



News Release

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CAT REFERS LEASED LINES APPEAL TO CC

The Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) has referred an appeal by Cable & Wireless UK to the Competition Commission (CC). The reference is about the prices that Ofcom permits British Telecommunications plc (BT), to charge communications providers for BT's wholesale leased lines services.

The charges, which Ofcom announced in July 2009, cover the period to the end of September 2012. Click [here](#) for Ofcom's statement.

Leased lines are a permanently connected communications link between two premises dedicated to the customer's exclusive use. Leased lines are most commonly rented by businesses or larger organizations from communications providers who, in turn, may purchase wholesale leased line services from BT.

Cable & Wireless, supported by Verizon, is challenging these charges on a number of grounds. Ofcom is being supported by BT. For more details, please visit the CAT's [website](#).

Under the 2003 Communications Act if decisions by Ofcom are appealed to the CAT and include a price control matter, then this matter must be referred to the CC for determination. The CC has until 30 June 2010 to determine the pricing issues.

The CC is also considering part of an appeal by [Carphone Warehouse](#) about the prices that Ofcom permits Openreach, a separate division of BT Group, to charge for access to its wholesale telecoms services.

Notes to editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries.
2. The CAT hears appeals against decisions made by the Office of Fair Trading, the CC and sectoral regulators such as Ofcom.

3. In its Business Connectivity Market Review Statement, Ofcom concluded that, in principle, BT should be subject to charge controls in certain leased line markets where BT has 'Significant Market Power'.
4. Enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor or John Park on 020 7271 0242 (email press@cc.gsi.gov.uk).