



Strategic Aims

Information Note

Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities

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Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities – Strategic Aims

Formed in 2012, CICRA is a relatively new organisation combining the JCRA and GCRA into a pan-Channel Island body. It is independent of government but is nevertheless accountable to the States Assemblies in both Jersey and Guernsey with legal powers and duties in the area of competition law and regulation of specific sectors of the economy. This paper sets out CICRA's strategic aims in carrying out its duties and functions as¹:

- The competition authority in the Channel Islands
- The telecoms regulator in the Channel Islands
- The regulator of port operations in Jersey
- The regulator of postal services in Jersey

Competition Law

CICRA's strategic aim as the competition authority in the Channel Islands is **to ensure markets work well for consumers**. This supports government policy, common to both islands, which seeks the promotion of market efficiency, with competition considered to be fundamental for the market to deliver benefits to the consumer and the broader economy.

CICRA has strategic choices to make, including which markets to focus on, and the appropriate role it has where markets are not working well for consumers - which can range from direct intervention to formal advice to government. CICRA will make these strategic choices based on its remit, and the intelligence and analysis gathered through its research and intelligence capability. In prioritising the deployment of resources it will take an evidence-based view of the likely contribution to its strategic aim in the short and longer term. CICRA will work closely with other agencies to ensure its efforts are complementary to theirs.

The key criteria that will inform its priorities are:

- *Meaningful* - the extent of any likely benefit to consumers
- *Actionable* - whether it has the necessary powers to effect change
- *Realistic* - the capacity and capability it has to effect any necessary changes to the requisite legal standard

Some areas of CICRA's work do not allow for discretion; for example CICRA has a duty to investigate mergers and acquisitions that meet the relevant statutory tests, to undertake market investigations requested by relevant departments, defend its decisions where there are regulatory appeals, and to consider and respond to complaints.

¹ It is proposed by the Guernsey Commerce and Employment Department (C&E) that the regulation of the postal and electricity sectors is no longer a responsibility of the GCRA and that C&E will discharge the regulatory functions for these sectors in Guernsey.

Regulation of Telecommunications in the Channel Islands

The strategic aims of CICRA in regulating the telecoms sectors are to:

- ensure telecoms markets work in the best interests of consumers, through effective competition where appropriate, and
- regulate where competition is not sufficient to adequately protect consumer interests.

Telecommunications markets that work in the best interests of consumers, offering appropriate networks and services, are a vital component of technological innovation and economic growth for the Channel Islands. Competition drives telecoms networks to innovate, to offer new services at competitive prices and enable consumers to benefit from these fruits of competition.

Regulation of Port Operations

The overarching purpose of Ports of Jersey Limited is to provide safe, secure and efficient port operations. In its new role as the economic regulatory authority, CICRA's strategic aim is **to protect and further the interests of users of port operations, where appropriate by promoting competition.**

Regulation of Jersey's Postal sector

CICRA's strategic aims in regulating the postal sector in Jersey are to ensure that

- quality of service standards to Jersey Post customers are observed; and
- universal service obligations (which set minimum obligations in areas such as frequency of delivery and collection) are met.

The rapid substitution of postal services by technology represents a constraint on Jersey Post's ability to exploit its key position in the provision of these services. To the extent that this changing context provides a degree of consumer protection in respect of price and service quality a lighter-touch regulatory framework by CICRA is considered appropriate