

Pay-As-You-Go or Bill-Pay?

Should you move from Pay-As-You-Go to Bill-Pay or vice versa? The best option for you will depend on how and when you use your mobile. If you text more than you talk, cheap text bundles will be a factor to consider. If you talk a lot, but mostly in the evenings and weekends, then lower call rates at these times will be the most appropriate for you. The following four scenarios outline the best value available* at the moment for different types of usage.

Scenario 1:

- 15 mins voice calls (50% to other mobiles)
- 200 texts
- Mostly evening and weekend usage

Operator	Tariff Name	Monthly Cost	Tariff Type
Meteor	Leisure Time Plus	€14.32	Pre-paid
O2	Speakeasy Night Owl	€15.05	Pre-paid
Vodafone	Social Life	€15.23	Pre-paid
3	Video Text 500	€28.30	Bill Pay

Scenario 2:

- 30 mins voice calls (50% to other mobiles)
- 400 texts
- Anytime usage

Operator	Tariff Name	Monthly Cost	Tariff Type
Vodafone	Social Life	€26.25	Pre-paid
O2	Speakeasy Early Bird	€27.66	Pre-paid
3	Video Text 500	€31.65	Bill Pay
Meteor	Anytime Plus	€35.70	Pre-paid

Scenario 3:

- 120 mins voice calls (50% to other mobiles)
- 120 texts
- Mostly evening and weekend usage

Operator	Tariff Name	Monthly Cost	Tariff Type
Meteor	Leisure Time Plus	€27.79	Pre-paid
3	Video Talk & Text 200	€31.05	Bill Pay
O2	Speakeasy Night Owl	€31.62	Pre-paid
Vodafone	Social Life	€34.62	Pre-paid

Scenario 4:

- 150 mins voice calls (50% to other mobiles)
- 75 texts
- Anytime usage

Operator	Tariff Name	Monthly Cost	Tariff Type
3	Video Talk 200	€31.75	Bill Pay
O2	Active Life 150	€35	Bill Pay
Meteor	Anytime Plus	€35.25	Pre-paid
Vodafone	Perfect Fit 100	€47	Bill Pay

*All monthly cost calculations were carried out on www.callcosts.ie. Operators update their tariff data on www.callcosts.ie regularly.

More information on Pay-As-You-Go and Bill-Pay tariffs is available overleaf.

MOBILE PHONE TARIFFS COMPARISON --- Pre-paid Customers (Pay-As-You-Go)Scenario 1: Anytime usage within Ireland

	Meteor	O2	Vodafone	3
<i>Product/Plan Name</i>	Anytime Plus	Early Bird	Work & Leisure	N/A
<i>Calls to landlines</i>	20¢ per min	15¢ per min (PEAK) 55¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 12¢ per min (W-E)	45¢ per min (PEAK) 19¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 19¢ per min (W-E)	N/A
<i>Calls to same network</i>	20¢ per min	15¢ per min (PEAK) 55¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 12¢ per min (W-E)	32¢ per min (PEAK) 19¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 19¢ per min (W-E)	N/A
<i>Calls to other mobile networks</i>	20¢ per min	19¢ per min (PEAK) 63¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 12¢ per min (W-E)	45¢ per min	
<i>Voicemail</i>	FREE	15¢ per min	FREE	N/A
<i>Text msgs</i>	9¢ each	11¢ or 13¢	13¢ each	N/A
<i>Add-ons available?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 150 txts for €7.50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 100 txts for €7.50 or 200 txts for €12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text bundle 100 txts for €8 or 200 txts for €12 Friends for Less = cheaper calls and texts to 3 nominated Vodafone numbers. 10¢ texts + 26¢ /15¢ calls. Stop the Clock = call nominated Vodafone number anytime for 60 mins but only pay for 3 mins. Sign up before 16 June 2006 	N/A

Scenario 2: Mostly evening and weekend usage within Ireland

	Meteor	O2	Vodafone	3
<i>Product/Plan Name</i>	Leisure Time Plus	Night Owl	Social Life	N/A
<i>Calls to landlines</i>	40¢ per min (PEAK) 13¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 13¢ per min (W-E)	55¢ per min (PEAK) 15¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 12¢ per min (W-E)	50¢ per min (PEAK) 15¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 15¢ per min (W-E)	N/A
<i>Calls to same network</i>	40¢ per min (PEAK) 13¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 13¢ per min (W-E)	55¢ per min (PEAK) 15¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 12¢ per min (W-E)	50¢ per min (PEAK) 15¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 15¢ per min (W-E)	N/A
<i>Calls to other mobile networks</i>	40¢ per min (PEAK) 13¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 13¢ per min (W-E)	63¢ per min (PEAK) 19¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 12¢ per min (W-E)	65¢ per min (PEAK) 30¢ per min (OFFPEAK) 30¢ per min (W-E)	
<i>Voicemail</i>	FREE	15¢/12¢ per min	FREE	N/A
<i>Text msgs</i>	9¢ each	11¢ or 13¢	13¢ each	N/A
<i>Add-ons available?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 150 txts for €7.50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 100 txts for €7.50 or 200 txts for €12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Text bundle 100 txts for €8 or 200 txts for €12 Friends for Less = cheaper calls and texts to 3 nominated Vodafone numbers. 10¢ texts + 26¢ /15¢ calls. Stop the Clock = call nominated Vodafone number anytime for 60 mins but only pay for 3 mins. Sign up before 16 June 2006 	N/A

NOTES:

- PEAK=8am to 6pm Mon-Fri. OFFPEAK=6pm to 8am Mon-Fri. W-E=6pm Fri to 8am Mon. O2 Early Bird/Night Owl peak/off peak times vary slightly from this.
- 3 do not offer pre-paid services.
- 250 free web texts for O2 subscribers; 300 free web texts for Vodafone subscribers.
- Vodafone and O2 offer top-up discounts (e.g., top-up for €30, get €33 credit). Check with operator for details.

MOBILE PHONE TARIFFS COMPARISON --- Post-paid Customers (Bill Pay)

Meteor have six different bill-pay plans, O2 have nine, Vodafone have five, and 3 have four different plans. TWO PLANS FROM EACH OPERATOR ARE LISTED BELOW.

Scenario 1: approx. 150 mins voice calls anytime in Ireland

	Meteor	3	O2	Vodafone
<i>Product/Plan Name</i>	Talk 200	Talk 200	Active Life 150	Perfect Fit 200
<i>Monthly Commitment/Charges</i>	€40	€25	€35	€49
<i>Voice Mins Included</i>	200	200	150	200 (+100 call a friend for free*)
<i>Voicemail</i>	FREE	15¢ per min	15¢ per min	FREE
<i>Text msgs</i>	None included 9¢ each	None included 9¢ each	100 included 11¢ or 13¢ each	None included 13¢ each
<i>Call costs outside plan allowance</i>	20¢ per min	30¢ per min (to mobile) 15¢ per min (to landline)	30¢ per min	20¢ per min
<i>Add-ons available?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 150 txts for €7.50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double up and save €5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 100 txts for €7.50 or 200 txts for €12 call bundle 250 off-peak mins to O2 or landlines for €7.50 Avail of cheaper international calls with International add-on . From €2 to 6 per month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 100 txts for €8 or 200 txts for €12

Scenario 2: approx. 40 mins voice calls anytime in Ireland

	Meteor	3	O2	Vodafone
<i>Product/Plan Name</i>	Talk 60	Talk 100	Active Life 40	Perfect Fit 30
<i>Monthly Commitment/Charges</i>	€20	€25	€20	€19
<i>Voice Mins Included</i>	60	100	40	30 (+50 call a friend for free*)
<i>Voicemail</i>	FREE	15¢ per min	15¢ per min	FREE
<i>Text msgs</i>	None included 9¢ each	100 included 9¢ each	50 included 11¢ or 13¢ each	None included 13¢ each
<i>Call costs outside plan allowance</i>	20¢ per min	30¢ per min (to mobile) 15¢ per min (to landline)	35¢ per min	35¢ per min
<i>Add-ons available?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 150 txts for €7.50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double up and save €5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 100 txts for €7.50 or 200 txts for €12 call bundle 250 off-peak mins to O2 or landlines for €7.50 Avail of cheaper international calls with International add-on . From €2 to 6 per month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> text bundle 100 txts for €8 or 200 txts for €12

NOTES:

- Call A Friend For Free Mins with Vodafone apply to nominated no. on the Vodafone network.
- No carry over of unused minutes or texts with Meteor or 3 plans. O2 allows carry over up to the monthly max.
- 250 free web texts for O2 subscribers; 300 free web texts for Vodafone subscribers.
- Minimum 12-month term for all bill-pay plans. O2 offer further discounts for subscribers who sign up for 18 months.

RELEVANT WEBLINKS**(1) COMPARE THE VARIOUS IRISH OPERATORS**

<http://www.callcosts.ie>

Intended to help consumers compare the various pre-paid and bill pay options. Users insert their daily or monthly usage details and the cost with the various telecoms providers is presented.

(2) ROAMING COSTS

http://www.askcomreg.ie/mobile/International_Mobile_Roaming.153.LE.asp

Intended to help consumers understand international roaming charges and compare those charges in the selected destinations.

EU Information Society: Sample post-paid voice tariffs for travellers from Ireland in other EU countries

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/roaming/tariffs/ie/voicepost/index_en.htm

EU Information Society: Sample pre-paid voice tariffs for travellers from Ireland in other EU countries

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/roaming/tariffs/ie/voicepre/index_en.htm

O2 Ireland Roaming Charges

http://web.o2.ie/personal/services/travelling_abroad/

3 Ireland Roaming Charges

<http://www.3ireland.ie/ireland/iexplore/icoverage/intIndex.omp>

Meteor Roaming Charges

<http://www.meteor.ie/services/roaming.html>

Vodafone Ireland Roaming Charges

<http://www.vodafone.ie/roaming/international/index.jsp>

(3) OPERATORS

Vodafone	1907-Customer Care	1850 20 87 87	www.vodafone.ie
O2	1909/1747-Customer Care	1800 2000 16	www.o2.ie
Meteor	1905-Customer Care	(01) 430 7000	www.meteor.ie
3	333-Customer Care	1800 330 333	www.three.ie

(4) OTHER MOBILE-RELATED SERVICES AVAILABLE

Airtalk www.airtalk.ie [Offer cheaper international calls from mobiles]

Call 2 www.call2.com [UK company offering cheaper international calls from mobiles]