



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **Non-Geographic Numbering - Applications**

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**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Rialála Teileachumarsáide**  
**Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation**  
Abbey Court Irish Life Centre Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.  
*Telephone +353-1-804 9600 Fax +353-1-804 9680*

## **Non-Geographic Numbering - Applications**

### **1. Introduction**

The Director of Telecommunication Regulation (“the Director”) is committed to facilitating the development of competition for liberalised telecommunications services, and to taking the necessary regulatory initiatives to ensure a transition to a fully liberalised market on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1998.

This document invites applications for allocation of number blocks, from eligible service providers for freephone, shared cost, universal access, premium rate and personal numbering services.

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

### **2. Background**

In July of 1998, the Director published the Decision Notice D2/98, "Numbering in Ireland for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". This Decision Notice presented the outcome of the public consultation on numbering including a programme of actions. It also took account of the decision to bring forward the date for full liberalisation to 1<sup>st</sup> December 1998.

The programme of actions for the ODTR included commencement of allocations of certain non-geographic number blocks.

A new licensing regime under section 111(2) of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act, 1983 (24 of 1983) is currently being developed to meet the licensing requirements when the market is fully liberalised on December 1<sup>st</sup> 1998. Conditions attached to the allocations of numbers will be specified in the appropriate telecommunications licences under the new regime.

A Task Force on Numbering (TFN) has also been established to deal with some outstanding issues including some short-term issues relating to non-geographic services.

### 3. Services and Number Ranges

The following is a summary of the non-geographic services for which applications will be accepted.

Service	Access Code
Freephone Calls	1800
Shared Cost (Fixed)	1850
Shared Cost (Timed)	1890
Universal Access	0818
Premium Rate	1550
Premium Rate (Adult)	1559
Personal Numbering	0700

A six-digit subscriber number will follow all access codes.

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

#### 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. Blocks of 1,000 Freephone numbers will be allocated to service providers other than Telecom Eireann, in the range 1800 8XXXXXX to 1800 9XXXXXX. Not all of the numbers in this range will be available immediately.

#### 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 other than Telecom Eireann 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 in the ranges 1890 8XXXXXX to 1890 9XXXXXX, and 1850 8XXXXXX to 1850 9XXXXXX for timed and fixed fee Shared Cost services respectively. Not all of the numbers in these ranges will be available immediately.

### **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 2XXXXXX to 0818 5XXXXXX. 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. Allocations will be made to service providers other than Telecom Eireann from two separate Shared Cost numbering ranges as follows:

- 1550 general – for all services except adult type services
- 1559 adult – for adult type services only

Numbers will be allocated in blocks of 1,000 in the ranges 1550 8XXXXXX to 1550 9XXXXXX, and 1559 8XXXXXX to 1559 9XXXXXX for general and adult type Premium Rate services respectively. Not all of the numbers in these ranges will be available immediately.

### **Personal Numbering Services**

Personal Numbering services allow the called person to receive calls at various different locations, including on 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 the range 0700 2XXXXXX to 0700 4XXXXXX. Numbers will be allocated in blocks of 10,000.

#### 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	A	B	C	X	X	X
1850	A	B	C	X	X	X
1890	A	B	C	X	X	X
0818	D	B	C	X	X	X
1550	A	B	C	X	X	X
1559	A	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. Eligibility

Between now and when the new licensing regime comes into force (1<sup>st</sup> December 1998), number blocks will be allocated only to telecommunications service providers in possession of a VAS licence issued under section 111(3) of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act, 1983 (24 of 1983) as amended.

After the new licensing regime comes into force (1<sup>st</sup> December, 1998), numbering blocks will be allocated only to telecommunications service providers in possession of an appropriate telecommunications licence issued under the new licensing regime.

In addition, each applicant will have 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.

## 6. Invitation for Applications

The Director now invites applications from eligible service providers for the following:

- Freephone Number Blocks
- Shared Cost Number Blocks
- Universal Access Number Blocks
- Premium Rate Number Blocks
- Personal Numbering Number Blocks

Applications should be addressed to:

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

Applications should be marked "**Non-Geographic Numbering - Applications**".

## 7. Allocation Procedure

The processing of applications will be initiated on a *first come first served* basis. Failure to provide the ODTR with sufficient information to process the application may delay the completion of the allocation.

Requests from applicants for preference number blocks will not be considered.

The allocations will be made on a sequential basis from the numbering ranges that have been specified in section three above.

## **8. Conditions of Allocation**

Each licensee who is allocated number blocks before the new licensing regime comes into force (1<sup>st</sup> December 1998) shall, on grant of its new licence, 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.

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.

## **9. Additional Allocations**

Applications may be made for additional allocations. The utilisation of existing allocations will be considered when examining these applications, and after 1<sup>st</sup> December 1998, allocations will only be made to service providers in possession of an appropriate licence issued under the new licensing regime.

## **10. Expiry of Allocations**

All remaining VAS licences will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1999, and all number block allocations made before the new telecommunications licensing regime comes into force will also expire unless the licensee has in the meantime been granted an appropriate new telecommunications licence.