Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

Notice of Public Consultation on Draft Annual Work Plan and Budget 2023/2024

(7th December 2023)

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

In accordance with Section 63 of the Telecommunications Act, 2006 (***Act***), the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of the Virgin Islands (***Commission***) is required to consult upon its Annual Work Plan and Budget.

The Annual Work Plan sets out the Commission's priorities and discusses the work that the Commission is planning for its 2023/2024 financial year and the attendant Budget for that period.

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 Commission's Draft Annual Work Plan and Budget 2023/2024 on 21 December 2023. 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. This period may be shortened where it is necessary to meet a deadline for making a decision, resolving some other matter or where there are other reasons for urgency.

Under section 63 of the Act, the Commission has a statutory obligation to prepare and submit to the Minister responsible for Finance its annual work plan and budget not later than three months before the commencement of each financial year. The Commission's 2023-2024 financial year began on 1 October 2023. Regrettably, challenges related to corporate governance requirements led to a delay in the initiation of the required consultation. In the interest of regulatory efficiency and the resolution of this matter, the Commission is of the considered view that a shortened consultation period is necessary. The urgency arises from the need to fulfill relevant statutory obligations so as to enable regular operations and regulatory activities. Accordingly, this consultation will close on 11 January 2024.

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 Chantal L. Flax-Ward, Chief Legal Advisor, at cflax-ward@trc.vg.

Issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission on the 7th day of December 2023.

(Sgd.) Guy L. Malone.

Chief Executive Officer