

TRINITY COLLEGE  
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Wednesday, August 17, 2005

Dear Mr Richardson,

Thank you for inviting comments on the future of termination charges for mobile phones. In particular you asked for ideas as to how this could be subject to market competition.

Currently, there is little incentive for providers to offer accounts with cheap termination rates, nor for customers to ask for them. The dialling codes allocated for mobiles are currently perceived as being like premium rate numbers. If you had a mobile with cheaper termination charges, your customers and friends would still think that it was expensive to ring because the number begins with, say 07740. An obvious way to tell my Cambridge friends that ringing my mobile is not expensive would be for me to be able to transfer my 01223 number to a mobile company. However, OFCOM prohibits this. Ironically, your announcement of the decision denying land line number portability to Vodafone came out at about the same time as your request for comments on termination charges.

I would suggest that OFCOM's forbidding 01223 numbers to be routed to mobiles will become increasingly difficult to enforce, because people will think of work-arounds. For years people outside London have been using 0207 numbers for receiving faxes, voice mail, and VOIP calls. Customers don't need to have a landline or even be in the UK. A wireless Internet connection works fine. Firms offering these sort of services include: [www.j2.com](http://www.j2.com) and <http://www.skype.com>.

OFCOM rules make me pay unnecessary costs. If I want to scrap my land line and just use a mobile, I cannot do so because my customers and friends still ring me on my 01223 number. OFCOM requires me to pay rent on my landline to receive these calls even though I don't want a landline any more.

How about scrapping this expensive and market-distorting restriction?

God Bless You,

Sean Jackson