy (Liberalised Use and Related Licences in the 700 MHz Duplex, 2.1 GHz, 2.3 GHz and 2.6 GHz Bands) Regulations 2021

²⁴ Absolute power expressed in EIRP for in-door use and TRP for in-vehicle use.

²⁵ Typical power of a Wi-Fi router is 20 dBm.

- 3.11 The Commission for Communications Regulation, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 3(6)(a) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926 (No. 45 of 1926), (inserted by section 11(c) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1972 (No. 5 of 1972)), transferred to the Commission for Communications Regulation by section 4(2) of the Communications Regulation (Amendment) Act 2007 (No. 22 of 2007), decided to make the order S.I. No. 86/2026 - Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926 (section 3) (Exemption of Mobile Phone Repeaters) Order 2026.