



CICRA media release

21st October 2011

Regulators consult on 3 year plan

The Channel Island Competition and Regulatory Authorities (CICRA) will be looking to increase their focus on pan-Channel Island initiatives over the next three years.

CICRA, which encompasses the Guernsey Office of Utility Regulation (OUR) and the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA), has published its draft 2012 – 2014 Strategic Plan for public consultation.

The draft strategic plan outlines CICRA's objectives and aims to give all interested people across the Channel Islands greater certainty on how regulation and competition laws will be administered and implemented over the next three years.

Since September 2010 the OUR and JCRA have been working closely to deliver a consistent regulatory framework across the Channel Islands.

John Curran, Executive Director of the JCRA and Director General of the OUR, said: "We have been taking a joint approach to projects wherever possible as we believe this is the best way to deliver a consistent, targeted approach to the competition and regulatory issues we face. This approach will also help ensure we deliver real cost savings to the States in both islands and to the regulated companies through the more efficient use of our shared resources.

We are refocusing our work to concentrate on issues which matter to local consumers in both Islands and to make sure that the regulated sectors and markets in general work well for consumers.”

In January 2012 it is expected that the two authorities will share a joint board with the costs shared equally by both offices. Alongside John Curran’s dual role as head of both offices and the sharing of other resources, it is estimated that this will assist the regulator in reducing total costs by around 10 per cent – saving around £200,000 a year.

CICRA has also set out its intention to adopt a pan-Channel Island approach to regulation of the postal and telecommunication industries and to support the States of Guernsey in its development of a long-term and sustainable plan of the energy sector in Guernsey.

Following the States of Guernsey’s approval of funding for a new competition law in Guernsey earlier this month, CICRA will be looking to develop a consistent approach to competition law administration and enforcement in both islands. The strategic plan highlights the importance of raising awareness of competition law and ensuring the benefits of the legislation are fully understood by Channel Islanders.

“Our mission is to promote value, choice and quality in the goods and services available for consumers in the Channel Islands. Reducing our costs further, sharing our resources where possible and engaging in joint working are all integral in fulfilling our mission,” said Mr Curran.

The draft 2012 – 2014 Strategic Plan is open for consultation from Friday 21 October to Friday 25 November and the final plan will be available on the CICRA website www.cicra.je early in the new year . For more information on how to respond please contact Helen Rubber on 01534 514990 or Rosie Allsopp on 01481 711129. Alternatively visit our website www.cicra.je

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed to John Curran, the OUR's Director General and the JCRA's executive director, on +44 (0)1481 711120 or +44 (0)1534 514990.

About the CICRA

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities (CICRA) is the name given to the two Channel Islands regulatory authorities, the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Office of Utility Regulation (OUR). A memorandum of understanding was signed in December 2010 to facilitate closer working between the two authorities. Both regulatory bodies were established in 2001. The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001 and the OUR was established under the Regulation of Utilities (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2001. In Jersey the telecoms and postal sector are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition Law (Jersey) 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sector are regulated by the OUR. The aim of both authorities is to ensure that consumers receive the best value, choice and access to high quality services while Jersey has the added responsibility of promoting competition and consumer interests.