



CICRA media release

26 March 2013

CICRA and C&W agree to price control of important telecoms products

CICRA (the Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities) and Cable & Wireless Guernsey have agreed to hold prices of three major groups of telecoms services at their current levels.

Local consumers will see prices for calls and line rental frozen overall, although C&W is able to adjust prices up and down within an overall cap. Similarly, business customers will see overall prices frozen for off-island connectivity and the price at which on-island leased lines are supplied by C&W to other telecoms companies will also not increase overall.

Retail prices for other services such as broadband are not part of this price control decision.

CICRA chief executive, Andrew Riseley, explained that the price freeze remained necessary while the telecoms industry continued to develop new products aimed at increasing choice and competition in fixed-line telecom services.

"Until C&W's competitors are able to compete effectively in the market, by purchasing wholesale products from C&W, price controls will be necessary. Over time we are confident that competitive access to C&W's network will provide consumers with greater choice and better pricing, and will help drive innovation in the services provided," he said.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

All enquiries should be directed in writing to CICRA Chief Executive, Andrew Riseley, in Guernsey at the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority, Suites B1 & B2, Hirzel Court, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2NH or in Jersey at the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Salisbury House, 1 - 9 Union Street, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3RF. Alternatively email info@cicra.gg.

About CICRA:

The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities or 'CICRA' is the name given to the Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (JCRA) and the Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority (GCRA) (formerly the Office of Utility Regulation). The JCRA was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law, 2001, and the GCRA was established under The Guernsey Competition and Regulatory Authority Ordinance, 2012. In Jersey, the telecoms and postal sectors are regulated by the JCRA, which is also responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005. In Guernsey the telecoms, postal and electricity sectors are regulated by the GCRA, which is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Guernsey competition law since it came into force on 1 August 2012.

By working together and sharing resources and expertise between the islands, CICRA strives to ensure that consumers in all the Channel Islands receive best value, choice and access to high quality services.