

Radio licences: security of tenure

A [Review of Radio Spectrum Policy](#) in 2005 indicated that changes to the radio licence regime may be advisable to promote the highest value use of spectrum.

Under the radio licence regime, licensees had no guarantee of tenure. Radio licences could be revoked even though there may be substantial infrastructure deployed by licensees. The lack of security of tenure for spectrum under the radio licence regime may inhibit investment in wireless infrastructure by radio licensees.

On 19 December 2006 a discussion paper considering options for improving the security of tenure for radio licences was released for public comment. Thirteen submissions were received by the close of submissions on 14 March 2007.

Following consideration of public submissions, the [Minister of Communications announced the Government's decision](#), to revise the radiocommunications Regulations to improve security of tenure arrangements on 27 June 2007, and released the associated [Cabinet Economic Development Committee minute of decision \[199 kB PDF\]](#).

A copy of the [Cabinet paper \[48 kB PDF\]](#) is available.

On 15 October 2007, the Ministry of Economic Development released a Security of Tenure [Draft Transition Policy](#) for public comment by 9 November 2007. Two submissions were received. The respondents were generally in favour of the proposed transition policy (some comments were outside the scope of the consultation). The government subsequently approved the transition policy in a [Cabinet Economic Development Committee minute of decision \[68 kB PDF\]](#) dated 5 March 2008.

On 9 April 2008, the [Minister for Communications and Information Technology announced](#) the [transition policy](#) for radio licences.

At the request of stakeholders and with the agreement of the Minister, draft guidelines for the implementation of the Transition Policy have been developed by MED, on which public comment is now invited.

[Security of tenure transition policy: draft guidelines](#)

Posted by the Ministry of Economic Development for public consultation on 5 September 2008. Responses are invited by 17 October 2008.

[Security of tenure for radio licences: transition policy](#)

Cabinet approved the following Transition Policy [published 9 April 2008].

[Improving security of tenure for radio licences - 9 April 2008](#)

Media statement from Hon David Cunliffe, Minister for Communications and Information Technology.

[Security of tenure draft transition policy - update 15 October 2007](#)

Public comment on the Security of Tenure: Draft Transition Policy was invited by 9 November 2007.

[Submissions on the discussion paper](#)

Thirteen submissions were received on the review of the security of tenure for radio licences discussion paper [published 27 March, 2007].

[Discussion paper](#)

Access the Radio Licences Security of Tenure discussion paper [published December 2006].