

Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED TO 0830 HOURS 12th DECEMBER 2001

ISLANDERS SET TO BENEFIT FROM PRIVY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAW

The Telecommunications Law (Jersey) 2001, has now received approval from the Privy Council. A date can now be set for the law to come into force on the Island. This date is likely to be in approximately three months time.

The key feature of this law, which was agreed by the States of Jersey in July of this year, is to abolish the 'exclusive privilege' of the States in respect of telecommunications. Jersey Telecoms will be incorporated and its dominant position as the provider of telecommunications services on the Island will end.

Under this law, the Islands telecommunications market will be opened up to competition, but all companies - including Jersey Telecoms - will need a licence to operate. Licences will be issued by the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA), the new independent regulator with statutory duties under the Telecommunications Law to ensure that the newly-liberalised telecommunications market works well for consumers.

Charles Latham, Executive Director of the JCRA, commented:

“Consumers on the Island will be the principal beneficiaries of the new law through lower prices, greater choice and an improved quality of service. All telecoms operators will be subject to licence conditions that will ensure lower prices for consumers, possibly through a system of price-caps; consumer choice will be greatly enhanced as new companies enter the market; and in a deregulated market, there will be competitive pressure on telecommunications operators to attract customers by reducing prices and increasing the quality of products and service available.”

The JCRA intends to carry out the licensing process in a way that ensures that the concerns of consumers remain at the forefront. The JCRA will be issuing a public consultation document on licence conditions in the near future and would welcome comments from members of the public. Islanders can keep up to date with the latest developments by visiting the JCRA website at www.jcra.je.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CHARLES LATHAM, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE JCRA ON 01534 514992**

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Telecommunications (Jersey) Law was passed by the States on 31st July 2001.