



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **NEW RULES TO SAFEGUARD FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF NUMBERS TO OPERATORS AND CONSUMERS**

New rules under which the Irish National Numbering Scheme will in future be managed and administered were proposed by the Telecommunications Regulator today. The “National Numbering Conventions” will provide for a long-term framework within which the national numbering scheme may continue to develop.

“The liberalisation of telecommunications in Ireland has generated a continuous ongoing demand for numbers to be issued, reserved, withdrawn and controlled in a reliable, transparent and equitable manner” said the Regulator. “These new rules will benefit not only the network operators and service providers but also end-users, ensuring that there are ample numbers available to accommodate the growing number of new entrants, new services and new consumers in the evolving environment”.

The new conventions will include rules on; alphanumeric characters and dialling procedures; the allocation of numbers, from application to allocation or refusal; the rights of operators and end users to use numbers, number blocks and codes and eligibility criteria for numbering applications.

The numbering conventions will when published remain a central source of information on all aspects of numbering. The document itself will remain an active ongoing document to assist and adapt to the growing needs of the Irish telecommunications industry.

The documents “**National Numbering Conventions - Consultation Paper**” - ODTR 99/11 and “**Draft National Numbering Conventions**” – ODTR 99/12 can be viewed on the ODTR web-site (<http://www.odtr.ie>). The consultation period concludes on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

**ENDS**

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