



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for
Communications Regulation

Updated Returned Spectrum in the 3.6 GHz Band

Information Notice

Information Notice

Reference: ComReg 26/51

Date: 31/07/2026

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for Communications Regulation

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1 Updated Returned Spectrum in the 3.6 GHz Band

1.1 This document provides an update on spectrum rights in the 3400 to 3800 MHz frequency range (the “3.6 GHz Band”) surrendered to the Commission for Communications Regulation (“ComReg”) and ComReg’s considerations on same now that BCP IV Telecommunications Opco Limited (“BCP IV”) will surrender its spectrum rights in the 3.6 GHz Band on 31 August 2026 (see Annex 1 for relevant correspondence).

1.2 Additionally, this document provides:

- summary information on ComReg Document 26/46¹ published on 1 July 2026 where ComReg set out its considerations and view on the Returned Spectrum²; and
- ComReg’s view on the Updated Returned Spectrum³.

1.1 BCP IV’s surrender of its spectrum rights in the 3.6 GHz Band

1.3 In July 2026, BCP IV indicated that it will surrender its spectrum rights in the 3.6 GHz Band on 31 August 2026. This means that, from 1 September 2026, the Updated Returned Spectrum in the 3.6 GHz band will consist of:

- (i) 25 MHz nationally in the 3410 – 3435 MHz frequency range (the “A-Lot”);
- (ii) 35 MHz nationally in the 3580 – 3615 MHz frequency range;
- (iii) 5 MHz in the non-urban regions in the 3575 – 3580 MHz frequency range; and

¹ ComReg Document [26/46](#), “Returned spectrum in the 3.6 GHz Band”, Information Notice, published 1 July 2026

² The “Returned Spectrum” in Document 26/46 referred to the spectrum surrendered in the 3.6 GHz band at that time being the spectrum rights surrendered by Dense Air Ireland Limited (“DAI”) consisting of: 25 MHz nationally in the 3410-3435 MHz frequency range, and 35 MHz available in five urban regions in the 3580 – 3615 MHz frequency range.

³ The “Updated Returned Spectrum” referred to in this document refers to the spectrum rights in the 3.6 GHz band surrendered to ComReg as of 1 September 2026, being the spectrum rights surrendered by DAI and the spectrum rights in the 3.6 GHz band to be surrendered by BCP IV.

- (iv) 5 MHz in the non-urban regions in the 3615 – 3620 MHz (together with bullets (ii), (iii) and (iv) are the “B-Lots”), as depicted in Figure 1 below.

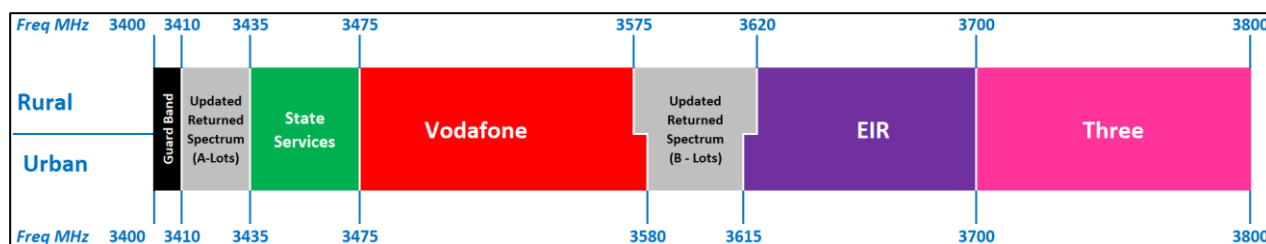


Figure 1: Spectrum assignments and Updated Returned Spectrum in the 3.6 GHz band as of 1 September 2026⁴

1.2 Summary of ComReg Document 26/46

- 1.4 On 1 July 2026, ComReg published an Information Notice (Document 26/46) setting out its considerations and view on the Returned Spectrum in the 3.6 GHz band.
- 1.5 In that document, ComReg set out background material and observations that informed its considerations and view on the Returned Spectrum where, among other things, ComReg stated that:

“ComReg considers, on balance, that it would be more beneficial and preferable to focus on the long-term future/assignment of the 3.6 GHz Band – alongside its consideration of the future of the 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands (rights to which expire in July 2030) (“MBSA3”) – rather than the short-term assignment of the relatively small amount of Returned Spectrum.”

- 1.6 Additionally, ComReg stated that *“should any interested party consider that ComReg ought to instead focus upon developing an assignment process for the short-term rights to the Returned Spectrum, a reasoned request may be submitted to ComReg.”*

1.3 ComReg’s observations on the Updated Returned Spectrum

- 1.7 ComReg sets out below observations and considerations in relation to the Updated Returned Spectrum.

⁴ Updated Returned Spectrum’ refers to the spectrum surrendered to ComReg as of 1 September 2026, ‘Eir’ refers to Eircom Limited, ‘State Services’ refers to the State, ‘Three’ refers to Three Ireland (Hutchison) Limited and ‘Vodafone’ refers to Vodafone Ireland Limited (“Vodafone”).

