



26.08.2014

## **Airtel-Vodafone gives parents power to control child's website access**

Airtel-Vodafone has become the Channel Islands' first telecoms operator to give parents the power to stop their children accessing adult sites on their mobile phone, tablet or laptop.

Airtel Protect is a free opt-in service which enables parents to stop adult sites being accessed on their child's device simply by changing a setting. The service is available to Airtel-Vodafone contract customers and works by switching the way in which the device accesses the internet so that a 'security gateway' is created.

Every webpage address is checked by Cisco Reputation Servers at the gateway before access is permitted and, if it is deemed unsuitable, a notification appears on the screen saying access was not possible.

Airtel-Vodafone Head of Marketing Peter Zunino said: "With children getting smartphones and tablets from a younger and younger age, online safety is a particular worry to many parents. I am sure that a service which enables them to stop their child from accessing unsuitable sites will be welcome."

In April Airtel-Vodafone introduced an internet filter which stopped all customers from accessing sites deemed illegal by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), such as those containing child pornography. The introduction of a free opt-in service for parents is the second phase of Airtel Protect.

"The introduction of any filter or control carries ethical and management, as well as technical issues," Mr Zunino said. "The industry's leading organisations are deciding which sites are both illegal and unsuitable, but giving Islanders access to them should bring peace

of mind.”

Tina Lamar-Taylor, co-ordinator of The Kid’s Club said: "Parents recognise the value of their child having a phone so that they can stay in touch, but worry about what they can access if they have a smart phone. Providing an opt-in service should give parents greater peace of mind, which is to be welcomed."

**ENDS**

**Notes for editors:**

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact Alex Mallinson on 07797744228.

**About Airtel-Vodafone**

Airtel-Vodafone is a partnership between two of the world’s leading telecoms companies that have come together to provide the Channel Islands best value network.

Airtel: one of the fastest-growing mobile companies in the world, operating in over 20 countries in Africa and Asia. As at October 2012, Airtel is rated as the world’s 4<sup>th</sup> largest mobile operator by subscribers

Vodafone Group: the largest mobile community in the world, operating in more than 60 countries with more than 400 million customers worldwide.

Airtel-Vodafone brings the combined expertise of these two world-class mobile phone companies to the Channel Islands, giving Islanders the opportunity to benefit from great value mobile communications backed up by a truly global network.