



Commission for
Communications Regulation
Coimisiún Um
Rialáil Cumarsáide

1 February 2013

Niamh Maguire
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts, Dáil Eireann

Dear Ms. Maguire,

Please find the information you requested in relation to 3G mobile phone coverage and staff remuneration.

The provision of third generation (3G) mobile phone networks and services is undertaken by telecommunications service providers who operate in a fully liberalised market under licences provided by ComReg. These licences require Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to provide a minimum level of national population coverage, which in relation to 3G services, is given in the table below. There is no Universal Service Obligation (USO) attached to mobile phone licences and therefore the USO Regulations only apply to service at a fixed location.

	Meteor	O2	H3GI	Vodafone
3G	83%	90.2%	85%	85%

The design of the network is a matter for the operator concerned although operators tend to exceed their minimum coverage requirements for commercial reasons. Given that mobile telephony services are a radio based technology, services can be affected by several factors including; topography (the surroundings, trees, terrain, buildings etc.) and the capacity of the network (the amount of subscribers on the same base station at a given time). Any complaints about coverage from consumers are passed on to the relevant mobile network operators. ComReg also conducts drive tests each year to ensure the mobile operators are meeting their obligations.

It should be noted that coverage claims made by operators are separate to the licence obligations, detailed above. Any concerns regarding the veracity of such claims is a matter for the ASAI (Advertising Standards Authority for Ireland).

In 2011, ComReg's staffing complement was 122 (since reduced to 107 today). Of these 122, 119 were eligible for performance-related pay. One eligible individual did not receive any performance-related element in 2011. Performance-related pay is a small element of the remuneration for ComReg staff (typically 7-8%) under the established pay structure.

Finally, during the hearing on the 17th January, the Chair of ComReg, when questioned on the ownership of the building occupied by ComReg, said that it was a state-owned building. It is more correct to state that the building is leased by the Office of Public Works, on behalf of ComReg. The freehold is held by a state-owned investment fund

Yours sincerely


Tom Butler
Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Commission for Communications Regulation
An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide

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