- 1.8 First, ComReg observes that, following the surrender of BCP IV's spectrum rights:
- there is now certainty on the future of BCP IV's spectrum rights; and
 - from 1 September 2026, the amount of spectrum surrendered to ComReg in the 3.6 GHz band will increase compared to that considered in Document 26/46, including the availability of some B-Lots nationwide.
- 1.9 Second, it is unclear whether the surrender of BCP IV's spectrum rights would materially increase potential demand for the Updated Returned Spectrum particularly noting that:
- BCP IV was unable to find a purchaser for its surrendered spectrum rights "*despite conducting a comprehensive market sale process*"; and
 - since publishing ComReg 26/46 (now almost 1 month ago), no request has been submitted to ComReg requesting it to focus upon developing an assignment process for the short-term rights to the Returned Spectrum.

1.4 ComReg's view on the Updated Returned Spectrum

- 1.10 Considering the above, and the information set out in ComReg Document 26/46, ComReg remains of the view that, on balance, it would be more beneficial and preferable to focus on the long-term future/assignment of the 3.6 GHz Band – alongside its consideration of the future of the 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands (rights to which expire in July 2030) ("MBSA3") – rather than the short-term assignment of the relatively small amount of Updated Returned Spectrum.
- 1.11 Nevertheless, should any interested party consider that ComReg ought to instead focus upon developing an assignment process for the short-term rights to the Updated Returned Spectrum, ComReg remains open to receiving a reasoned request. Such submissions should be clearly marked:- "Reference: Information Notice 26/51 "Updated Returned Spectrum in the 3.6 GHz Band", and be sent by e-mail to:

Mr. Gopal Singh

Commission for Communications Regulation

Email: marketframeworkconsult@comreg.ie

Annex 1: Non-confidential correspondence with BCP IV

15th July 2026

Commission for Communications Regulation ("**ComReg**")
One Dockland Central
Guild Street
Dublin 1
D01 E4X0
Ireland

licensing@comreg.ie

For the attention of: Licensing Operations Team

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Surrender of Spectrum Rights of Use – 45 MHz of the 3.6 GHz Band

BCP IV Telecommunications Opco Limited (the "**Licensee**") hereby gives formal notice of its decision to surrender its rights of use in respect of 45 MHz of the 3.6 GHz Band as more particularly described in the schedule to this letter (the "**Spectrum**") with effect from 31 August 2026.

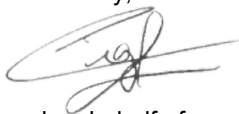
The rationale for the surrender is that the Spectrum will not be utilised and, despite conducting a comprehensive market sale process, no purchaser could be secured. We accordingly confirm that all transmissions within the relevant frequencies of the Spectrum will have ceased from 31 August 2026.

In light of the above, we respectfully request that ComReg:

1. acknowledges and accepts the hand-back of the Spectrum with effect from 31 August 2026 and confirms that the Licensee will be henceforth released from all obligations and liabilities in respect of the Spectrum; and
2. limit the spectrum usage fee to 31 August 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.

Yours faithfully,



For and on behalf of
BCP IV Telecommunications Opco Limited

Schedule

Region	Spectrum Block	Frequency Assigned	Commencement Date	Expiry Date
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B21	3575 – 3580 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B22	3580 – 3585 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B23	3585 – 3590 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B24	3590 – 3595 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B25	3595 – 3600 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B26	3600 – 3605 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B27	3605 – 3610 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B28	3610 – 3615 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032
Borders Midlands & West, South West, East, South East	B29	3615 – 3620 MHz	1 August 2018	31 July 2032



23 July 2026

BCP IV Telecommunications Opco Limited
Level 25 One Canada Square
Canary Wharf,
London E14 5AA

By email only

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: **Surrender of Spectrum Rights of Use – 45 MHz of the 3.6 GHz Band**

I refer to the letter dated 15 July 2026 in which BCP IV Telecommunications Opco Limited (“**BCP IV**”) gives formal notice of its decision to surrender its rights of use in respect of 45 MHz of the 3.6 GHz Band, as more particularised in the schedule to said letter, with effect from 31 August 2026 and where BCP IV requests that ComReg:

1. *acknowledges and accepts the hand-back of the Spectrum with effect from 31 August 2026 and confirms that the Licensee will be henceforth released from all obligations and liabilities in respect of the Spectrum; and*
2. *limit the spectrum usage fee to 31 August 2026.*

I note that the spectrum rights being surrendered by BCP IV relate to those in each of the four 3.6 GHz Band regions of Borders Midlands and West, South West, East and South East in the frequency ranges 3575 – 3620 MHz as contained in ComReg licence (3L1004) (the “**Spectrum**”). I further note BCP IV’s confirmation “...that all transmissions within the relevant frequencies of the Spectrum will have ceased from 31 August 2026.”

In relation to BCP IV’s **first request**, I confirm that:

- ComReg accepts BCP IV’s surrender of the Spectrum with effect from the end of Monday, 31 August 2026;
- BCP IV is released from all future licence conditions attached to the Spectrum, including the payment of future spectrum usage fees; and
- for the avoidance of doubt, as licence 3L1004 only contains the spectrum rights of use for the 45 MHz of spectrum returned to ComReg, Licence 3L1004 will expire on 31 August 2026.

In relation to BCP’s **second Request**, I confirm that ComReg has cancelled the current outstanding invoice for the payment of fees and reissued the invoice for the payment of appropriate spectrum usage fees for the period 1 August 2026 to 31 August 2026, inclusive.

Yours sincerely,

Sent via email, bears no signature

Brendan O’Brien

Licensing Manager

Commission for Communications Regulation



An Coimisiún um
Rialáil Cumarsáide
Commission for
Communications Regulation

cc (by email)

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