



Media Release- 4 August 2010

ComReg proposes additional protection for consumers with revised numbering rules

The Commission for Communications (ComReg) has today issued a consultation document on revised rules for the use of certain telephone numbers. The proposed rules will provide enhanced protection for users in general, and especially for users of mobile phones.

The National Numbering Conventions, which are being revised as part of the consultation, outline the rights and obligations associated with the use of telephone numbers. In addition to providing a practical numbering framework under which telecoms operators are able to route calls to end-users, the Conventions also proposes tariff ceilings so that users can have further awareness of tariff rates and confidence that the bills they receive will be in line with expectations for the service concerned.

This consultation on the National Numbering Conventions includes proposals for changes in the rules governing tariffs for the following numbering ranges, including important clarifications about how those rules apply in the case of mobile callers:

- Numbers commencing 1850: Fixed charge, shared-cost services;
- Numbers commencing 1890: Timed charge, shared-cost services;
- Numbers commencing 0818: Universal Access services;
- Numbers commencing 0700: Personal numbering services;
- Numbers commencing 076: VoIP and Nomadic services.

The proposals also cover a wide range of other changes and improvements to the National Numbering Conventions, to take account of legislative changes and industry evolutions that have occurred in the last couple of years.

Announcing the changes, ComReg Commissioner John Doherty said: *“The tariffs applied by operators to services using 1850 and 1890 ranges have come in for particular criticism in recent years and we believe the proposals contained in this consultation will be welcomed by all as a reasoned response. Operators as well as consumers stand to gain in the long term as the proposals can give rise to confidence and to renewed growth in use of services.”*

Full details of the proposals can be found in ComReg's Consultation document ComReg 10/60. All are encouraged to submit their comments up to the closing date of 17th September 2010.

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie