Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications**
**Regulation**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### Dialling Northern Ireland from the Republic

### Changes to the Northern Ireland telephone numbering scheme

On Saturday 16th September, all 34 UK area codes in Northern Ireland will be switched off as the UK Telecoms Regulator (OFTEL) puts a new numbering system in place. This has implications for phone users in the Republic of Ireland. On the same day, the old 08 short code for callers dialling Northern Ireland from the Republic of Ireland will also be switched off.

Callers in the Republic will need to dial 048 followed by the new UK eight-digit local number.

**Example of Northern Ireland Numbering Change when dialling from the Republic of Ireland:Belfast**

**Old Number  080 1232 123456**          **New Number: 048 90 123456**

The new Belfast subscriber number was formed by inserting 90 at the front of the old local number (Note: different digits are inserted for other areas). Therefore, when dialling old Belfast number 123456 from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland, the new format above is valid from the 16th September:

After 16<sup>th</sup> September 2000 customers who dial Northern Ireland using the old code and old local number will hear a recorded message advising them of the changes. The caller will be given the new local number and area code and asked to dial again.  The recorded message will be in place for six months until February 2001.

Apart from the above recommended dialling format, it is also possible to dial Northern Ireland numbers using the international dialling format. A description of this and more detailed examples of accessing Northern Ireland numbers under the new scheme are available on the ODTR web site at www.odtr.ie.

Also available on the ODTR website is a number change database that will convert an old code to a new code.

**ENDS**

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**Note to Editors:**

The ODTR has no responsibility in respect of changes to Northern Ireland codes and numbers but is publishing this information as an aid to telephone subscribers in the Republic.

These details put together by the ODTR are intended as a simple overview of the Northern Ireland number changes insofar as they affect telephone users in the Republic of Ireland. It is intended to assist users to quickly overcome any difficulties they may encounter in the transition to using the new numbers

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q1:** My Contacts in Northern Ireland tell me their numbers have changed. Can I continue to use my old numbers to contact them?

**A1:** Yes. Until September 16th, the old codes and numbers should work as before. After that, if you dial to the old numbers, a recorded announcement will point you towards the correct new codes and numbers.

**Q2:** My Northern Ireland contact's letter-head shows his new number as 028-1234 5678. However, when I dial that number I get an unobtainable tone.

**A2:** The short code 028 given by your correspondent is only for internal use in Great Britain or Northern Ireland. When dialling this code from the republic you must use the international format i.e. 00 44 28 1234 5678 or else replace the 028 with 048.

**Q3:** Why have you adopted the code 048 for access to Northern Ireland, instead of using 028?

**A3:** The full international number to reach a Northern Ireland subscriber from the Republic, as shown above, is the same as that which would be used from anywhere outside the United Kingdom – including the embedded 28 code.

However, the Republic has traditionally provided a shorter method of access using national dialling procedures and it was decided to maintain this user-friendly approach.

**Q4:** How do I adjust the new numbers on my Northern Ireland Correspondent's letter-head so that they work from the Republic?

**A4:** Your Correspondent may show his numbers in the following forms:
Tel International: +44 28 1234 5678
Tel National: (028) 1234 5678   (or 028 – 1234 5678)

You may use the first form exactly as he shows it, simply replacing the '+' by the digits 00;
To use the second, simpler format, you only need to replace the 028 by 048.

**Q5:** I need to reach a Northern Ireland subscriber for whom I only have the old format codes and numbers. What changes will I need to make after 16th September to reach him?

**A5:** As the Northern Ireland changes are quite complex, involving code change and extended number lengths, we show a summary table in the Annex to this paper, giving the old codes and numbers and the corresponding new codes and numbers. Both national and international dialling methods are given.

**Q6:** I don't see the exchange area I need, listed under the 'Charge Area' column in your Annex. What should I do?

**A6:** Look down the list of existing access codes (e.g. 08 (012657) for Ballycastle) to find the 'old' access code covering the area you require. Then use one of the new dialling methods shown to the right of that.

