

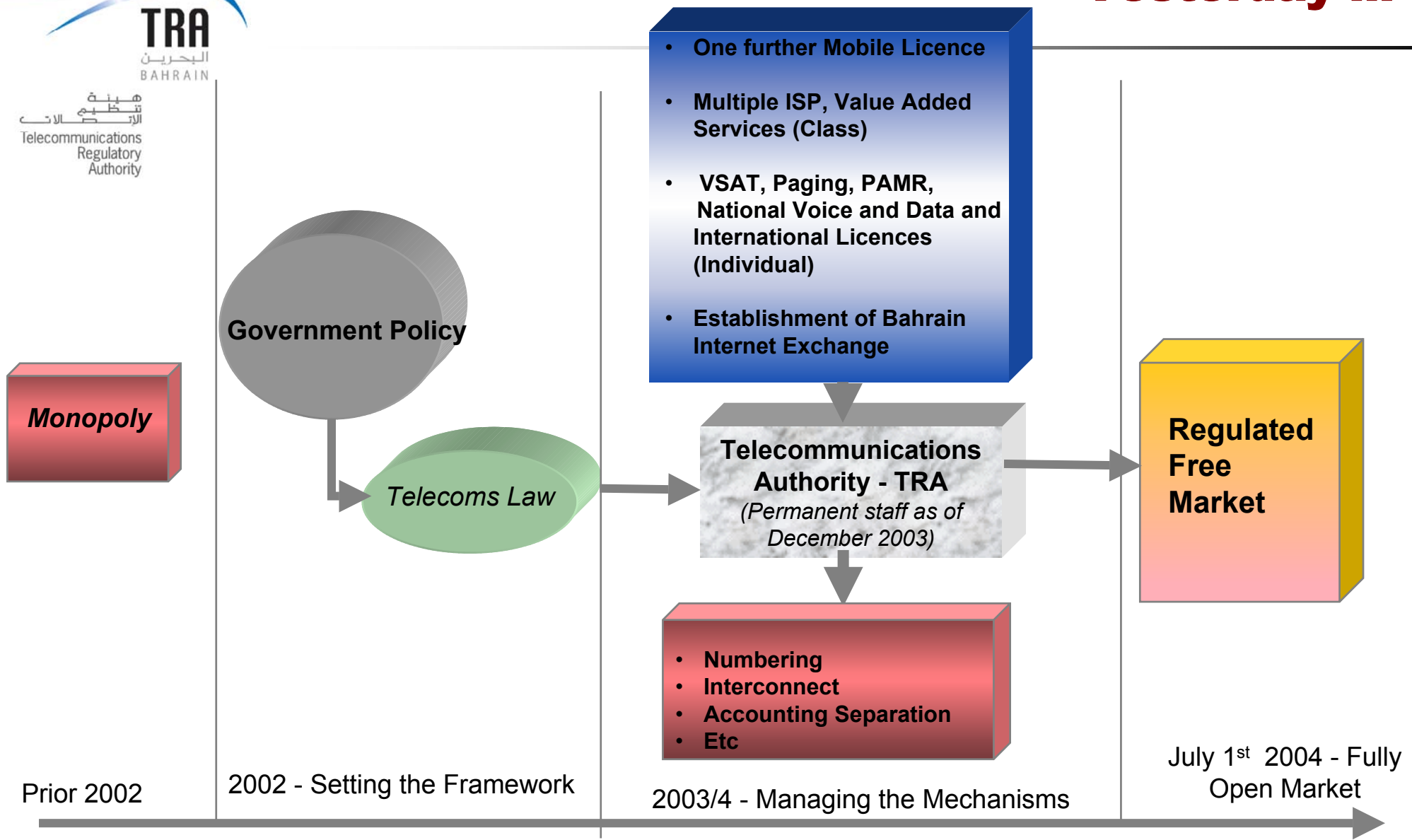
# **Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

## **Yesterday ...Today... Tomorrow**

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority  
PO Box 10353  
Manama  
Bahrain  
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***A. Andreas Avgousti***  
***General Director***

