



Conserving geographic numbers

Implementation of number conservation measures in additional geographic areas including modifications to the National Telephone Numbering Plan

Statement

Publication date:

8 April 2010

Contents

Section		Page
1	Summary	1
2	Introduction and background	3
3	Responses to the consultation and Ofcom's decision	7
Annex		Page
1	List of respondents to the consultation	16
2	Legal framework	17
3	Modification to the provisions of the Numbering Plan under section 56(2) of the Act	20

Section 1

Summary

- 1.1 This statement sets out Ofcom's decision to give number conservation status to 336 geographic area codes in addition to the existing 265 areas with that status. It follows on from our consultation *Conserving geographic numbers* (the Consultation'), published on 30 November 2009.¹ That document sought views by 11 January 2010 on our proposal to ensure the ongoing availability of number blocks to meet communication providers' ('CPs') requirements in areas experiencing a shortage, in line with established geographic number management policy.
- 1.2 The Consultation and this document are concerned solely with the way that blocks of telephone numbers are allocated and used by CPs. They do not propose or make any changes to existing telephone numbers or the way that consumers use geographic numbers.
- 1.3 It is our duty to ensure that what appears to us to be the best use is made of the UK's telephone numbers and to encourage efficiency and innovation for that purpose. This includes making sure that sufficient and appropriate numbers are available so that CPs can supply services to consumers. Due to the sustained increase in demand for geographic numbers in certain areas, available number blocks to allocate to CPs have become scarce. The Consultation set out our proposal to implement conservation measures in specific geographic areas to supplement those already in place. We proposed those measures to ensure the continued supply of geographic numbers, thereby promoting competition, consumer choice and innovation in service provision.
- 1.4 Number conservation measures are central to our management of geographic numbers as they help us to meet CPs' demand in a way that has no impact on consumers. They work by reducing the size of number blocks allocated in conservation areas from units of 10,000 ('10K') to 1,000 ('1K') numbers. This increases the quantity of blocks available for allocation in those areas tenfold and aligns more closely the allocation of numbers to requirements, thus enabling numbers to be used more effectively and efficiently.
- 1.5 We received seven responses to the Consultation. Five respondents fully supported our proposals, agreeing that conservation measures were the best way of managing the existing supply of numbers and delaying or forestalling any potential need for more disruptive action to increase the supply (such as additional codes to cover areas that have run out of numbers, known as 'overlay codes'). Two respondents were concerned that the proposals would impede CPs' access to sufficient numbers to meet their requirements. We do not consider that this would be the case, because we are able to allocate multiple 1K blocks in conservation areas where this is justified by demand.
- 1.6 Having considered all responses, we have decided to proceed and give conservation status with immediate effect to all 336 geographic area codes proposed in the Consultation. The specific areas are listed in Annex 3 of this document. As a result of our decision, all remaining areas with '0' plus 4-digit area codes (that is, all area

¹ *Conserving geographic numbers: proposal to implement number conservation measures in additional geographic areas including modifications to the National Telephone Numbering Plan*, 30 November 2009 <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/conserves/conserving.pdf>.

codes in the format 01XXX) except for 01481 Guernsey and 01534 Jersey are now subject to conservation measures.

- 1.7 To reflect this decision, the National Telephone Numbering Plan (‘the Numbering Plan’)² has been modified. The notification of the modification and an explanation of how the modification meets the necessary legal tests are set out in this document.

² *The National Telephone Numbering Plan* sets out numbers available for allocation and restrictions in their use. It can be viewed at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/telecoms/ioi/numbers/numplan080410.pdf>.

