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New Services in Fixed-Mobile telecommunications get the green light

ComReg has today published its Response to Consultation on the allocation of regular geographic telephone numbers to mobile operators for the new and innovative 'home-zonal' services.

This new service will allow mobile phone customers to make and receive calls – on their mobile phones – in or near their homes at fixed-line prices.

Under this new service a caller can use either a mobile number or a geographic number. For the first time geographic numbers, which have been the preserve of fixed-line operators, will be made available to all Irish mobile operators. A key condition of this allocation is that the prices charged to those availing of home-zonal services are set at fixed-line rates even though calls will be received on mobile handsets.

ComReg is also supporting changes to geographic number portability so that existing fixed-line customers will be able to move their telephone numbers entirely to mobile operators for this specific home-zonal service, should they choose to do so.

ComReg has balanced its decisions with a clear indication that in future fixed-line operators who wish to provide mobile numbers will be facilitated, so long as these numbers are used for genuinely mobile purposes. New services, based on a range of emerging technologies, could allow fixed-line operators to 'bolt-on' on mobile access services for their customers.

ComReg is pleased that these new opportunities will enable enhanced competition between fixed-line and mobile operators, in fields where they were previously excluded from for practical reasons but where technological progress is now breaking down barriers. This will benefit consumers by offering greater flexibility in available offerings and in lower priced calls in many cases.

Full details of the changes, which are effective immediately, may be found in ComReg's Response to Consultation document **ComReg 07/15** available in the Publications Section of ComReg's website www.comreg.ie

ENDS

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