

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **JCRA MEET THEIR ISLE OF MAN COUNTERPARTS**

Island links were further strengthened last week as the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority met with their counterparts in the Isle of Man.

Representing the JCRA were its Chairman, Dr Patrick McNutt, and its Executive Director, Mr Charles Latham.

At present, Jersey lags behind the Isle of Man in telecommunications regulation and competition policy, but forthcoming developments will update and improve the Island's policies in these spheres.

To discuss the developments that have been taking place in Jersey, Dr McNutt and Mr Latham met Mr Ken Kinrade, the Chief Officer of the Isle of Man Office of Fair Trading ('OFT'), and Mr Anthony Hewitt, who is Director of the Communications Commission

Dr McNutt said of the meeting:

"It was extremely constructive and an excellent opportunity to update our colleagues in the Isle of Man on the progress in telecoms deregulation and competition policy in Jersey.

"Preparations for the new telecommunications licensing regime are now well underway in Jersey, and this meeting was a chance to 'compare notes' with the Isle of Man, where similar developments took place several years ago.

"However, more than anything, our meeting served to highlight the disparity in the level of protection afforded to consumers in Jersey compared to those in the Isle of Man, and elsewhere in Europe. It is imperative that we move forward with a competition law in Jersey. This is a small Island with single operators dominating many sectors, and the JCRA wants to ensure that the interests of consumers and entrepreneurs are put first."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CHARLES LATHAM,  
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**Note to Editors:**

In the Isle of Man, the Communications Commission is the body responsible for the licensing and regulation of telecommunications systems. In Jersey, the equivalent responsibility is set to be transferred from the Telecommunications Board to the JCRA, once the new Telecommunications (Jersey) Law 2002 – which also gives effect to the incorporation of Jersey Telecom – comes into force. This is likely to be in April.

If the Industries Committee's proposals (R.C. 1/2002) for a new Competition Law in Jersey go ahead, the remit of the JCRA will also be extended to include general competition regulation on the Island – similar to the type of work being done by the OFT in the Isle of Man. A competition law in Jersey would enable the JCRA to tackle harmful practices in sectors such as fuel and transport, with the ultimate benefit going to consumers in the Island.