Section 2

Introduction and background

Introduction

- 2.1 Section 63 of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act') sets out our duty to ensure that what appears to us to be the best use is made of the UK's telephone numbers and to encourage efficiency and innovation for that purpose. This includes making sure that sufficient and appropriate telephone numbers are available to provide communications services to consumers.
- 2.2 A lack of available numbers would hinder competition, consumer choice and innovation in the provision of networks and services. Therefore, where the supply of blocks of telephone numbers is limited, we consider that it is our duty to act.
- 2.3 Geographic numbers are widely recognised and trusted by consumers, and the continual high demand this generates from CPs leads us to allocate large volumes of numbers. There are now more than 270 CPs with an allocation of numbers from Ofcom in at least one geographic area and the annual total of geographic number blocks allocated increases yearly.
- 2.4 As a result, the supply of blocks of numbers available for allocation to CPs is being rapidly depleted in geographic areas with a '0' plus 4-digit code format (i.e. 01XXX codes), known as '4-digit area codes'. These area codes have a maximum total of 79 10K number blocks available for allocation to CPs. This combination of limited supply and high demand for geographic numbers has led to scarcity of available blocks in certain 4-digit area codes. We address scarcity by introducing conservation measures.

Geographic number conservation policy

- 2.5 Conservation measures are already in place in 265 areas where available number blocks have become scarce over the last few years. They are our established means of managing demand for geographic numbers. They work by reducing the size of number block that we allocate in conservation areas from the standard 10K numbers to units of 1K numbers, thus creating a tenfold increase in available blocks from the same pool of numbers. As many CPs do not need thousands of numbers in each area, smaller blocks can match allocation to demand more effectively. This does not affect the ability of CPs to fulfil their requirements, as those that need a larger supply of numbers may be allocated multiple 1K blocks when such a request is justified by demand.
- 2.6 The introduction of conservation measures is proposed for areas that meet the following definition of a 'Conservation Area' in the Numbering Plan:
- "a geographic area that Ofcom believes has a realistic expectation of number exhaustion within the next five years".
- 2.7 We assess whether an area has a "realistic expectation of number exhaustion" by examining the block allocation figures for the past few years to identify likely future demand and determine whether this could be met from the remaining free number blocks.

- 2.8 If the supply of available number blocks in an area is considered unlikely to meet demand for the next five years, we consult on introducing conservation measures. Subject to the outcome of that consultation, we may give an area conservation status in the Numbering Plan and, as a result, certain restrictions in the use of numbers apply. These are set out in part B3.1.6 of the Numbering Plan as follows:

“Numbers in geographic areas where a Conservation Area status is indicated shall only be Adopted or otherwise used in units of 1,000 numbers at a time”.

Effectiveness of number conservation

- 2.9 The allocation and use of numbers in 1K units has proved effective in the management of geographic numbers. The first set of conservation measures was introduced in 2002 in nine areas experiencing number scarcity and, as a result, those areas still have a sufficient supply of blocks to meet demand eight years later.
- 2.10 We regularly audit CPs’ usage of numbers in 1K units, concentrating on conservation areas that are experiencing the highest levels of number block scarcity. Based on the audit returns, we seek to reclaim unused 1K units from CPs. The audit and reclamation process has proved successful in improving number block availability. We recently audited 54 CPs on 1K block use in 21 areas with less than 30 available 1K blocks remaining. This allowed us to reclaim 1,154 unused 1K blocks and improved the availability of blocks in the audited areas significantly. To give an example, prior to the audit, Weybridge had only 49 1K blocks available for allocation. Following block reclamation, Weybridge had 212 1K blocks available.

Limitations to conservation measures

- 2.11 Conservation measures have an impact on CPs’ networks in terms of how they decode dialled numbers. Networks analyse the digits of a dialled telephone number in order to route calls and the allocation of numbers in smaller blocks requires the analysis of more digits to determine routing information. Legacy networks have limited ability to decode digits in dialled numbers, and exceeding their limits would have serious consequences for network stability. We recognise the impact of conservation measures on networks’ decoding resources, and we therefore limit conservation measures to areas that require intervention to ensure ongoing supply. For similar reasons, we do not currently allocate numbers in block sizes smaller than 1K numbers.

Background to the Consultation

- 2.12 We recently identified that a number of areas appeared to have insufficient number blocks available to meet predicted demand for the next five years and we therefore considered that we needed to act to rectify the situation. Accordingly we published the Consultation, in which we proposed to extend conservation measures to 336 geographic areas identified as experiencing a shortage of number blocks. The Consultation set out the block availability and allocation figures, which demonstrated that the proposed areas were at risk of number exhaustion, and why we considered that conservation measures were justified.
- 2.13 We proposed that conservation status be given to all the remaining 4-digit area codes that did not have that status except for two areas – Guernsey 01481 and Jersey 01534 – which had sufficient 10K number blocks available to meet foreseeable demand. We did not propose conservation measures in area codes that

have a '0' plus 2- or 3-digit format. These areas cover large cities and have a far larger pool of numbers available for allocation. We consider that they have a sufficient supply to meet predicted demand without conservation measures.

