

# **JCRA Media Release**

25 October 2007

## **JCRA Welcomes New Responsibilities to Monitor Mast Emissions**

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority ('JCRA') welcomes the decision by the Economic Development Minister (the 'Minister') to give it new responsibilities to monitor radiation emissions from mobile telephone masts in Jersey and establish a public website on masts and mast emissions.

Under Article 8(1) of the Telecommunications (Jersey) Law 2002 (the 'Law'), the Minister may issue written directions to the JCRA in respect of the principles, procedures or policies it follows in relation to the implementation of any social or environmental policies in respect of telecommunications. The Minister may issue such directions after consultation with the JCRA. Pursuant to the direction issued today, the JCRA will be responsible for:

- Managing independent, random testing and monitoring of radiation emissions from mobile phone masts and base stations, to take place annually for the first 2 years and thereafter every second year. Such testing will be paid for by telecommunication licensees, but managed by the JCRA.
- Making the results of such tests available to the Minister and to the Health Protection Unit at the Health and Social Services Department.
- Establishing a public website that provides information on the location of mobile phone masts in Jersey, independently verified information on individual masts in accordance with the JCRA's testing regime, and information regarding current international standards in respect of safe levels of mast emissions.
- Receiving consumer complaints on mast emissions.

The Minister's direction is being issued with the full cooperation and support of the JCRA, and is in light of the work done on this issue by the Health, Social Services and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Panel's review on telephone masts, before which the JCRA gave evidence on 22 January 2007.

Chuck Webb, the JCRA's Executive Director, states:

*“We welcome the Minister’s direction on mast emissions and look forward to executing these new responsibilities to the best of our abilities. The JCRA’s new responsibilities in this area are consistent with our core mission to further the welfare of the people of Jersey.”*

#### About the JCRA

The JCRA is an independent authority established by the States of Jersey to enforce Jersey’s competition law and regulate its telecommunication and postal sectors. In each of these areas, the JCRA’s primary mission is to promote consumer welfare through efforts that encourage lower prices and greater choice and innovation in the goods and services available in Jersey. The JCRA is recognized internationally as a leading voice in the application of competition law and policy in small economies.

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