



Office of the Director of
**Telecommunications
Regulation**

Introducing Carrier Pre-Selection in Ireland: Information Notice

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Oifig an Stiúirthóra Rialála Teileachumarsáide
Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation
Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.
Telephone +353-1-804 9600 *Fax* +353-1-804 9680
Web: www.odtr.ie

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Introduction

In May 1999, the Director of Telecommunications Regulation published Decision Notice D2/99 on the Introduction of Carrier Pre-Selection in Ireland¹. That Decision Notice set out a challenging timetable for the introduction of Carrier Pre-Selection Services (“CPS”) in Ireland by 1st January 2000 as is required by legislation.

The Director wishes to take this opportunity to thank all parties for their co-operation in getting CPS underway. The Director recognises the very valuable role of the Association of Licensed Telecommunications Operators (ALTO) in dealing with order issues between the Other Licensed Operators (OLO’s) and with *eircom*. The phased implementation of CPS on 1st January 2000 represents another Irish achievement in record time – thanks to good co-operation and imaginative solutions to problems and very hard work.

Since the publication of Decision Notice D2/99, a number of developments have impacted on the work plan and changed some of the timelines in various developments. As a consequence, there remain a small number of outstanding issues that are dealt with in this Information Notice. These issues are:

- Costs of Carrier Pre-Selection
- Certain Interoperability issues
- Code of Practice

¹ ODTR 99/29

2. Costs of Carrier Pre - Selection

The ODTR received a submission from *eircom* detailing the costs of Carrier Pre-Selection (CPS). The Director has carried out an initial examination of the various costs. These are of 2 sorts:

- 2.1 System set up and provisioning costs
- 2.2 Specific, per-line and per-operator enabling costs

2.1 System set up and provisioning costs

The Director considers that justified and appropriate costs incurred in system set up and provisioning for Carrier Pre-selection shall be recovered from ALL operators, including *eircom*

- The costs being spread across all network elements used in providing interconnected calls, including *eircom*'s "self-interconnected" calls, such that the costs would be recovered from all such network elements.

The costing information provided by *eircom* will be considered by the ODTR in the context of its overall review of *eircom*'s rates in its Reference Interconnection Offer, both the current and future reviews. The Director intends to come to a conclusion on the appropriate level of costs and the charges that might result early in the New Year.

Until that review is completed CPS call conveyance charges will be exactly the same as the Carrier Select conveyance charge for the equivalent call. *eircom* accepts the position outlined in this section.

2.2 Interim Rates for per-line and per operator enabling costs

The Director welcomes the *eircom* Interim rates (detailed below) pending a full review of rates early in the New Year. The ODTR accepts that *eircom* may make the case to the ODTR for service specific costs to be included in Order Acceptance in the context of the establishment of final rates. The acceptance by the ODTR of the principle of such service specific costs does not imply acceptance of full pass through of such costs.

| Activity | Interim Rate |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| | Ir£ |
| Order Acceptance | 8.75 |
| Order Rejection | 3.00 |
| CPS Testing | 4,328.00 per Operator |

3. Interoperability issues

The Director welcomes the following statement provided by *eircom* on CPS interoperability issues:-

“*eircom* has completed testing of its network following the software upgrade to CPS capability. *eircom* is satisfied that this testing allows for a reasonable expectation that there will be no interruption or diminution in the availability of Call Management Services (CMS) in the *eircom* network when CPS is implemented from the 1st January.

eircom, however cannot offer any assurance that the availability or quality of CMS will not be adversely affected by interoperability or service interaction issues arising in the networks of Other Licensed Operators.

eircom Call Management Services – Call Waiting, Call Forwarding and Call Answering – are presented to customers on a call-by-call basis. *eircom* currently envisages that when a customer transfers its call-by-call business to another operator by means of CPS, Call Management Services will continue to be made available by *eircom* to that customer.

However, with the introduction of CPS, *eircom* is reviewing the commercial arrangements for Call Management Services. This raises broader issues which will be dealt with as appropriate by *eircom* and the ODTR in due course.”

4. Timing of introduction of special CPS features

A number of CPS features – call by call over-ride to *eircom*, CLIP/CLIR and call forwarding require some further work. A separate note will be issued on the dates for their introduction.

5. Code of Practice

The Director welcomes the agreement of CPS operators to the Code of Practice for CPS.