



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **Non-Geographic Numbering Applications**

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## **Non-Geographic Numbering Applications**

### **1. Introduction**

This document outlines the procedure to be used to apply for allocation of number blocks for freephone, shared cost, universal access, premium rate and personal numbering services, with effect from 1st December 1998.

This is not a legal document. The Director may amend it from time to time. This document is without prejudice to the legal position, and to the rights and duties of the Director to regulate the market generally.

### **2. Background**

From 1st December 1998, restrictions on the provision of telecommunications services in Ireland will be removed, and a new licensing regime for telecommunications service providers will become effective. Service providers who request numbering allocations will be required to hold a licence under section 111(2) of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act, 1983 (24 of 1983). Further information on the licensing regime may be obtained on the ODTR website: <http://www.odtr.ie/>

In March of 1998 the Director published a consultation document on telephone numbering (ODTR doc 98/09), and following this consultation a decision notice was issued in July 1998 (ODTR D2/98). This document outlined the principles that will be used for numbering in a liberalised environment, and also addressed the requirements for numbering of new emerging telecommunications services.

An interim advisory group – the “Task Force on Numbering” has also been established to advise the Director on certain numbering questions. The Task Force (TFN) has considered questions regarding non-geographic numbering services, and has provided recommendations to the ODTR.

In order to facilitate network preparations in advance of 1st December 1998, the Director has already made allocations of Non-Geographic numbers to service providers. These allocations were made in accordance with the process established in ODTR doc. 98/39. These allocations have been made under the VAS licensing scheme. Any allocations made under this scheme will be re-allocated to the licensee after 1st December on issue of an appropriate new licence. Otherwise these allocations will be recovered when the VAS licences expire 30 June 1999.

### 3. Services and Number Ranges

Table 1 below gives a summary of the services which are covered by this document. In each case, the individual number is composed of an access code (4-digit) and a subscriber number (6-digit).

The services and number ranges are described in more detail below.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Access Code</b>
Freephone Calls	1800
Shared Cost (Fixed)	1850
Shared Cost (Timed)	1890
Universal Access	0818
Premium Rate	1520 to 1580
Premium Rate (Adult)	1559
Personal Numbering	0700

Table 1, Summary of Non-geographic Numbering Services.

#### Freephone Services

Freephone services allow the called party to be reached at no charge to the caller. The total cost of a Freephone call is borne by the called party.

Freephone numbers will be allocated in blocks of 1,000 only, from the range:

1800 800 000 to 1800 999 999.

#### Shared Cost Services

Shared Cost services allow the caller to be charged only for part of the cost of the call, and the called party is charged for the remainder. Allocations will be made to service providers from two separate Shared Cost numbering ranges as follows:

- 1890 - where the caller is charged at local tariff rate
- 1850 - where the caller is charged a fixed fee, which is independent of the duration of the call, and based on the local tariff rate

Numbers will be allocated in blocks of 1,000 only, from the ranges:

1890 800 000 to 1890 999 999,  
and  
1850 800 000 to 1850 999 999,

for timed and fixed fee Shared Cost services respectively.

### **Universal Access Services**

Universal Access services allow the called party to receive calls at a single or several different locations depending on the time the call is made, the location of the caller, etc. The caller is charged for the cost of the call, and the called party is charged for any additional costs involved in providing the universal access service.

Allocations of Universal Access numbers will be made in the range:

0818 200 000 to 0818 500 000.

Numbers will be allocated in blocks of 10,000.

### **Premium Rate Services**

Premium Rate services give the caller access to information or other services. The charge to the caller for the call includes the total cost of the call, and also a charge for access to the service. At present there is a family of eight distinct numbering ranges available for Premium Rate services. These numbering ranges are identified by eight distinctive access codes, as follows:

1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1559, 1560, 1570, 1580

Adult type services should only be provided using the access code 1559. The other access codes in the range 1520 to 1580 are used to provide distinctive types of service, and generally speaking, the tariff rate will increase incrementally from 1520 (the lowest), to 1580 (the highest).

Subscriber numbers for all Premium Rate services using access codes 1520 to 1580 will be allocated in blocks of 1,000 from the range:

800 000 to 999 999.

