



NEWS RELEASE

22 April 2026

Regulator paves the way for improvements to local mobile networks

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) is expecting Islanders will see improvements in their mobile services after allowing JT and Sure to apply for spectrum formerly licenced to Airtel.

Spectrum is the invisible but essential resource used to connect wireless devices, such as mobile phones to mobile operators' networks. As modern devices have become more data-centric, there has been an increasing demand for spectrum needed to support applications such as messaging or high-speed internet access. Regulators have aimed to support this by releasing additional spectrum bands as they become available.

Until recently, three mobile operators shared the spectrum available in Jersey. Sure's recent acquisition of Airtel will release spectrum for allocation to the remaining operators or for awarding to a potential new market entrant.

Following consultation, the JCRA has decided to allow JT and Sure to apply for additional spectrum. In return, the operators are being asked to make commitments to improve the mobile services used by Islanders and local organisations, including coverage and quality enhancements. The JCRA also expects the provision of additional spectrum will help reduce the number of mobile masts needing to be deployed, which should result in environmental benefits.

Upon successful application and the acceptance of conditions, the JCRA will make a recommendation to Ofcom that the spectrum is awarded to that operator.

JCRA CEO Tim Ringsdore emphasised the importance of ensuring Islanders see the benefits of allocating spectrum to existing mobile operators:

‘I’m sure most people have experienced occasions when limited signal strength or low data speeds affect their mobile service experience. We believe that making more spectrum available to local mobile operators provides an opportunity to reduce the amount of times that this occurs. Additional capacity should result in improved quality of service and reduce the amount of mobile base stations needing to be installed.’

The decision to allow JT and Sure to apply for additional spectrum is set out in a Spectrum Strategy published by the JCRA following consultations to assess interest and demand. The regulator has also published a document outlining a three-stage process to allocate and licence the additional spectrum and a detailed description on the planned spectrum application process. The documents are available to the JCRA’s website (www.jcra.je).

Ends

Issued by ORCHID

Allan Watts

E: allan@weareorchid.com

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the local regulation of spectrum

Spectrum allows wireless connection between user devices and communication networks, supporting a diverse range of systems, services and applications from mobile phones to Bluetooth key fobs. Because of demand for this finite resource, access to spectrum is controlled through licensing arrangements and management policies.

UK communications regulator Ofcom has legal responsibility for licensing and managing Jersey’s spectrum. By agreement, the Authority supports this process through assessing interest and demand in local spectrum before making specific recommendations to Ofcom for the issuing of new licences or managing existing ones.

About The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority

The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law 2001. It is responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005 and also regulates the telecoms and postal sectors and the Ports of Jersey.

The JCRA strives to ensure that the markets work well for the benefit of all stakeholders, including Government, business, citizens and consumers facilitating best value, choice and access to high quality services.