



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

Status Update: Industry Project for replacement of Central Reference Database for Fixed Number Portability.

Information Notice

Reference: ComReg 17/07

Version: Final

Date: 20/01/2017

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 Web www.comreg.ie

Additional Information

Document No:	17/07
Date:	20 January 2017

The Fixed Number Portability (FNP) process is the mechanism by which Subscribers are able to retain their telephone number¹ when changing to a new service provider. A key step of the FNP process is the maintenance of a Central Reference Database (CRDB) to retain the routing information, which allows calls to be routed to the correct network.

The FNP process currently used by fixed Operators requires that the CRDB be updated after the porting process completes. There is a risk that such updates occurring after the porting process, could result in some ports not being recorded correctly. Modern number porting solutions transact via an inline CRDB to ensure that porting activity is recorded.

In August 2014 a project was initiated to replace the current CRDB and associated FNP processes with a commercial-off-the-shelf FNP solution. The current FNP process and CRDB have been operational for over 17 years and fixed Operators considered that the FNP processes and, in particular, the CRDB were no longer considered fit-for-purpose. Therefore Operators established an oversight committee to oversee the selection and replacement of the CRDB and the associated amendment to the FNP processes.

Although the replacement of the current CRDB is an Industry led project, ComReg has agreed to facilitate discussions under the auspices of the ComReg chaired Fixed Number Portability forum. In addition ComReg has agreed to issue a series of information notices² to coincide with the major milestones of this Industry project.

ComReg understands that the project is now transitioning from the procurement phase to the technical implementation phase. Therefore, after discussions with Fixed Operators, ComReg believes it is now appropriate to issue a further information notice in order to update Operators on the status of the project to ensure that Operators have the time to consider the potential implications of forthcoming changes to the FNP process.

¹ From the national number pool.

² ComReg Information Note: Number Portability Industry Meeting On June 1st 2016, Document Number 16/36, dated 13/05/2016 and ComReg Information Note: Number Portability Industry Meeting On November 12th 2015, Document Number 15/115, dated 30/10/2015

In addition to this information notice, ComReg understands that the Chairman of the oversight committee has written to all Operators that use the current FNP process to provide them with an update on the project.

The planned go-live date for the new FNP solution is August 16th 2017 with an Operational Readiness phase planned to commence on July 3rd 2017. ComReg understands that Donor and Recipient Operators who wish to use the new FNP solution will need to amend their porting processes to align with the new FNP solution and will also need to conclude a service contract with the new FNP solution service provider.

The oversight committee has recently commenced a series of industry meetings, the purpose of which is to update the inter-operator porting processes to align with the new FNP solution and to plan and implement other necessary tasks associated with this project such as data migration etc.

Operators who have not participated in the project to date are advised to contact the programme manager Kieran Mageean (kieran.mageean@bt.com) for further details.

It should also be noted that the current CRDB will cease to operate after August 31st 2017. Therefore, the oversight committee in conjunction with Operators will need to migrate the porting data to the new FNP system in advance of the go-live date.

All fixed Operators should consider their obligations with respect to Number Portability as provided for in the Universal Service Regulations³ and take appropriate action to ensure that Subscribers can continue to port and activate their assigned telephone number(s) from the national number pool within one working day.

³ Inter alia Section 25 of S.I. No. 337 of 2011. European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Universal Service and Users' Rights) Regulations 2011