### **Personal Numbering Services**

Personal Numbering services allow the called person to receive calls at various different locations, including a mobile telephone, depending on the time the call is made. A Personal Numbering call may be completed in more than one stage, comprising an initial stage from the caller to the service provider and subsequent

stage(s) from the service provider to the called person. The caller is charged only for the cost of the initial stage of the call.

Allocations of Personal numbers will be made in blocks of 10,000, from the range:

0700 200 000 to 0700 400 000.

#### 4. Summary of Number Formats

For each access code, the allocation of numbers will be in accordance with the following format:

Access Code	Subscriber Digits					
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
1800, 1850, 1890	A	B	C	X	X	X
1520 to 1580	A	B	C	X	X	X
0818	D	B	C	X	X	X
0700	E	B	C	X	X	X

Where the digits marked by A, B, C, D and E are block identifiers and:

A = 8 or 9,      B = 0 to 9,      C = 0 to 9,      X = 0 to 9,  
 D = 2 to 5,  
 E = 2 to 4.

#### 5. Bursty Traffic

Some Non-Geographic services generate large volumes of call attempts over a short time-span. Services of this type, which are "bursty" in nature can be harmful to the integrity of telecommunications networks. It is essential that bursty traffic can be identified to allow appropriate network protection measures to be taken. The Director has adopted the recommendation of the TFN on bursty traffic, and has designated subscriber numbers in the range below to be used for bursty traffic.

710 000 to 719 999

This number range is designated for bursty traffic on all Non-Geographic services, and services which are bursty in nature should only be provided from numbers within this range. Numbers for bursty services are allocated in blocks of 100.

## **6. Eligibility**

Only holders of a General Telecommunications Licence (as defined in ODTR doc. 98/44) will be eligible to apply for geographic numbering allocations.

## **7. Justification of Requirements**

Each applicant is required to provide adequate information in its application to satisfy the ODTR that the allocation sought is justified and that it will be used for the purposes as specified in this document. Supporting information should include the following:

- a description of the services planned
- evidence of technical capabilities for the implementation of services.
- a summary of the marketing plan for the services planned including launch dates
- the dates by which the allocation is required
- a forecast of expected utilisation of numbers over a period of at least one year
- any other information deemed by the applicant to be relevant to their application.

## **8. Allocation Procedure**

The processing of applications will be initiated on a *first come first served* basis, subject to adequate information being provided in the application. Failure to provide adequate information may result in processing of the application being delayed.

## **9. Additional Allocations**

Applications for additional allocations may be made at any time. In this case, the Licensee will be required to provide information regarding utilisation of any non-geographic numbers previously allocated to them. These applications will be processed by the ODTR using the same procedure as for the initial allocation.

## **10. Number Portability**

The term *number portability* is used to refer to two distinct situations, i.e.

- Number Mobility - where the customer can change address without changing telephone number. The ODTR places no restrictions on mobility of non-geographic numbers.

- Operator Portability - where the customer can change operator, or service provider without changing number. Operator Portability will become mandatory from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000

### **11. Allocation Conditions**

Each licensee who is allocated non-geographic number blocks will be required to comply with all the conditions in the licence, including subsequent amendments, numbering plans and numbering conventions relating to the allocation and use of numbers. In addition, specific conditions may apply to particular numbers or number ranges. These conditions will be communicated to the Licensee at the time of allocation.

At present, there is no charge for number block allocations made to licensees. This situation may change in the future. The licensee shall not charge subscribers for allocations of numbers except in accordance with any direction from the Director authorising charges.

The licensee shall comply with any directions issued by the Director relating to the allocation of numbers.

### **12. Submission of Applications**

Applications for non-geographic numbering allocations should be clearly marked “**Numbering Application**” and should be addressed to:

Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation,  
Abbey Court,  
Irish Life Centre,  
Lower Abbey Street,  
Dublin 1.

Applications may be made by e-mail to <mailto:numapps@odtr.ie>

### **13. Expiry of Allocations**

All numbering allocations expire on expiry of the licence under which they were issued. Numbering allocations may also be recovered before expiry of the licence, if:

- the licensee has breached a condition of allocation
- the licence has been revoked
- otherwise in accordance with the national numbering scheme or numbering conventions.