## Accessing Northern Ireland subscribers from the Republic of Ireland

| Locality | Charge Area | Number before April 2000 | National-style dialing from the Republic | International-style dialing from the Republic |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Antrim | Ballycastle | 08 (012657) XXXXX | (048) 207X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 207X XXXX |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Martinstown | 08 (012667) XXXXX | (048) 217X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 217X XXXX |
| | Ballymena | 08 (01266) XXXXX | (048) 256X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 256X XXXX |
| | Ballymena | 08 (01266) XXXXXX | (048) 25XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 25XX XXXX |
| | Ballymoney | 08 (012656) XXXXX | (048) 276X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 276X XXXX |
| | Larne | 08 (01574) XXXXXX | (048) 28XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 28XX XXXX |
| | Kilrea | 08 (012665) XXXXX | (048) 295X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 295X XXXX |
| Armagh | Newry | 08 (01693) XXXXX | (048) 302X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 302X XXXX |
| | Newry | 08 (01693) XXXXXX | (048) 30XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 30XX XXXX |
| | Armagh | 08 (01861) XXXXXX | (048) 37XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 37XX XXXX |
| | Portadown | 08 (01762) XXXXXX | (048) 38XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 38XX XXXX |
| Down | Banbridge | 08 (018206) XXXXX | (048) 406X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 406X XXXX |
| | Rostrevor | 08 (016937) XXXXX | (048) 417X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 417X XXXX |
| | Kircubbin | 08 (012477) XXXXX | (048) 427X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 427X XXXX |
| | Newcastle | 08 (013967) XXXXX | (048) 437X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 437X XXXX |
| | Downpatrick | 08 (01396) XXXXXX | (048) 44XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 44XX XXXX |
| Fermanagh | Enniskillen | 08 (01365) XXXXXX | (048) 66XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 66XX XXXX |
| | Lisnaskea | 08 (013657) XXXXX | (048) 677X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 677X XXXX |
| | Kesh | 08 (013656) XXXXX | (048) 686X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 686X XXXX |
| Londonderry | Coleraine | 08 (01265) XXXXX | (048) 703X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 703X XXXX |
| | Coleraine | 08 (01265) XXXXXX | (048) 70XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 70XX XXXX |
| | Londonderry | 08 (01504) XXXXXX | (048) 71XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 71XX XXXX |
| | Limavady | 08 (015047) XXXXX | (048) 777X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 777X XXXX |
| | Magherafelt | 08 (01648) XXXXX | (048) 796X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 796X XXXX |
| | Magherafelt | 08 (01648) XXXXXX | (048) 79XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 79XX XXXX |
| Tyrone | Carrickmore | 08 (016627) XXXXX | (048) 807X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 807X XXXX |
| | Newtownstewart | 08 (016626) XXXXX | (048) 816X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 816X XXXX |
| | Omagh | 08 (01662) XXXXXX | (048) 82XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 82XX XXXX |
| | Ballygawley | 08 (016625) XXXXX | (048) 855X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 855X XXXX |
| | Cookstown | 08 (016487) XXXXX | (048) 867X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 867X XXXX |
| | Dungannon | 08 (01868) XXXXXX | (048) 87XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 87XX XXXX |
| | Fivemiletown | 08 (013655) XXXXX | (048) 895X XXXX | 00 44 (28) 895X XXXX |
| Belfast district | Belfast City | 08 (01232) XXXXXX | (048) 90XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 90XX XXXX |
| | Bangor | 08 (01247) XXXXXX | (048) 91XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 91XX XXXX |
| | Lisburn | 08 (01846) XXXXXX | (048) 92XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 92XX XXXX |
| | Ballyclare | 08 (01960) XXXXXX | (048) 93XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 93XX XXXX |
| | Antrim | 08 (01849) XXXXXX | (048) 94XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 94XX XXXX |
| | Saintfield | 08 (01238) XXXXXX | (048) 97XX XXXX | 00 44 (28) 97XX XXXX |

Note: XXXXXX, shown above, represents the old subscriber number; this is incorporated as the trailing part of the new subscriber number.