- 2.14 Geographic number conservation status is recorded in the Numbering Plan. This ensures, through the provision of General Condition 17 ('the Numbering Condition')³ that CPs observe the resulting restrictions in allocation and use of numbers in conservation areas – that is, that they adopt or use numbers in units of 1K. The Consultation included the necessary proposed modifications to the Numbering Plan to give effect to our proposals to create additional conservation areas.

Ofcom's strategy for managing geographic numbers

- 2.15 In 2006, we reviewed our strategic approach for managing telephone numbers for the coming five to ten years ('the 2006 numbering review').⁴ In considering geographic numbers, we recognised that consumers value highly the ability to keep their telephone numbers and the geographic significance that they provide and we put this at the heart of our geographic number strategy.
- 2.16 To reflect the importance that consumers attach to geographic numbers, we adopted a central principle to favour, where possible, measures that would provide continuity and continued availability of numbers for the foreseeable future in a manner that causes the least disruption and cost to consumers. In practice, this has led us to take action to prolong the availability of existing geographic numbers through robust conservation measures and other means of improving block utilisation levels.
- 2.17 We also concluded that, in areas where conservation measures could, in the future, prove insufficient to ensure that number demand can be met, we would introduce overlay codes to create more numbers. An overlay code would provide a new source of numbers in an area by 'overlying' a new dialling code in addition to the existing code. An important consideration that led us to favour overlay codes over other potential methods of increasing the supply of numbers was that they would not require consumers to change their existing numbers, and would therefore be less disruptive. Nevertheless, overlay codes would have impacts on consumers, businesses and CPs and we will therefore take all reasonable measures to delay or forestall the need to implement them.
- 2.18 One of the assumptions underpinning this conclusion in our 2006 numbering review was that the roll-out of next-generation networks would remove, by the year 2012 or shortly thereafter, the number decoding constraints that currently determine the minimum size of a block of geographic numbers that we can allocate and the minimum unit of unused numbers that we can reclaim from CPs. We therefore planned to take whatever action would cause the least disruption to consumers to ensure that sufficient numbers were available until the constraints on the size of number blocks were removed.

³ General Condition 17 on the Allocation, Adoption and Use of Telephone Numbers is available as an annex to the Numbering Plan.

⁴ *Telephone Numbering: Safeguarding the future of numbers* – February 2006 consultation <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numberingreview/numbering.pdf> and July 2006 statement <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numberingreview/statement/statement.pdf>.

- 2.19 We predicted that a maximum of 128 conservation areas would be required by 2012.⁵ We also predicted that between six and eleven overlay codes would be required by 2012 depending on number utilisation scenario,⁶ with no more than 34 overlay codes anticipated in total.⁷
- 2.20 We now know that 2012 is no longer the end date on which to focus our geographic number strategy because the industry-wide roll-out of next-generation networks will not have progressed to a sufficient extent by that date. We also know that our prediction of conservation area requirement was incorrect, with 265 conservation areas implemented by 2008 and a total of 601 conservation areas to be implemented as a consequence of the decision set out in this statement. On the other hand, conservation measures and other action that we have taken to improve utilisation levels have been successful in delaying the forecast need for overlay codes beyond our previous prediction of 2012.
- 2.21 Acknowledging that the position has changed since the 2006 numbering review, we are currently re-examining our forecasts and framework for managing geographic numbers to ensure that the strategy we set out in 2006 remains the best approach and to prepare for creating more geographic numbers if required.

