



NEWS RELEASE

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REGULATOR LOOKS FORWARD TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF WIRELESS SERVICES IN JERSEY

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (the Authority) has launched a consultation seeking views on developing important communication services for Jersey. Between now and the end of May, Islanders and local organisations can help shape a spectrum strategy designed to ensure Jersey has access to wireless networks and applications vital for the Island's long-term well-being and prosperity. Wireless spectrum is the range of invisible radio waves that carry signals for things like Wi-Fi, mobile phones and satellite services.

Life without mobile, Wi-Fi and increasingly satellites would be simply unimaginable for most Islanders and organisations. Demand for wireless communications has soared in recent years, fuelled by a need to remain connected always and everywhere. Analysts and networks confidentially expect this growth to continue as new services and devices come on to the market and new ways of working are established. Among the applications expected to help drive this are private wireless networks used by organisations including hospitals, remote automation activity such as driverless cars, and increasing use of drones in everyday situations.

Meeting demand means making sure there is enough wireless capacity to accommodate our expectations. Radio spectrum is a crucial ingredient in this, allowing wireless connection between user devices, such as mobile phones, and communication networks. It is a limited resource, however, used by numerous organisations including the military, maritime and aviation operators and the emergency services, and for multiple applications including broadcasting, Bluetooth devices and satellite communications. For this reason, decisions about spectrum allocations require careful planning and management to optimise usage and minimise the risk of interference.

Launching the Call for Information consultation, **Tim Ringsdore, CEO of the Authority** underlined the importance of gaining a wide range of views: “Spectrum is not something most of us give a thought to – we just expect our wireless devices to work as and when needed. Behind the scenes, however, there needs to be careful regulatory planning and management to make sure everything works now and into a far more demanding future.

“A spectrum strategy will help ensure this but needs to reflect as many views as possible. We want to hear from existing telecoms operators, potentially new wireless providers, organisations considering or developing new services, entrepreneurs, application developers or anyone wishing to trial new wireless services. There are no boundaries on input at this stage – the richer the views the better.”

The opportunity to provide written or verbal comments is open now. The Authority’s website provides information on the spectrum strategy call for information including contact and submission details. See jcra.je/cases-documents/cases/2025/spectrum-strategy for details.

The consultation closes on 30 May 2025 with the Authority planning to issue a draft spectrum strategy subsequently.

Ends

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the local regulation of spectrum

Spectrum allows wireless connection between user devices and communication networks, supporting a diverse range of systems, services and applications from mobile phones to Bluetooth key fobs. Because of demand for this finite resource, access to spectrum is controlled through licensing arrangements and management policies.

UK communications regulator Ofcom has legal responsibility for licensing and managing Jersey's spectrum. By agreement, the Authority supports this process through assessing interest and demand in local spectrum before making specific recommendations to Ofcom for the issuing of new licences or managing existing ones.

About The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority:

The Authority was established under the Competition Regulatory Authority (Jersey) Law 2001. It is responsible for administering and enforcing the Competition (Jersey) Law 2005 and also regulates the telecoms and postal sectors and the Ports of Jersey.

The Authority strives to ensure that the markets work well for the benefit of all stakeholders, including Government, business, citizens and consumers facilitating best value, choice and access to high quality services.