



NEWS RELEASE

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Competition regulator paves way for continued improvement to local mobile services

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority (the Authority) is recommending licence changes to ensure telecoms providers can use allocated radio spectrum to improve the Island's mobile services.

Islanders and local organisations depend on invisible radio spectrum to connect mobile phones and other devices to wireless telecoms networks. As mobile data usage continues to grow, mobile network providers must ensure sufficient spectrum is available to meet local demand. In response to a recent request, the Authority is taking steps to enable the use of existing allocated spectrum to support the latest mobile technologies.

Historic spectrum licences issued by UK communications regulator Ofcom included certain conditions limiting the use of associated spectrum to specific mobile services, such as 3G. Because Ofcom is legally responsible for managing Jersey's spectrum with support from the Authority, licenses issued to local providers contain the same limitations.

However, following a review of spectrum licences in the UK, Ofcom has decided to remove these conditions. The goal is to enhance mobile service coverage and quality by allowing existing spectrum to be repurposed for newer technologies such as 5G.

After consulting with the UK regulator and assessing local conditions, the Authority has decided to recommend the same changes to local spectrum licences.

Commenting on the move, **JCRA CEO Tim Ringsdore** emphasised the importance of removing constraints and improving local telecoms services:

“Newer technologies such as 5G will fully unlock the potential of wireless services through enabling superfast mobile broadband connections. We want to ensure that local providers can fully use their allocated spectrum to deliver this.

“After consulting with Ofcom and assessing local conditions, the Authority has decided to recommend the same changes to local spectrum licences. In doing so, the Authority is applying a pragmatic and proportionate approach, ensuring regulation supports innovation while continuing to safeguard and enhance the services for consumers and businesses.”

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.