



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

Notice of Number Changes 2006

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1 Introduction

In accordance with the terms of Regulation 22 of the Framework Regulations, ComReg is vested with responsibility for the management and administration of the national telecommunications numbering resource. When the level of “free” numbers (i.e. the quantity of numbers that are available for allocation) approaches a critical level, changes to the numbering scheme are necessary to ensure that sufficient numbers continue to be available to all authorised entities, and subsequently to end-users. This paper sets out proposals for the further development of the scheme, identifying specific number change areas, having particular regard to:

- the requirement to ensure an adequate supply of numbers and codes;
- the need to minimise disruption to users from number changes;
- efficient allocation and use of numbers.

2 Background

In 2001 ComReg, then the ODTR, conducted a comprehensive review of the Irish telecommunications numbering scheme.¹ This paper set out an evolutionary approach for the development of the numbering scheme, where changes to the scheme would happen in line with requirements.

At that time, it was noted that since liberalisation of the telecommunications market in December 1998, there has been a heavy demand for additional telephone numbers including numbers to cater for the start up requirements for newly licensed operators. Given that level of demand, it was forecast that some geographic numbering areas would reach number exhaustion within the next few years. These areas would require a change to longer subscriber numbers in order to ensure continuity of number supply. A series of number changes were introduced over the period 2002 – 2003 for the areas which were in need of immediate expansion and rationalisation. In addition, a number of geographic areas were flagged for expansion in the future but no date was set as any changes would be subject to future demand.

Some of the number changes, which were flagged in D11/01, now need to be implemented. These capacity driven changes also incorporate measures to simplify and clarify the numbering scheme, i.e.:

- replacing 4 digit STD Codes with 3 digit Codes;
- merging STD Code Areas;
- recovery of STD Codes for re-use;

None of these changes will lead to instances where calls, which have been local rate calls, become more expensive.

¹ Decision Notice D11/01 Review of the National Numbering Scheme for Telephony in Ireland ODTR 01/58

3 Notice of Number Changes in 044, 0502, 0506, 0509, 053, 054 and 055 Areas.

In D11/01, provision was made for changes within the 044, 0502, 0506, 0509, 053, 054 and 055 areas. A critical level of available free numbers has now been reached in the 0502, 0506, 0509 (Laois/Offaly) areas, the 044 (Westmeath) area and the 053, 054, 055 (Wexford) areas. As a consequence, number changes are now necessary. The number changes will entail prefixing the existing 5-digit local numbers with an extra two digits in the aforementioned STD Code Areas. In addition, some rationalisation of STD Codes will be carried out². These changes are detailed in Annexes 1 to 3.

The new numbers will be activated to work in parallel with the old numbers at the beginning of December 2005. During the six month parallel working period, it will be possible to make calls using either the old or new numbers. This period will allow telephone users to become familiar with the new numbers and will also facilitate the updating of stationery, advertising, telephone equipment, etc by subscribers in the affected areas.

The actual number change dates (i.e. the dates from when only the *new* number will be operational) will be phased in from May 2006. After the number change date for a particular number change area, calls dialled to the old numbers will be routed to recorded announcements.

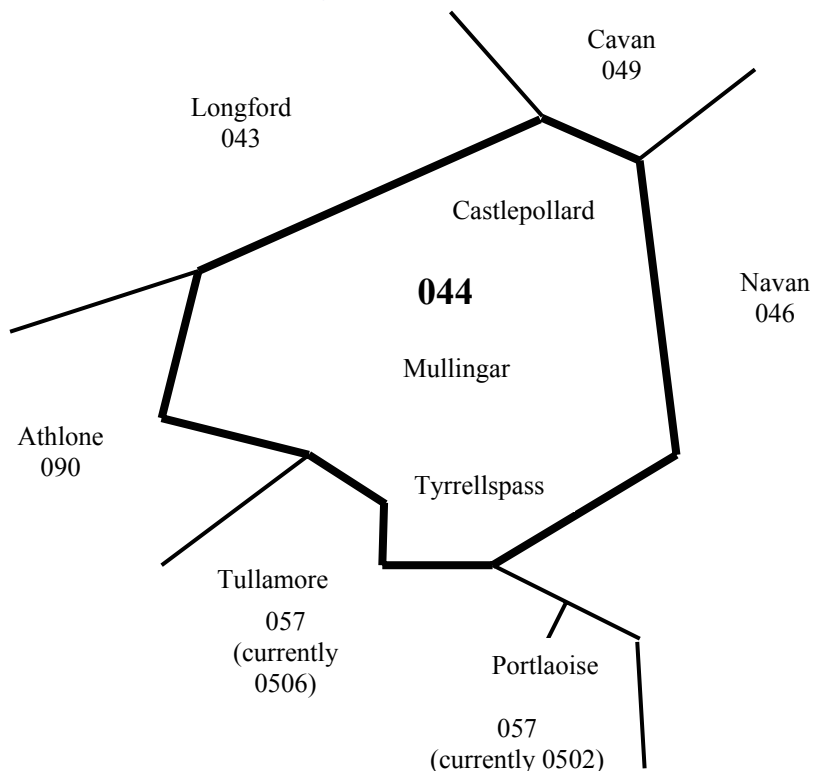
4 Further Information

For each area where a number or code change is required, ComReg issues a detailed change plan to provide telephone users with information on the changes and facilitate preparatory work by network operators – see Annexes 1 to 3. Consumers should contact their telecommunications service provider in the first instance for more information on these changes.

Further information is also available on the ComReg Number Change website www.comreg.ie/numberchange.

² These changes are consistent with Decision Notice D11/01 (Document Number ODTR 01/58) and with changes already made to the geographic numbering scheme in other areas of Ireland.

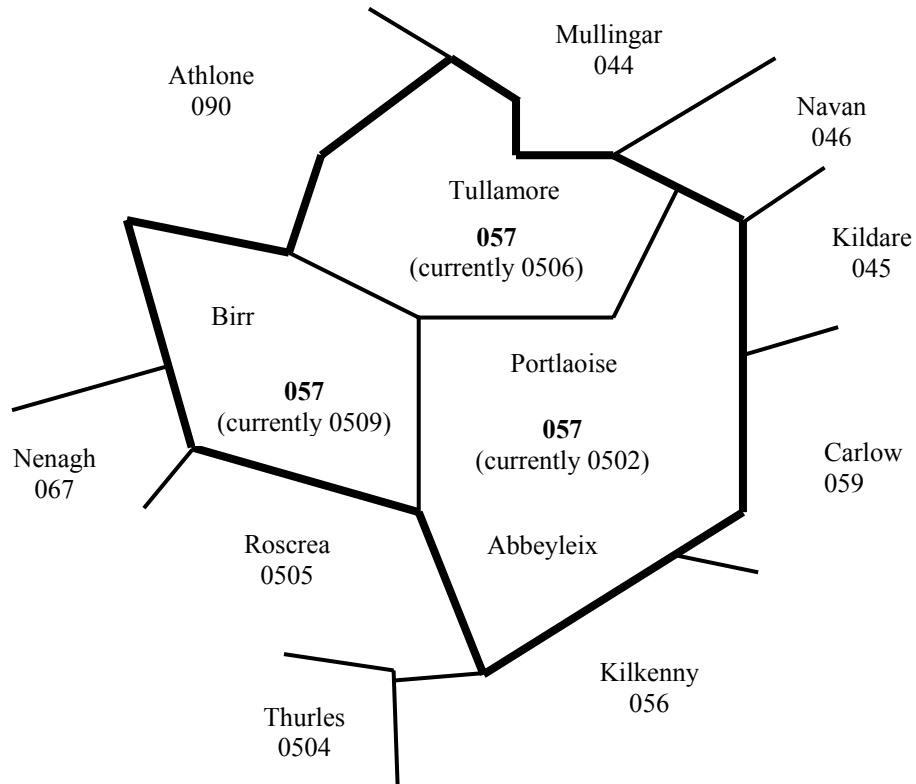
Annex 1 Number changes in the 044 Area



Current Area/Code		Existing Number	Change to telephone numbers (5 digit numbers change to 7 digits)	New Number
Code	Area			
044	Mullingar	044 + 29XXX	Place 93 in front of the current local 5 digit number	044 + 93 29XXX
		044 + 3XXXX		044 + 93 3XXXX
		044 + 4XXXX		044 + 93 4XXXX
		044 + 5XXXX		044 + 93 5XXXX
		044 + 7XXXX		044 + 93 7XXXX
		044 + 8XXXX		044 + 93 8XXXX
		044 + 9XXXX		044 + 93 9XXXX
044	Castlepollard	044 + 6XXXX	Place 96 in front of the current local 5 digit number	044 + 96 6XXXX
044	Tyrrellspass	044 + 20XXX	Place 92 in front of the current local 5 digit number	044 + 92 20XXX
		044 + 21XXX		044 + 92 21XXX
		044 + 22XXX		044 + 92 22XXX
		044 + 23XXX		044 + 92 23XXX
		044 + 24XXX		044 + 92 24XXX
		044 + 25XXX		044 + 92 25XXX
		044 + 26XXX		044 + 92 26XXX
044 + 28XXX	044 + 92 28XXX			

Key Dates	
Announcement of Number Changes	July 2005
New Numbers working in parallel with Old Numbers	Dec 2005 – June 2006
Calls to Old Numbers routed to Recorded Announcements	June 2006

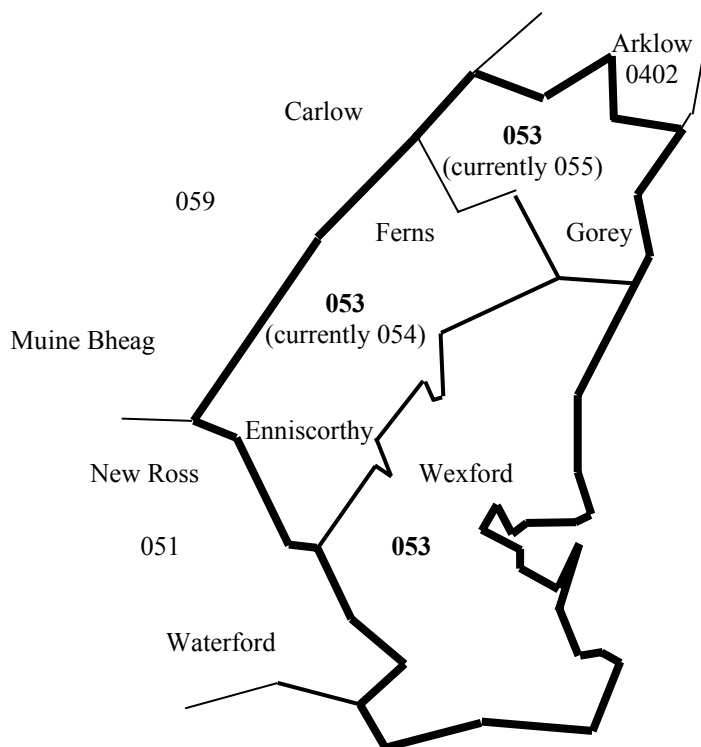
Annex 2 Number changes in the 0502, 0506 and 0509 Areas



Current Area/Code		Existing Number	Change to telephone numbers (5 digit numbers change to 7 digits)	New Code & Number
Code	Area			
0502	Portlaoise	0502 + 2XXXX	Place 86 in front of the current local 5 digit number	057 + 86 2XXXX
		0502 + 4XXXX		057 + 86 4XXXX
		0502 + 6XXXX		057 + 86 6XXXX
		0502 + 7XXXX		057 + 86 7XXXX
		0502 + 8XXXX		057 + 86 8XXXX
		0502 + 9XXXX		057 + 86 9XXXX
0502	Abbeyleix	0502 + 3XXXX	Place 87 in front of the current local 5 digit number	057 + 87 3XXXX
		0502 + 5XXXX		057 + 87 5XXXX
0506	Tullamore	0506 + 2XXXX	Place 93 in front of the current local 5 digit number	057 + 93 2XXXX
		0506 + 3XXXX		057 + 93 3XXXX
		0506 + 4XXXX		057 + 93 4XXXX
		0506 + 5XXXX		057 + 93 5XXXX
		0506 + 6XXXX		057 + 93 6XXXX
0509	Birr	0509 + 2XXXX	Place 91 in front of the current local 5 digit number	057 + 91 2XXXX
		0509 + 3XXXX		057 + 91 3XXXX
		0509 + 5XXXX		057 + 91 5XXXX
		0509 + 6XXXX		057 + 91 6XXXX

Key Dates	
Announcement of Number Changes	July 2005
New Numbers working in parallel with Old Numbers	Dec 2005 – May 2006
Calls to Old Numbers routed to Recorded Announcements	May 2006

Annex 3 Number changes in the 053, 054 and 055 Areas



Current Area/Code		Existing Number	Change to telephone numbers (5 digit numbers change to 7 digits)	New Code & Number
Code	Area			
053	Wexford	053 + 2XXXX	Place 91 in front of the current local 5 digit number	053 + 91 2XXXX
		053 + 3XXXX		053 + 91 3XXXX
		053 + 4XXXX		053 + 91 4XXXX
		053 + 5XXXX		053 + 91 5XXXX
		053 + 6XXXX		053 + 91 6XXXX
		053 + 7XXXX		053 + 91 7XXXX
054	Enniscorthy	054 + 3XXXX	Place 92 in front of the current local 5 digit number	053 + 92 3XXXX
		054 + 4XXXX		053 + 92 4XXXX
		054 + 5XXXX		053 + 92 5XXXX
054	Ferns	054 + 6XXXX	Place 93 in front of the current local 5 digit number	053 + 93 6XXXX
		054 + 7XXXX		053 + 93 7XXXX
		054 + 8XXXX		053 + 93 8XXXX
055	Gorey	055 + 2XXXX	Place 94 in front of the current local 5 digit number	053 + 94 2XXXX
		055 + 3XXXX		053 + 94 3XXXX
		055 + 8XXXX		053 + 94 8XXXX

Key Dates	
Announcement of Number Changes	July 2005
New Numbers working in parallel with Old Numbers	Dec 2005 – June 2006
Calls to Old Numbers routed to Recorded Announcements	June 2006