⁵ *Telephone Numbering: Safeguarding the future of numbers* – February 2006 consultation, paragraph A1.26 <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numberingreview/numbering.pdf>

⁶ *Telephone Numbering: Safeguarding the future of numbers*, July 2006 statement, paragraph 1.23 <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numberingreview/statement/statement.pdf> Safeguarding

⁷ *Telephone Numbering: Safeguarding the future of numbers* – February 2006 consultation, paragraph A1.83 <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numberingreview/numbering.pdf>

Section 3

Responses to the consultation and Ofcom's decision

Introduction

- 3.1 The Consultation set out our proposal to introduce number conservation measures in 336 geographic areas. It posed two specific questions and invited comments by 11 January 2010.
- 3.2 We received seven responses to the Consultation. Two responses were marked confidential and one respondent requested anonymity.⁸ Respondents who were content for their names to be published were BT plc (BT), Cable&Wireless (C&W), the Federation of Communication Services (FCS) and Mr A Steele.

Responses to the Consultation

Responses to the consultation questions

Question 1:

Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal for the 336 geographic area codes listed in the schedule to the notification in Annex 7 to be determined as Conservation Areas?⁹

Are there any codes which you think:

- a) should have been included in the proposal; and/or*
b) should have been omitted?

If so, please state which codes and for what reasons.

- 3.3 Five respondents supported our proposal to extend conservation measures to the 336 geographic areas listed in the Consultation.¹⁰ The respondents agreed with our justification for proposing the conservation measures and supported action to prolong availability of existing geographic numbers given the analysis provided. The respondents accepted that introduction of conservation measures now may reduce the risk of more disruptive action in the future to create new numbers, such as the introduction of overlay codes. C&W and BT stressed that action should be taken to delay or forestall the need for overlay codes, as although less disruptive for consumers than number changes, their potential impact should not be underestimated.
- 3.4 The two confidential responses stressed the importance of geographic numbers to consumers due to their unique characteristics of being recognised, trusted, providing location significance and a simple tariff structure. They stated that consumers' desire for geographic numbers meant that CPs have an ongoing demand for more numbers and, for some applications, a preference for geographic numbers over other number types. Those respondents were concerned about what they considered to be

⁸ The respondent supplied their name but requested that it be withheld from publication. Reference to this response will be shown as 'Name Withheld'.

⁹ The 336 proposed areas listed in Annex 7 of the Consultation are listed in Annex 3 of this document.

¹⁰ These respondents were BT, C&W, FCS, Mr A Steele and 'Name Withheld'.

widespread rationing of numbers and the resulting impact on CPs' and service providers' ability to fulfil their business plans and compete, particularly for those who have a large requirement for geographic numbers and new entrants without an existing stock of numbers. They also referred to the additional costs and administration involved in sourcing and managing smaller blocks and to difficulties in ensuring a sufficient supply of numbers to meet business requirements.

- 3.5 One confidential response suggested that we introduce conservation measures in only the most critical areas, while another suggested that we allocate numbers in blocks smaller than 1K in certain areas.

Question 2: (directed to CPs)

Since we conducted our impact assessments on conservation area policy in 2006, are there any changes to the costs and impact on networks of implementing conservation measures that you want to make us aware of?

If so, please set these out in your response, explaining the nature of the costs and/or constraints and any possible steps to overcome or reduce these.

- 3.6 BT and C&W confirmed that, although there would be impacts on the decoding resources of their network switches, they believed those resources to be sufficient to handle 1K number block routing in the 336 additional geographic areas proposed to become conservation areas. Both agreed that the impact was justified in order to conserve geographic numbers.¹¹
- 3.7 Both confidential responses reflected that the allocation and management of numbers in smaller blocks represented a cost to CPs in additional time and complexity required to source, manage and administer numbers.
- 3.8 One confidential respondent argued that the proposal was likely to have significant costs and impacts beyond CPs. In its view, a ten-fold reduction in block size was likely to result in unmet demand for measured and sustainable use of geographic numbers, which could not be met equally by other number types. As such, the proposal could have unintended costs and an adverse impact for many categories of stakeholder, including consumers and service providers, as well as the broader UK economy.