30<sup>th</sup> January 2005

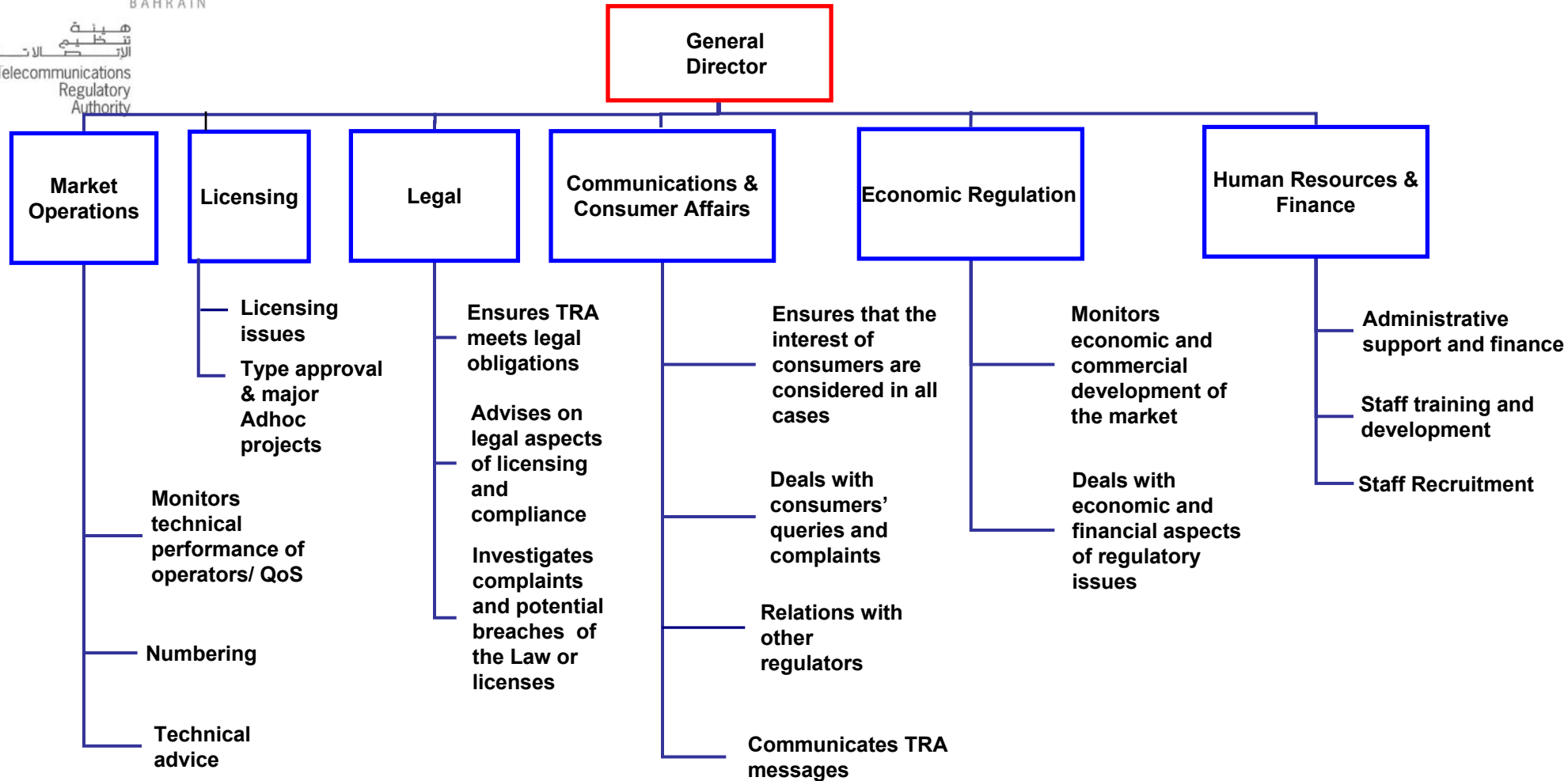


# Powers & Responsibilities of the TRA ...

