



News Release

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CAT REFERS WHOLESALE LINE RENTAL APPEAL TO CC

The Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) has referred part of an appeal by Carphone Warehouse to the Competition Commission (CC). The reference is about the prices that Ofcom permits Openreach, a separate division of BT Group, to charge for wholesale line rental (WLR).

WLR is a product Openreach supplies to communications providers (CPs), allowing them to rent access lines on wholesale terms, and resell the lines to retail customers, to deliver a voice service. The charges, which Ofcom [announced](#) in October 2009, cover the period to March 2011. Carphone Warehouse is challenging these charges on a number of grounds. For more details, please visit the CAT's [website](#).

The CC is already considering the price control matters of a related appeal from Carphone Warehouse, which was [referred](#) in December last year. Carphone Warehouse's other appeal ('the LLU appeal') relates to charges for renting lines from Openreach for delivering broadband services to homes and businesses.

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 31 August 2010 to determine the pricing issues.

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. Openreach was launched in 2006 arising from Ofcom's 'Strategic Review of Telecommunications'. Since 2006, Ofcom has set the prices which Openreach can charge so that its wholesale services are available to other CPs on an equivalent basis to BT.
4. Enquiries should be directed to [Rory Taylor](#) or [John Park](#) or by ringing 020 7271 0242.