**PR 03/2025**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## TRC Launches Public Consultation on Modernising Radiocommunications Fees

**28 July 2025** - The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) is inviting public feedback on the proposed changes to radiocommunications fees under the *Consultation Document – Fee Structure Requirements, 2025 and the Telecommunications Code (Part X) (Fee Structure) Requirements, 2025*. This initiative is a part of a wider regulatory reform effort aimed at modernising the fee structure related to licences, spectrum and radiocommunications management in the Virgin Islands.

The proposed fee structure is designed to promote fairness, transparency and efficiency, while supporting technological innovation and sustainable development in the radiocommunications industry. It serves as a single, consolidated reference detailing the proposed fees and procedures for the provision of radiocommunication services. These requirements apply to both new entrants desirous of obtaining a licence or frequency authorisation and all existing holders of a licence or frequency authorisation.

“We understand that changes to radiocommunications fees may raise concerns among stakeholders,” said Mr. Guy L. Malone, Chief Executive Officer of the TRC. “That is why we are committed to a transparent and inclusive consultation process. Our goal is to establish a fairer system that ensures all users pay a proportionate and reasonable fee for operating radiocommunications equipment and accessing the valuable public spectrum resource.”

The current framework, *the Telecommunications (Licences and Fees) Order in the Chapter 171 Regulations* has been in place for 48 years and is outdated and fragmented, leading to a lack of fairness and inefficiencies in the regulatory process. It no longer reflects the modern demands placed on licence and spectrum management by existing technologies and the market evolution of emerging technologies. The consultation proposes to:

- Introduce a more equitable fee structure based on actual administrative and regulatory costs.
- Ensure sustainable funding for the regulatory management and enforcement of radiocommunications.
- Encourage efficient, innovative use of spectrum by both existing and new users.

No final decisions have been made. The TRC is actively seeking input from radiocommunications licencees, industry stakeholders, and the wider public before moving forward.

The full *consultation document* and *Telecommunications Code* is available at https://www.trc.vg/consultations/open-consultations/.

**Guidelines on submitting a response follow a particular format which can be found on pages 5 and 6 of the consultation document. All submissions and comments must be received by 14 August 2025.**

"Radiocommunications holders represent diverse users, and we recognise the importance of clear and transparent communication throughout this consultation process," said Mr. Guy L. Malone, Chief Executive Officer of the TRC. "While this consultation applies to various stakeholders, we felt it necessary to specifically emphasize radiocommunications licensees due to their critical role and the varied nature of their operations. We encourage all stakeholders to review the proposals carefully and provide their feedback by the deadline to help us develop a fair and effective fee structure that meets the needs of the Virgin Islands."

*****Note to Editors:**

The Commission is the statutory body responsible for regulating the telecommunications sector of the Virgin Islands, protecting interests of users of telecommunications services, ensuring fair competition among operators of telecommunications networks and providers of telecommunications services, promoting the development of telecommunications throughout the Virgin Islands and advising the Minister of Communications and Works on telecommunications policies.