



Commission for  
**Communications Regulation**

## Consultation Paper

### **Updated Numbering Conventions and Number Application Process**

<b>Document No:</b>	<b>03/142</b>
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All responses to this consultation should be clearly marked:-  
“Reference: Submission re ComReg 03/142” as indicated above,  
and sent by post, facsimile, e-mail or on-line at [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie)  
(current consultations), to arrive on or before 17:00, 30 January  
2004, to:

**Mr. Pat Walsh**  
**Commission for Communications Regulation**  
**Irish Life Centre**  
**Abbey Street**  
**Freepost**  
**Dublin 1**  
**Ireland**

**Ph: +353-1-8049600    Fax: +353-1-804 9680    Email:**  
**[pat.walsh@comreg.ie](mailto:pat.walsh@comreg.ie)**

Please note ComReg will publish all submissions with the  
Response to Consultation, subject to the standard confidentiality  
procedure.

**An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide**

**Commission for Communications Regulation**

Abbey Court Irish Life Centre Lower Abbey Street Dublin 1 Ireland

Telephone +353 1 804 9600 Fax +353 1 804 9680 Email [info@comreg.ie](mailto:info@comreg.ie) Web [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie)

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## 1 Introduction

ComReg has set itself the target of reviewing the National Numbering Conventions annually, as stated in Section 15 of the current version, ComReg 02/107. It is now almost 12 months since ComReg 02/107 was published and an update is especially appropriate, in view of the introduction of the new European and national Regulatory Frameworks for electronic communications networks and services.

While the new frameworks make only very limited changes in respect of fundamental principles<sup>1</sup>, they do clarify the regulatory rights and obligations of Regulators and of undertakings in respect of numbering and also lay more emphasis on openness, transparency and non-discrimination in numbering processes. ComReg has therefore made a range of amendments throughout the Conventions document to align with the new requirements. In addition, ComReg considers that openness and transparency are further enhanced if all the main applications procedures for numbers are collected together in a single document and this is published alongside the Conventions.

ComReg now wishes to receive viewpoints on the revised National Numbering Conventions and on the newly assembled Applications Procedures document and draft versions of these are published alongside this consultation document. Following consideration of all feedback, it is intended to publish the documents, with agreed amendments, in February 2004.

*Notes:*

- 1. Apart from the 'clean' versions of the two documents, ComReg is also making available a fully marked-up version of the Numbering Conventions, showing all changes compared with the current version ComReg 02/107, for the convenience of reviewers. ComReg is ONLY inviting feedback on changes and updates (or possible omissions) at this time and specifically does not wish to invite revisiting of decisions already made and incorporated in earlier versions of the Conventions, where these remain unaffected by regulatory changes.*
- 2. Because re-organisation of text (i.e. changes of sequencing of sections) unfortunately results in automatic mark-up of changes, even when the actual text remains unaltered, respondents are asked to also make reference to document ComReg 02/107 if in doubt as to whether real changes have occurred.*
- 3. ComReg is simultaneously publishing an updated version of the document "Irish Telephony Numbering Scheme Status Report" ComReg 03/143) which provides an overview of the whole numbering plan. This document, which is routinely updated from time to time, is not included in the consultation, however, as the only changes included in it are updates of the 'Free/Reserved/Allocated' status of individual number ranges and/or changes to number lengths following recent national number changes.*

### 1.1.1 \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Document ComReg 03/05 "Future Regulation of Electronic Communications Networks and Services – Numbering Issues", discusses all aspects of numbering affected by the new frameworks.

## Updated Numbering Conventions & Number Applications Process

## **2 [Consultation Issues]**

### **2.1 Revision 4.0 of the Numbering Conventions**

It is proposed to publish the attached draft revision of the National Numbering Conventions in February 2004, subject to any feedback received from this public consultation. You are invited to review the document and provide your comments on it to ComReg by the date shown on the cover of this document. ComReg requests you to only comment on revisions, additions and possible omissions, as the bulk of the Conventions document is present as an outcome of earlier consultations and remains unaffected by this update and by regulatory changes. *Note: for your convenience, ComReg has provided a fully marked-up version of the Conventions showing all tracked changes compared with document ComReg 02/107 (Version 3.0 of the conventions).*

**Q. 1. Do you agree with the content of the draft V4.0 of the National Numbering Conventions, as attached? If you have specific comments on the revised text of the document, or omissions in it please include these with your response.**

### **2.2 New Numbering Applications Procedures**

It is proposed to publish the attached draft Numbering Applications Procedures document in February 2004, alongside the revised National Numbering Conventions, subject to any feedback received from this public consultation. This document collects together procedures and forms that were previously available only as individual documents, typically included in Decision Notices or Information Notices and integrates them into a single easily accessible document. It isn't intended that the existence of this document should in any way make the application process more complicated than is currently the case. In that context it should be noted that no new information is being requested than was previously required, with the exception of basic information being requested from applicants for numbers who may not otherwise be required to notify ComReg of their activities within the new regulatory framework.

You are invited to review the document and provide your comments on it to ComReg by the date shown in Section 3 of this document.

**Q. 2. Do you agree with the content of the draft new Numbering Application Procedures and Application Formats document, as attached? If you have any specific comments on the document, please include these with your response.**

### **3 Submitting Comments**

All comments are welcome, however it would make the task of analysing responses easier if comments were referenced to the relevant question numbers from this document.

The consultation period will run from 3 December 2003 to 30 January 2004 during which the Commission welcomes written comments on any of the issues raised in this paper. ComReg is extending the duration for this consultation to make provision for the Christmas holiday period and respondents should note that this does not establish a precedent for other consultations.

Having analysed and considered the comments received, ComReg will review the two numbering documents and publish a report in February 2004 on the consultation which will, *inter alia*, summarise the responses to the consultation.

In order to promote further openness and transparency ComReg will publish the names of all respondents and make available for inspection responses to the consultation at its Offices.

## Appendix A – Legislation

The new legislative Frameworks affecting numbering, consist of:

### **EU Regulatory Framework:**

Directive 2002/19/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and associated facilities (Access Directive);

Directive 2002/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services (Authorisation Directive);

Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (Framework Directive);

Directive 2002/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services (Universal Service Directive).

### **National Regulatory Framework:**

Communications Regulation Act, 2002;

European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Access) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 305 of 2003);

European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Authorisation) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 306 of 2003);

European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Framework) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 307 of 2003);

European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users' Rights) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 308 of 2003).