

5 May 2014

Northpower Fibre Limited
28 Mt Pleasant Road
Raumanga
Whangarei 0110

Attention: Darren Mason, Chief Executive

Dear Mr Mason

Notice to supply information and documents to the Commerce Commission under sections 98(a) and (b) of the Commerce Act 1986 via section 15(f) of the Telecommunications Act 2001

1. I attach a notice issued under section 98(a) and (b) of the Commerce Act 1986 (Notice) which requires Northpower Fibre Limited to supply the information and documents specified in the Notice to the Commerce Commission (Commission). This letter does not form part of the Notice, but is provided to assist you in complying with the Notice.
2. You may wish to seek legal advice about the Notice.

The Commission

3. We (the Commission) are a statutory body established under the Commerce Act. The purpose of the Commerce Act is to promote competition in markets for the long-term benefit of consumers within New Zealand.
4. Section 98 of the Commerce Act allows us to require a person to furnish us with information and produce any documents or classes of documents, where we consider this necessary or desirable for the purposes of carrying out our functions and exercising our powers under the Commerce Act.
5. Section 15(f) of the Telecommunications Act 2001 states that the provisions of section 98 of the Commerce Act apply to the Telecommunications Act.
6. We have functions under both the Commerce Act and the Telecommunications Act. One of our functions under Subpart 2A of Part 2 of the Telecommunications Act is to determine the terms (including the price) on which a designated access service must be supplied to access seekers.

AUCKLAND

L19, ASB Building
135 Albert Street
P.O. Box 105-222
1736421.1
AUCKLAND 1143, NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON

L6, 44 The Terrace
P.O. Box 2351
WELLINGTON 6140, NEW ZEALAND
Tel: (04) 924 3600 Fax: (04) 924 3700
Main Office

CHRISTCHURCH

9 Radley Street
Woolston
P.O. Box 10-199
CHRISTCHURCH 8145, NEW ZEALAND

The Notice

7. We are reviewing the price to be paid for the Unbundled Copper Local Loop (UCLL) and Unbundled Bitstream Access (UBA) services provided by Chorus Limited, as defined in subpart 1 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Telecommunications Act. We are required to make a price review determination as soon as practicable in respect of the UCLL services (refer sections 47 and 51 of the Telecommunications Act 2001) and we are required to make reasonable efforts to make a price review determination in respect of the UBA service before the expiry of three years from separation day, which is 30 November 2014 (refer section 78(3) of the Telecommunications (TSO, Broadband, and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2011).
8. The Notice seeks information and documents which are necessary and desirable for our pricing reviews in relation to the UCLL service and the UBA service.
9. This letter and the Notice will be placed on our website.

Response to the Notice

10. The information and documents in response to this Notice must be delivered to the Commission's Wellington office at Level 6, 44 The Terrace for the attention of Keston Ruxton, or by email to telco@comcom.govt.nz with the subject "Response to section 98 Notice – UCLL and UBA", by 5pm on 6 June 2014.
11. Northpower Fibre Limited must provide all information and documents in Attachment A to the Notice in electronic .csv, .shp, or pdf format, as appropriate, via email or on a flash drive.
12. Northpower Fibre Limited must supply the requested information and documents under cover of a letter on Northpower Fibre Limited's letterhead, signed by a person with the appropriate authority.
13. To the extent that Northpower Limited (or any other relevant related party) holds any information and documents relevant to the information requested in Attachment A, and such information is able to be accessed by Northpower Fibre Limited, please include such information in Northpower Fibre Limited's response. If Northpower Fibre Limited is unable to access such information, please inform us as soon as possible so that we can obtain it directly from that party.

Compliance with the Notice

14. It is an offence under section 103 of the Commerce Act to fail to comply with the Notice, or to knowingly give false or misleading information and documents to us.
15. Given our tight timeframe for completion of these pricing reviews, Northpower Fibre Limited should contact us as soon as possible if it will be unable to provide all of the requested information and documents by the due date.
16. When contacting us Northpower Fibre Limited must set out in writing:
 - 16.1 why it is unable to comply with the Notice; or

16.2 why it needs an extension of time to comply with the Notice.

