



Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

Notice of Public Consultation on Telecommunications Code (Part 7) (Disaster Preparedness and Management) Requirements, 2022

(15th September 2022)

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

In accordance with section 91(3) of the Telecommunications Act, 2006 (**Act**), the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of the Virgin Islands (**Commission**) is empowered to issue, supplement or update such guidelines, standards and other requirements relating to telecommunications as the Commission thinks fit.

The Commission considers that it is in the interest of the public, and in keeping with the Commission's mandate under the Act, to regulate the preparedness and management of telecommunications in the event of a disaster, natural hazard or force majeure, so as to ensure protection of the public interest in such circumstances. Accordingly, the Commission has developed the Draft Telecommunications Code (Part 7) (Disaster Preparedness and Management) Requirements, 2022 (**Requirements**) to, *inter alia*, enhance coordination among licensees before, during and after a disaster, and to standardise disaster preparedness and response activities in the telecommunications industry to enable a more predictable response. These Requirements are applicable to all licensees in the telecommunications services industry, for which the Commission has responsibility.

The consultation will be open to the public as we seek to receive views from all interested stakeholders, citizens and businesses of the Virgin Islands. The Commission shall, at least fourteen (14) days before the commencement of the consultation, publish notice of same on the Commission's website and in a newspaper published and circulated in the Virgin Islands.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT:

The Commission shall commence a public consultation on the Requirements on 29 September 2022. In accordance with Part II, section 7(2) of the Telecommunications Code (Part 1) (Public Consultations and Public Hearings) Guidelines, 2010, responses to the public consultation shall be due 28 days from the date of publication of the consultation document. Further, the Commission may allow a longer period for responses to a public consultation where it considers this to be necessary. Accordingly, this consultation will close on 10 November 2022.

When published, the consultation document will be made available at the Reception desk of the office of the Commission located at 3rd Floor, LM Business Centre, Fish Lock Road, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Alternatively, a copy of the consultation document will be available on our website (www.trc.vg). Instructions for responding to the consultation will be included in the consultation documents.

The person responsible for this consultation is Mr. Guy L. Malone, Chief Executive Officer, and he can be contacted at gmalone@trc.vg concerning this consultation. All queries in relation to this consultation should be copied to Mrs. Chantal L. Flax-Ward, Chief Legal Advisor, at cflax-ward@trc.vg.

Issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission on the 15th day of September 2022.

(Sgd.) Guy L. Malone.

Chief Executive Officer