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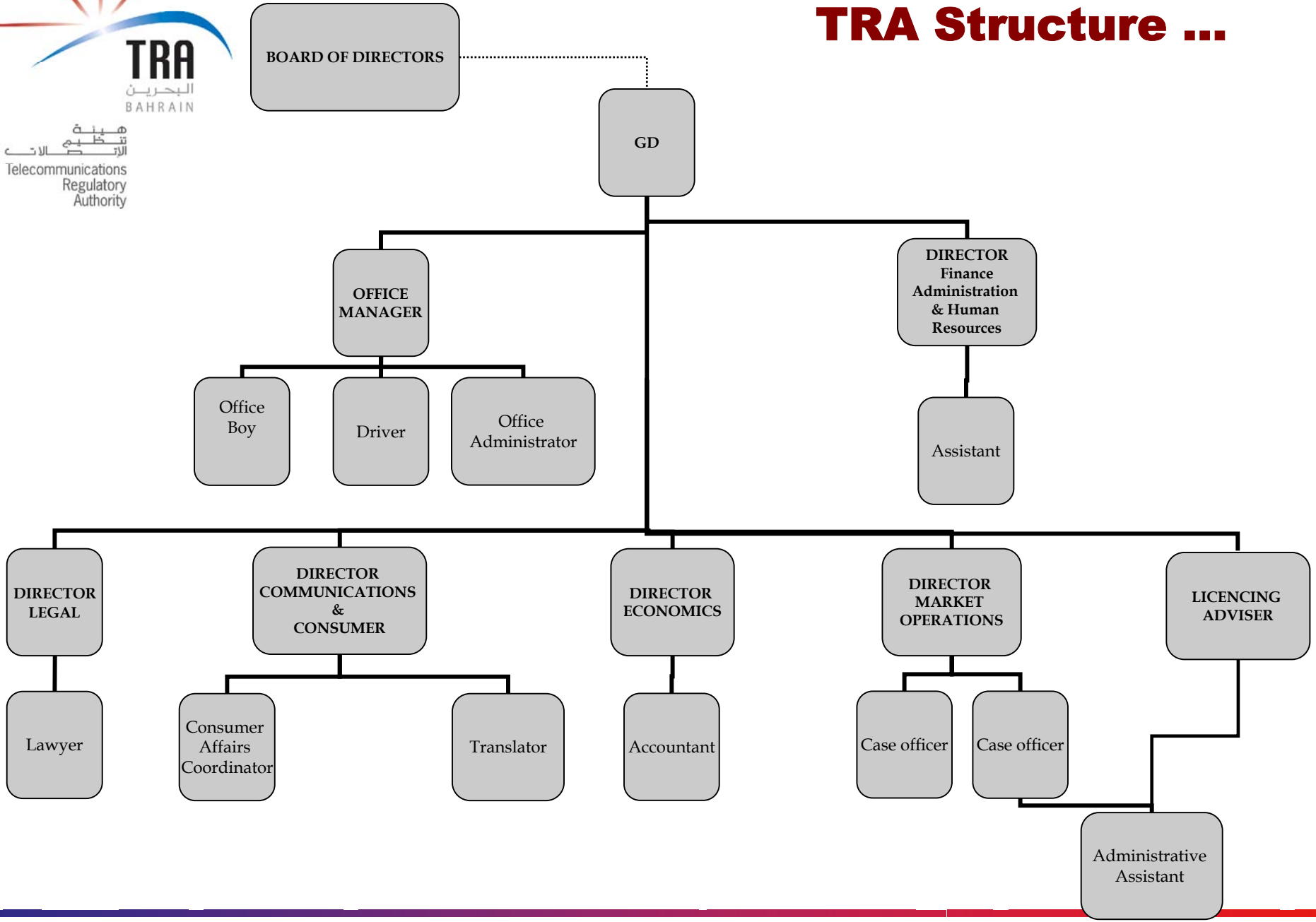