Other issues raised in responses

Implementation of conservation measures

- 3.9 Some respondents stressed that, in implementing conservation measures, we need to match allocation block size to justified demand for numbers, otherwise CPs' ability to meet consumer requirements and innovate would be jeopardised.¹² C&W pointed out that multiple 1K blocks in an area may need to be allocated simultaneously to meet demonstrated demand. A confidential respondent suggested that we retain discretion to allocate 10K blocks to major users of geographic numbers who have demonstrated responsible use of numbers.

¹¹ BT and C&W suggested a number of implementation measures that might reduce the impact of conservation. These are set out in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.13, which discuss comments on implementation.

¹² These respondents were C&W and two confidential respondents.

- 3.10 BT and C&W suggested ways of implementing the proposed conservation measures that would reduce the impact on CPs and service providers. They stressed the importance of reducing the number of 10K blocks split between different CPs, as this would minimise the impact on decoding resources. With this in mind, BT suggested that, where practicable, we use historic or predicted demand for more 1K blocks in an area when deciding from which 10K block to make an allocation. CPs unlikely to need more numbers should be allocated 1K blocks from the same 10K block, whereas those likely to need more numbers should have the remaining 1K blocks from a 10K block reserved for their future use until such time as this practice was no longer sustainable. C&W made a similar proposal and considered that CPs that deal with corporate customers would benefit from reserved blocks for expansion.
- 3.11 A number of respondents referred to withdrawal of unused 1K units from previously allocated 10K blocks. FCS and a respondent which withheld its name supported this measure. BT asked that Ofcom's requests to withdraw unused 1K blocks respect the same principles as suggested for allocation of numbers with regard to considering future demand and keeping 10K block division to a minimum (see paragraph 3.10).
- 3.12 BT requested assurance that 1K block allocation would not be further extended to non-geographic ranges. Numbers in these ranges were relatively plentiful and to do so would have a significant impact on BT's technical ability to support geographic number 1K block allocation.
- 3.13 C&W commented that implementation of conservation measures required a number of changes to their network to ensure that they were able to cope with additional decoding requirements. C&W requested an implementation period of two to three months following the publication of this statement before we allocated 1K blocks in the new conservation areas.

Effectiveness of existing conservation areas

- 3.14 C&W felt that a lack of data meant that it was unable to judge whether existing conservation measures had been effective in improving utilisation rates as forecast in the 2006 numbering review. C&W also questioned whether our 'worse case scenario' forecast in the 2006 numbering review, that around twelve overlay codes would be required by the end of 2012, was likely to be realised and what steps we were taking to withdraw unused blocks in areas under threat to avert the need for overlay codes.

Ofcom's strategic approach to geographic number management

- 3.15 C&W's response addressed Ofcom's long term strategy for managing geographic numbers and the need to re-evaluate this over time to ensure that it remained valid. C&W expressed disappointment that the Consultation did not refer to our strategic decisions on the management of geographic numbers as set out in the 2006 numbering review. C&W recalled that when the approach was agreed, it was expected that there would be a wholesale shift from traditional circuit-switched networks to next-generation network technologies and voice services delivered using the Internet protocol. In C&W's view, this shift has yet to occur and its future timescale seemed sufficiently far away for C&W to consider it to be a significant risk to continue with the 2006 numbering policy without reviewing its assumptions. Indeed, the difference between the predicted and actual number of conservation areas suggested that Ofcom's forecasting and strategic plan needed re-examining. Therefore C&W urged us to address the wider strategic issue of fulfilling demand for numbers in the longer term.

- 3.16 A confidential respondent suggested that we should re-examine our policy of taking all possible measures to prolong the availability of existing geographic numbers if it leads to rationing. Instead, it might be more beneficial to move to the creation of additional numbers in some areas now.
- 3.17 FCS felt that we need to take a more radical approach to long term number management to deal with the increasing demand for geographic numbers. FCS supported the creation of a central numbering database as previously proposed by Ofcom to facilitate number portability. Such a database, FCS argued, would provide a range of benefits for number management including effective allocation, conservation of numbers and improvements to the way that numbers are built onto networks. C&W also expressed disappointment that our examination of a central database in our recent review of routing calls to ported numbers did not include number management issues within its scope.¹³

Comments on the consultation document

- 3.18 One respondent (Mr A Steele) commented that the Consultation would have been clearer if a comprehensive list of codes already subject to conservation measures had been included.

