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Information & Communications Technology Authority

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Status of C&W's Service Mobile Rate Changes

The Information and Communications Technology Authority ("Authority") has received a number of inquiries on the progress of its review of the mobile rate changes implemented by Cable & Wireless (Cayman Islands) Limited on 9th March 2004. The purpose of this statement is to provide an update on the status of this review.

On Monday, 8th March, the Authority wrote to Cable & Wireless stating, among other things, that it had concerns with the mobile rate changes the company had recently announced. The Authority was concerned that Cable & Wireless' planned rate changes may be below the company's cost and requested that Cable & Wireless file support for its mobile service floor prices. On 10th March, the company filed support for its mobile service floor prices.

The information filed by Cable & Wireless was insufficient for the Authority to complete its review. As a result, the Authority asked Cable & Wireless a number of questions. Cable & Wireless is expected to file the bulk of its responses to the Authority's questions no later than 30th March.

In a newly liberalised market the Authority recognises that competitors are expected to compete vigorously for customers. It is to be noted, however, that the Authority is and will remain vigilant in ensuring that all ICT Licensees not engage in anti-competitive behaviour, as such actions are contrary to the development of effective and sustainable competition in the ICT market. The Authority will be issuing its determinations with respect to Cable & Wireless' mobile rate changes as soon as it reasonably can, taking into account all the information before it, including the information received from Cable & Wireless, AT&T Wireless and Digicel.