



News Release

09/08

18 March 2008

CAT REFERS MOBILE PHONE PRICE CONTROL APPEALS TO CC

The Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) has today referred to the Competition Commission (CC) the price control matters in appeals brought against Ofcom by Hutchison 3G and British Telecom in relation to the control of mobile phone wholesale termination charges.

Mobile phone termination charges are the charges mobile network operators charge other telephone companies for connecting calls to their mobile networks. The appeals follow the announcement last year by Ofcom of revised mobile termination price controls, to replace the controls which expired on March 31 2007. See Ofcom's news release dated: www.ofcom.org.uk/media/news/2007/03/nr_20070327.

The Communications Act 2003 provides that the price control elements of certain appeals against decisions by Ofcom must be referred to the CC for determination. The deadline for the CC's completion of this reference is the end of October.

The CC carried out an investigation into mobile termination charges in 2002 following a reference by the then telecommunications regulator, Oftel.

Notes to editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The CAT must refer price control matters to the CC if appeals under section 193 of the Communications Act 2003 raise such matters.
3. A group of CC members will be appointed shortly to determine the reference.
4. Enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor or Siobhan Allen on 020 7271 0242 (email: press@cc.gsi.gov.uk).