

Public Notice

Date: 23 February 2017

Ref: MCD/02/17/022



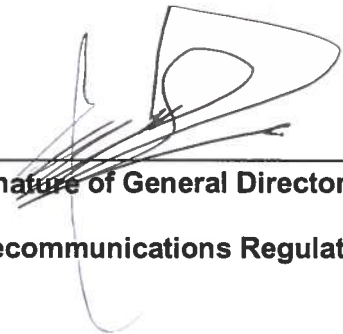
هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
Kingdom of Bahrain - مملكة البحرين

The Authority refers to the draft Regulatory Accounting Regulation (draft "New Regulation") and associated documents that were issued for public consultation on 14 July 2016 (ref: MCD/07/16/055).

The Authority also refers to the Fourth Telecommunications Plan ("NTP4") promulgated on 8 May 2016 by the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom + Bahrain. NTP4 sets out Government's vision for Bahrain's telecommunications sector for the following three years. NTP4 policy objectives will result in a major structural change of the telecommunications market in Bahrain. As part of NTP4, Government requires the establishment of a wholesale-only entity, which will be formed by the functional and legal separation of Batelco Bahrain Telecommunications, and which will be tasked with the deployment and operation of a single fibre-based National Broadband Network ("NBN").

The Authority considers that it would be premature to implement a new regulatory accounting framework before the separation and effective operation of the NBN entity. The Authority is instead of the view that there is merit in putting the issuance of the New Regulation on hold, as this could provide an opportunity to ensure that the final draft of the legal regulatory accounting framework takes into account the functional separation objectives.

The Authority has, therefore, decided to postpone the publication of the New Regulation. It has been pointed out however that the Authority intends to introduce short-term amendments to the current Regulation (i.e. the Accounting Separation Regulation issued on 2 August 2004) to address the requirements in the transitional period.



Signature of General Director
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority