



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **Simpler Telephone Access Method for Calling Northern Ireland**

The Director of Telecommunications Regulation, Ms. Etain Doyle today unveiled plans to introduce a simpler access method for calling Northern Ireland. The new access method will be introduced to coincide with number changes already planned by the UK authorities which will change all of Northern Ireland into a single Access Code Area.

The new numbers will begin to be used in Northern Ireland from July next year. From then callers from the Republic will be able to call the new numbers by simply dialling the prefix 048 followed by the new local Northern Ireland number, e.g:

to call the new Belfast number 97123456, callers from the Republic simply dial 048 97123456.

Old numbers in Northern Ireland will be phased out by the middle of the year 2000.

Ends.  
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