- Grant licenses to authorized entities
- Monitor and enforce compliance with license conditions and the telecommunications law
- Protecting the interests of subscribers and users
- Promoting effective, open and fair competition among existing and new licensed operators





# TRA Structure ...





- Currently TRA has 19 employees , 7 of which are administrative staff
- The number of staff is planned to increase to 22 by the end of 2005
- Restrictions/issues :
  - Budget
  - Lack of experience and expertise
  - Pressure of work
  - Use of English and Arabic

# Relationships & Interactions



**Prospective Licensees**

**Government**

**Licensed Operators**

**International Organizations**

**TRA**

**Other Organizations in Bahrain**

**Overseas Regulators**

**Consumers  
(Business & Residential)**

- » All documents are issued in Arabic & English
- » Press release issued for each consultation/regulation and distributed to local and regional media to alert public of the consultation period and subject in question as well as outcome
- » E-mailing notification system also available
- » All documents are posted on the website
- » TRA provides copies in Braille and large print upon request
- » Consultations/regulations are hand delivered to members of industry, ministries among other organizations

- » TRA public engagements to explain its role and impact on the market
- » Reasons provided in all cases
- » Informal internal mechanism to review decisions at the request of the affected party
- » Formal appeal mechanism through arbitration
- » TRA Development Review Panel

**Protect**

**Consumers & Competition**

**Not Competitors**

- » New set up in the Bahraini and regional markets
- » Educate consumers as to their rights
- » Need to educate licensees as to their rights & obligations
- » Compliance as opposed to regulatory action

- » Need to act taking into account local constraints
- » Speed of actions of TRA – high expectations – comparing TRA with other well established regulators
- » Too many conflicting priorities – too few staff
- » Licensees use the system to delay process
- » Expect TRA to act as their consultant

## ***What does the TRA expects from Licensees ?***

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- Compete fairly
- Compete fiercely
- Compliance with law, regulations and licence conditions
- Supply of timely and accurate information
- Provide requests for approvals in a timely manner
- To treat competitors in accordance with the law and licence obligations

## ***What can Licensees expect from the TRA ?***

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- Fair & equal treatment among all licensees- keeping in mind the obligations imposed by the operators' position in the market
- Fair hearing
- Fair application of the law
- Honesty & Transparency
- Professional relationship so that we can each carry out our duties
- Doing our best to respond in a timely manner given the resources restrains
- An explanation of the decision reached

## 2003

- Methodology for definition of Telecommunications Markets
- Methodology for determining Dominance and Significant Market Power
- Batelco's Cost of Capital
- Dominance in Interconnection Markets
- Consultation Process
- Ownership Regulation

## 2004

- Carrier Pre-Selection
- Accounting Separation
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Mobile Phone Jammers

<b>Licence Type</b>	<b>Total Issued in 2003</b>	<b>Total Issued in 2004</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Individual Mobile Telecommunications Licence</b>	2	none	2
<b>International Telecommunications Facility Licence (IFL)</b>	1	2	3
<b>International Telecommunications Services Licence (ISL)</b>	1	4	5
<b>Individual National Fixed Service Licence</b>	1	none	1
<b>VSAT Licence</b>	1	5	6
<b>Individual Paging Services Licence</b>	1	none	1
<b>Value Added Services Licence (VAS)</b>	4	11	15
<b>Individual Public Access Mobile Radio Service Licence</b>	1	none	1
<b>Internet Service Provider Licence (ISP)</b>	4	4	8

- **Major areas considered for 2005:**

- Spectrum allocation & management – 3<sup>rd</sup> mobile licence(?)
- Complaints Procedure ( Industry and consumers)
- Interconnection issues
- Wholesale and Access
- Consumer Protection issues (Bulk advertising SMS, cut off etc)
- Retail Price Control / Tariff Rebalancing / Low User Schemes

## The day after the panel ...

**Work goes on BUT we undertake to**

- a) Review the observations made by the Panel
- b) Issue a statement setting out how we propose to deal with them
- c) Hold a Public Meeting on the 2005 work plan

***Thank you***