

**Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
and
The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs**

Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce

Terms of Reference

Objectives

The objective of the Taskforce is to provide immediate solutions to mobile voice and broadband deficits in Ireland. It aims to alleviate telecommunications service deficits, particularly in rural Ireland, prior to full build and rollout of the network which is planned under the National Broadband Plan State intervention.

Membership

The membership of the Taskforce is set out at Appendix 1.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce are:

- To identify and recommend practical actions that can be taken in the short-term to improve mobile reception and broadband access in Ireland, in consultation with Government Departments, Local Authorities, ComReg, State agencies, industry and other key stakeholders; and
- To report to Government by the end of 2016 with a set of recommendations and actions to improve mobile reception and broadband access. The report will set out proposed timelines, and the legislative, budgetary or other implications for the prompt delivery of the recommendations and actions.

The Taskforce will consult and engage with telecoms industry representatives in order to identify and address barriers to infrastructure and service deployment and to identify solutions which can be implemented in the short, medium and long term.

The work of the Taskforce will assist Local Authorities in preparing for the rollout of the new National Broadband Plan network once contract(s) are in place in 2017. It will also address mobile phone reception issues.

Frequency of meetings and Secretariat

It is intended that the Taskforce will meet on a monthly basis up to December 2016 with a view to reporting to the Government by the end of the year.

The Secretariat to the Taskforce will be provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DHARRGA), supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAIE).

Sub-Groups

The Taskforce may establish Sub-Groups to help progress its work. Each sub-group will be supported by either DCCAE or DAHRRGA.

Sub-Groups may co-opt additional members from outside the main Taskforce to assist in their work. The Secretariat in DAHRRGA should be advised of any additional members who it is proposed to co-opt onto a Sub-Group.

Membership of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce

Member	Organisation
Denis Naughten, T.D. (Co-Chair)	Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Heather Humphreys, T.D. (Co-Chair)	Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
Katherine Licken, Assistant Secretary (Working Co-Chair)	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
William Parnell, Assistant Secretary (Working Co-Chair)	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Mairead McCabe, Principal Officer	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Stjohn O'Connor, Principal Officer	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Patrick Neary, Chief Technology Officer	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Dave Walsh, Assistant Secretary	Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government
Ray O'Leary, Assistant Secretary	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
Pat Gallagher, Chief Executive	Chairman CCMA and CE Westmeath County Council
Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive	CE Cavan County Council
Geoffrey Gray, Policy Analyst	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
Pat Maher, Director of Network Management	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
John Sydenham, Commissioner	Office of Public Works
Martin Bourke, Principal Officer	Office of Public Works
John K Dillon, Senior Financial Adviser	NewERA
Seamus Boland, CEO	Irish Rural Link Ltd

Mary MacNamara	Irish Country Women's Association
Linda Doyle, Director of CTVR (Computer Science)	Professor of Engineering and the Arts (Electronic and Electrical Engineering), Trinity College Dublin
John Martin, Former Principal Planning Adviser	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
Prof. Cathal O'Donoghue	Teagasc Rural Economy and Development Programme
Paul Madden	Enterprise Champion - Midlands Action Plan for Jobs
Clodagh Cavanagh	Abbey Farm Machinery, Business Representative

Observer:

Gerry Fahy, Commissioner	Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg)
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Secretariat:

Ciara Bates, Johnny Gorman, Laure Garcia, Aisling Penrose	Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
Neasa Lehane, Ian Price	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment