



Media Release- 25 July 2005

## **ComReg announces phone number changes for Westmeath, Laois/Offaly and Wexford to come into effect in Summer 2006**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today outlined a plan for phased changes in telephone numbers in specific areas which will take final effect in Summer 2006.

The changes will affect telephone numbers with the following dialling areas:

**Westmeath (044)**

**Laois/Offaly (0502)(0506) & (0509)**

**Wexford (053)(054) & (055)**

These changes will affect the following STD code areas: 044, 0502, 0506, 0509, 053, 054 and 055. Some Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD) codes will change and all local numbers in the affected areas will get two extra digits changing them from 5 digit numbers into 7 digit numbers.

ComReg is responsible for the management and administration of the National Numbering Scheme. When the level of “free” numbers (i.e. the quantity of numbers that are available for allocation) reaches a certain level, changes to the numbering scheme are necessary to ensure that sufficient numbers are available to support services for all consumers. In short, in order to accommodate growing demand for telephone numbers in these areas it is necessary to implement these number changes.

From December 5<sup>th</sup> 2005, it will be possible for customers to use both the old and new numbers. The old and new numbers will operate in parallel for a period of approximately 6 months until the new numbers replace the old ones in May and June of 2006. After the number change date, only the new 7 digit numbers can be used to complete a call. Customers who dial the old number will hear a recorded announcement informing them that the number has changed and asking the customer to dial again using the new number.

Consumers should ensure that they update relevant contact information and inform friends and associates of the changes as early as possible to avoid any inconvenience. ComReg is working closely with telecommunication service providers in order to ensure that their customers are informed of these changes in a timely and clear way so that any disruption is minimised.

Additional information on this issue is available in an Information Note – ComReg 05/57 which is available on the ComReg website. [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie)

Further details of these number changes are available from the ComReg website, [www.comreg.ie/numberchange](http://www.comreg.ie/numberchange)

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler  
Public Affairs Manager, ComReg  
Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

[tom.butler@comreg.ie](mailto:tom.butler@comreg.ie)