17. If Northpower Fibre Limited is unable to provide any of the requested information and documents, and/or any of the requested information and documents are not in its control, it must fully explain the reasons and circumstances in its response to each request concerned.

Retention of documents

18. Northpower Fibre Limited, its agents, employees, officers and directors, should retain all relevant hard copy and electronic/digital records that may be relevant to the Commission's UCLL and UBA FPP price review determinations.
19. Any routine or otherwise planned document and/or information destruction should also be suspended or cancelled until after the completion of the FPP price review determinations.

Further enquiries

20. Please direct any enquiries in relation to the Notice to Keston Ruxton at the Commission's Wellington Office, direct dial 04 924 3673 or email: keston.ruxton@comcom.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Elisabeth Welson
Commissioner

Relevant extracts from the Commerce Act 1986

Section 98

Commission may require person to supply information or documents or give evidence

Where the Commission considers it necessary or desirable for the purposes of carrying out its functions and exercising its powers under this Act, the Commission may, by notice in writing served on any person, require that person -

- (a) to furnish to the Commission, by writing signed by that person or, in the case of a body corporate, by a director or competent servant or agent of the body corporate, within the time and in the manner specified in the notice, any information or class of information specified in the notice; or
- (b) to produce to the Commission, or to a person specified in the notice acting on its behalf in accordance with the notice, any document or class of documents specified in the notice; or

...

Section 101

Notices

- (1) Any notice given by the Commission under or for the purposes of this Act shall be sufficiently given if it is in writing under the seal of the Commission or is signed by the chairperson, or by one or more of the members of the Commission, or by any persons purporting to act by direction of the Commission, and is served in accordance with section 102 on the person or persons primarily concerned therewith or on any person or organisation deemed by the Commission to represent the person or persons primarily concerned therewith.

....

Section 103 (relevant provisions)

Offences

- (1) No person shall –
 - (a) without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with a notice under ... [section] 98; or
 - (b) in purported compliance with such a notice, furnish information, or produce a document, or give evidence, knowing it to be false or misleading; or
- ...
- (2) No person shall attempt to deceive or knowingly mislead the Commission in relation to any matter before it.
- ...
- (4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) or subsection (2) or subsection (3) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 in the case of an individual, or \$30,000 in the case of a body corporate.
 - (5) Proceedings for an offence against subsection (4) may be commenced within 6 months after the matter giving rise to the contravention was discovered or ought reasonably to have been discovered.

Section 106

Proceedings privileged

-(4) A person shall not be excused from complying with any requirement to furnish information, produce documents, or give evidence under this Act, or, on appearing before the Commission, from answering any question or producing any document, on the ground that to do so might tend to incriminate that person.
- (5) A statement made by a person in answer to a question put by or before the Commission shall not in criminal proceedings or in proceedings for pecuniary penalties of this Act, be admissible against that person.
- (6) Nothing in subsection (5) applies in respect of—
- (a) proceedings on a charge of perjury against the maker of the statement; or
 - (b) proceedings on a charge of an offence against section 103.
- ...
- (9) Anything said, or any information furnished, or any document produced or tendered, or any evidence given by any person to the Commission, shall be privileged in the same manner as if that statement, information, document, or evidence were made, furnished, produced, or given in proceedings in a court.
- (10) For the purposes of clause 3 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Defamation Act 1992, any statement, document, determination, clearance, authorisation, or decision made by the Commission in the exercise or intended exercise of any of its functions or powers shall be deemed to be an official report made by a person holding an inquiry under the authority of the Parliament of New Zealand.

Relevant extracts from telecommunications legislation

Telecommunications Act 2001

Section 15

Application of Commerce Act 1986 and Crown Entities Act 2004

The following provisions of the Commerce Act 1986 apply with any necessary modifications:

...

(f) section 98 (Commission may require person to supply information or documents or give evidence):

...

(k) sections 101 (notices) and 102 (service of notices):

(l) section 103 (offences):

...

Telecommunications (TSO, Broadband, and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2011

Section 78

...

(3) The Commission must make reasonable efforts to complete the pricing review determination before the expiry of 3 years from separation day.