

2 September 2020

Final decision on our Mobile Termination Access Services review

Ngā mihi mahana kia koutou katoa

Today we have published our final decision on whether to commence an investigation of Mobile Termination Access Services (**MTAS**) under clause 1(3) of Schedule 3 of the Telecommunications Act (the **Act**).

Our final view is that there are not reasonable grounds to start a Schedule 3 investigation into whether to remove the MTAS service from Schedule 1 of the Act at this time. Most submissions agreed with our draft decision to roll over current arrangements, so as to maintain a regulatory backstop for MTAS, and we are confirming this position in our final decision.

However, we ask that stakeholders note that:

- (1) We will likely revisit this decision before our next five-yearly review is due in 2025 given the emergence of alternatives, such as over-the-top messaging services, which are increasingly providing a competitive constraint;
- (2) Although not part of this review, there is a question as to whether mobile termination rates (MTR) themselves have reduced in line with relevant international benchmarks since they came off their regulated glidepath in 2015; and
- (3) Starting this year, we will collect MTR information in our annual telecommunications monitoring questionnaire, with a view to reviewing the relationship between pricing and costs should that become necessary in the future.

Ngā mihi nui



Tristan Gilbertson
Telecommunications Commissioner

Encl.