

JCRA Media Release

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JCRA Issues New Rules on Mobile Numbers

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) has today issued new rules requiring Jersey's three mobile phone operators to offer mobile number portability (MNP) - the ability of mobile phone users to switch their service provider without having to change their number.

The new rules would be inserted into each operator's licence, are due to take effect on 12 September 2007, and would require them to introduce MNP within a maximum of five months of that date, i.e. by 12 February 2008.

The three operators – Jersey Telecom (JT), Cable & Wireless and Jersey Airtel - had initially been working towards providing MNP to mobile users by 1 January this year. However, the work was interrupted when JT withdrew from the process. This meant that the JCRA had to re-consider its position on MNP and engage in a new consultation process.

Only JT objected to the JCRA's proposals. One of its arguments was that the JCRA should look at lower cost ways of helping mobile users to switch service provider.¹ However, none of the options JT put forward allow mobile users to keep their number, the key characteristic of MNP, and what mobile users are seeking.

¹ A summary of JT's submissions, and those of other respondents to the consultation, can be found in the Final Notices published today on the JCRA's website, www.jcra.je.

Bill Brown, JCRA Executive Director, said:-

“We firmly believe that Jersey mobile users should be able to keep their number when they switch operators – in common with their counterparts in many other countries. We now expect the three operators to work together to ensure that this happens.”

ENDS

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