



Office of the Director of  
**Telecommunications  
Regulation**

## **Geographic Numbering - Applications**

**Document No. ODTR 98/41**

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**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Rialála Teileachumarsáide**  
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# Geographic Numbering - Applications

## 1. Introduction

The Director of Telecommunication Regulation (“the Director”) is committed to facilitating the development of competition for liberalised telecommunications services, and to taking the necessary regulatory initiatives to ensure a transition to a fully liberalised market on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1998. This document invites applications for allocation of geographic number blocks from eligible service providers to cover the period **up to April 1999**.

This is not a legal document. The Director may amend it from time to time. This document is without prejudice to the legal position or the rights and duties of the Director to regulate the market generally.

## 2. Background

In July of 1998, the Director published the Decision Notice D2/98, "Numbering in Ireland for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". This Decision Notice presented the outcome of the public consultation on numbering including a programme of actions. It also took account of the decision to bring forward the date for full liberalisation to 1<sup>st</sup> December 1998.

The programme of actions for the ODTR included commencement of allocations of geographic number blocks.

A new licensing regime under section 111(2) of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act, 1983 (24 of 1983) is currently being developed to meet the licensing requirements when the market is fully liberalised on December 1<sup>st</sup> 1998. Conditions attached to the allocations of numbers will be specified in the appropriate telecommunications licences under the new regime. Further information on the licensing process, is available in ODTR document 98/40.

## 3. Numbering Areas

One of the key features of the geographic numbering scheme is the association of numbers with certain geographic locations. This is necessary for telecommunications service providers to determine call tariffs, and also makes the numbering scheme more user friendly to consumers. In decision notice D2/98, the ODTR stated that it will continue to associate blocks of numbers with geographic locations, and the leading digits of the numbers will identify the blocks and relevant numbering areas.

The country has traditionally been divided into 128 numbering areas. Annex 1 to this document specifies the name of each area, the relevant NDC<sup>1</sup>, the number length, and

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<sup>1</sup> NDC = National Destination Code

also the size of block which will be allocated in each area. ODTR document 98/42 is a book of maps, which defines the boundaries of each area. Each number block which is allocated will be associated with a single numbering area, and may only be used within the boundaries of that area.

#### **4. Eligibility Requirements**

Between now and when the new licensing regime comes into force (1<sup>st</sup> December 1998), number blocks will be allocated only to telecommunications service providers in possession of a VAS licence issued under section 111(3) of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act, 1983 (24 of 1983) as amended.

After the new licensing regime comes into force (1<sup>st</sup> December, 1998), numbering blocks will be allocated only to telecommunications service providers in possession of an appropriate telecommunications licence issued under the new licensing regime.

#### **5. Justification of Requirements**

As the amount of numbers available within each numbering area is limited, each applicant will have to provide adequate information in its application to satisfy the ODTR that the allocation sought is justified and that it is required before 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999. Supporting information should include the following:

- evidence of technical capabilities for the implementation of services. This would include the existence of physical infrastructure in the relevant numbering areas, or definite arrangements for the provision of or access to such infrastructure

and/or

- evidence of an existing customer base, or a base of potential customers who have expressed interest in the services, in each area
- a summary of the marketing plan for the services planned including launch dates
- a forecast of expected utilisation of numbers over a period of at least one year
- any other information deemed by the applicant to be relevant to support their application

#### **6. Allocation Procedure**

The processing of applications will be initiated on a *first come first served* basis. Failure to provide the ODTR with sufficient information to process the application may delay the completion of the allocation.

Requests from applicants for preference number blocks will not be considered.

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## **Further Applications**

Numbering allocations for all new entrants will need to be made and then implemented on all networks, and in some cases this must be completed before 1<sup>st</sup> December. Because of this short timeframe, it is essential that applications submitted to the ODTR before 1<sup>st</sup> December are only for number blocks that are required before 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999. Applications for additional allocations may be made at any time, and these applications will be processed by the ODTR using the same procedure as for the initial allocation.

The ODTR has discussed with Telecom Eireann the network preparation work associated with new geographic number allocations. It has been decided that new entrants will not be charged set-up costs by Telecom Eireann for the preparatory work directly associated with any geographic allocations made before 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999.

## **8. Number Portability**

The term *number portability* is used to refer to two distinct situations, i.e.

- Number Mobility - where the customer can change address without changing telephone number. Number mobility is permitted only within each numbering area boundary as defined in ODTR document 98/42
- Operator Portability - where the customer can change operator, or service provider without changing number. Operator Portability will become mandatory from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000

## **9. Allocation Conditions**

Each licensee who is allocated number blocks before the new licensing regime comes into force (1<sup>st</sup> December 1998) shall, on grant of its new licence, be required to comply with all the conditions in the licence, including subsequent amendments, numbering plans and numbering conventions relating to the allocation and use of numbers.

At present, there is no charge for number block allocations made to licensees. This situation may change in the future. The licensee shall not charge subscribers for allocations of numbers except in accordance with any direction from the Director authorising charges.

The licensee shall comply with any directions issued by the Director relating to the allocation of numbers.

