



PRESS RELEASE

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Public Consultation on the Proposed Revision of the Retail Pricing Rules for Price Regulated Services Not Subject to Price Cap Regulation (Non Price Capped Services)

The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) has published its Final Determination and Statement of Results on the “Consultation on Proposed Revision of the Retail Pricing Rules for Price Regulated Services Not Subject to Price Cap Regulation (Non Price Capped Services)” (ECS 34/2016).

In this Final Determination, URCA presents its amendments of the “Regulation of Retail Prices for SMP Operators – Rules” (ECS 06/2014), also known as the Retail Pricing Rules or the Rules.

This Final Determination also sets out URCA’s revisions to the Rules for Non Price Capped Services taking into account the responses received during the consultation period and provides URCA’s feedback on responses received to the consultation, which comprised two rounds of comments from interested persons. At the close of the initial response period (i.e., 8 July 2016) URCA received written comments from Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTC), Cable Bahamas Limited (CBL), and New2015 Limited (NewCo). In the second consultation round, responses were received from BTC and CBL.

Presently, Non Price Capped Services consist of BTC’s retail mobile voice and mobile data services. For this review, URCA adopted the approach of modifying the previous Rules to allow BTC more flexibility to respond to changes in a competitive environment while still maintaining relevant safeguards to prevent anticompetitive behaviours such as margin squeeze and undue discrimination. The revised Rules are an interim measure, which URCA considers to be more appropriate for the newly liberalised market in comparison to the Rules published in 2014, until URCA has completed a full market review of the cellular mobile service markets (currently anticipated to take place once NewCo has established itself in the market).

For the avoidance of doubt, BTC’s retail fixed voice services and CBL’s retail broadband and pay TV services will be subject to retail price cap regulation. The 2014 Rules will remain in effect for these services also known as Price Capped Services until the price cap consultation has been completed.

The full text of the Final Determination Document is available on URCA’s website at

<http://www.urbahamas.bs/consultations.php?cmd=view&article=419>.

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