## **10. Invitation for Applications**

The Director now invites applications for geographic numbers from eligible service providers. The applications should only be for number blocks required up to 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999, and applicants should include a summary of the blocks required by completing the fifth column of the table in annex 1.

Applications should be addressed to:

Ms. Martina Sheridan,  
Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation,  
Abbey Court,  
Irish Life Centre,  
Lower Abbey Street,  
Dublin 1.

Applications should be marked "**Geographic Numbering - Applications**".

## **11. Expiry of Allocations**

All remaining VAS licences will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1999, and all number block allocations made before the new telecommunications licensing regime comes into force will also expire unless the licensee has in the meantime been granted an appropriate new telecommunications licence.

**Annex 1.****Geographic Numbering Areas**

NDC	Numbering Area	Block Size (x1,000 No.s)	Subscriber Number Length	Number of Blocks Required
1	Dublin	10	7	
1	Balbriggan	10	7	
1	Dunboyne	10	7	
1	Celbridge	10	7	
1	Greystones	10	7	
21	Cork	10	7	
21	Coachford	10	7	
21	Kinsale	1	7	
21	Middleton	1	7	
22	Mallow	1	5	
23	Bandon	1	5	
24	Youghal	1	5	
25	Fermoy	1	5	
26	Macroom	1	5	
27	Bantry	1	5	
28	Skibbereen	1	5	
29	Kanturk	1	5	
402	Arklow	1	5	
404	Wicklow	1	5	
405	Enfield	1	5	
405	Edenderry	1	5	
41	Drogheda	10	7	
41	Ardee	10	7	
42	Dundalk	1	7	
42	Carrickmacross	1	7	
42	Castleblaney	1	7	
43	Longford	1	5	
43	Granard	1	5	
44	Mullingar	1	5	
44	Moyvore	1	5	
44	Castlepollard	1	5	
44	Tyrellspass	1	5	
44	Killucan	1	5	
45	Naas	10	6	
45	Kildare	10	6	
45	Curragh	10	6	

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NDC	Numbering Area	Block Size	Subscriber Number Length	Number of Blocks Required
46	Navan	1	5	
46	Kells	1	5	
46	Nobber	1	5	
46	Trim	1	5	
47	Monaghan	1	5	
47	Clones	1	5	
49	Cavan	1	7	
49	Coothill	10	7	
49	Oldcastle	10	7	
49	Belturbet	10	7	
502	Portlaoise	1	5	
502	Abbeyleix	1	5	
503	Carlow	1	5	
503	Muine Bheag	1	5	
504	Thurles	1	5	
504	Templemore	1	5	
505	Roscrea	1	5	
506	Tullamore	1	5	
506	Clara	1	5	
507	Athy	1	5	
508	Baltinglass	1	5	
509	Portumna	1	5	
509	Birr	1	5	
509	Banagher	1	5	
51	Waterford	1	6	
51	Carrick-on-Suir	1	6	
51	New Ross	1	6	
51	Kilmacthomas	1	6	
51	Wellington Bridge	1	6	
52	Clonmel	1	5	
52	Cahir	1	5	
52	Killenaule	1	5	
53	Wexford	1	5	
54	Enniscorthy	1	5	
54	Ferns	1	5	
55	Gorey	1	5	
56	Kilkenny	1	5	
56	Castlecomer	1	5	
56	Freshford	1	5	
58	Dungarvan	1	5	
61	Limerick	10	6	
61	Scariff	10	6	
61	Shannon Airport	10	6	



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NDC	Numbering Area	Block Size	Subscriber Number Length	Number of Blocks Required
61	Killaloe	1	6	
61	Adare	1	6	
61	Cappamore	1	6	
62	Tipperary	1	5	
62	Cashel	1	5	
63	Charleville	1	5	
64	Killarney	1	5	
64	Rathmore	1	5	
65	Ennis	10	7	
65	Ennistymon	10	7	
65	Killrush	10	7	
66	Tralee	1	7	
66	Dingle	1	7	
66	Killorglin	1	7	
66	Cahiriveen	1	7	
67	Nenagh	1	5	
68	Listowel	1	5	
69	Newcastle West	1	5	
71	Sligo	1	5	
71	Ballymote	1	5	
72	Manorhamilton	1	5	
73	Donegal	1	5	
74	Letterkenny	1	5	
74	Ramelton	1	5	
74	Lifford	1	5	
75	Dungloe	1	5	
77	Buncrana	1	5	
78	Carrick-on-Shannon	1	5	
78	Drumshambo	1	5	
79	Boyle	1	5	
902	Athlone	1	5	
902	Banagher	1	5	
903	Roscommon	1	5	
905	Ballinasloe	1	5	
907	Castlerea	1	5	
907	Ballaghaderreen	1	5	
91	Galway	10	6	
91	Gort	10	6	
91	Loughrea	10	6	
92	Ballinrobe	1	5	
93	Tuam	1	5	
94	Castlebar	1	5	

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NDC	Numbering Area	Block Size	Subscriber Number Length.	Number of Blocks Required
94	Claremorris	1	5	
94	Swinford	1	5	
95	Clifden	1	5	
96	Ballina	1	5	
97	Belmullet	1	5	
98	Westport	1	5	
99	Kilronan	1	5	