Ofcom's comments

Responses to the consultation questions

- 3.19 We welcome the general support for our proposal to implement conservation measures in an additional 336 areas. As stated by some respondents¹⁴ we share a common goal of managing numbers effectively so as to prolong availability and offset the disruption of introducing overlay codes (or any other measure to create new numbers), thereby furthering the interests of citizens and consumers.
- 3.20 We understand CPs' concern that conservation measures should not unduly restrict their ability to obtain sufficient numbers to meet their business plans. This is not the objective of conservation. Its purpose is to match allocation more closely to demand. In line with this, multiple 1K blocks from the same geographic area code may be allocated if the request is justified. Thus if an application can prove an appropriate need, the implementation of conservation measures will not limit access to numbers to meet business plans. We recognise that allocation of multiple blocks may create additional costs in terms of sourcing and managing numbers for CPs but we consider this to be minimal in comparison to the costs and impact associated with creating additional numbers (see paragraphs 3.41 to 3.44 for further detail on conservation area impact assessments).
- 3.21 In response to the suggestion that we introduce conservation measures in only the most critical of the proposed areas, we do not agree that this is appropriate. As set out in the Consultation, allocation rates over the past five years suggest that it is the correct time to introduce conservation measures in all the 336 areas proposed. It is vital that we do this early enough to ensure that there are sufficient 10K blocks remaining to divide into 1K units to meet demand.

¹³ *Routing calls to ported telephone numbers*, consultation document published 3 August 2009 and statement published 1 April 2010 http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/gc18_routing/.

¹⁴ Those respondents were BT, C&W and FCS.

- 3.22 We are pleased that BT and C&W have confirmed that their networks' decoding resources should be sufficient to accommodate the additional conservation areas. In answer to another respondent's suggestion that blocks of less than 1K numbers are considered, limitations in decoding resources means that we are not currently considering measures that would require networks using legacy technology to route calls on the basis of number blocks of less than 1K numbers.

Other issues raised in responses

Implementation of conservation measures

- 3.23 We recognise the importance of access to sufficient numbers to CPs' ability to meet their business requirements and how this promotes competition, consumer choice and innovation in service provision. We confirm that conservation measures will be implemented in a way that does not inhibit the supply of numbers to meet justified and appropriate demand.
- 3.24 We understand that routing of calls based on blocks of 1K numbers has impacts on networks' decoding resources. We will endeavour to implement conservation measures in a manner that reduces those impacts and, in line with our policy in implementing conservation measures in the past, we will work with CPs to achieve this. We welcome the suggestions provided for reducing the total number of blocks split between different CPs and will take these into account when allocating numbers.
- 3.25 We agree with respondents that reclamation of unused 1K units from previously allocated 10K blocks is an important measure in number conservation. We can confirm that we already do this on a regular basis (see paragraph 2.10) and that we will continue to audit CPs' use of numbers and seek to reclaim unused blocks. As requested by BT, we will consider likely future demand when making requests to withdraw numbers.
- 3.26 BT stated that the priority for using its limited decoding resources should be to support geographic number conservation measures. We agree and confirm that we currently have no plans to introduce 1K allocations in any additional non-geographic number ranges.¹⁵
- 3.27 We are keen to implement conservation measures in the proposed areas as soon as possible so that the remaining 10K blocks can be divided into 1K units. We have discussed with C&W its request for a two to three month implementation period and agreed that this could be foregone in order to conserve numbers as quickly as possible. No other CPs have requested an implementation period post publication of the statement and we have not provided such an implementation period when implementing conservation measures in the past. On that basis, we are not providing for an implementation period for these conservation measures.

Effectiveness of existing conservation measures

- 3.28 As set out in paragraphs 2.9 to 2.10, we are confident that conservation measures are effective and believe them to be successful in the efficient management of geographic numbers. We have found that the introduction of conservation measures typically results in an 86% reduction in our rate of allocation of new numbers in an

¹⁵Numbers are already allocated in 1K blocks in the 0800 freephone range and certain internet-only 08 ranges.

area. This reduction in number allocation rate, coupled with reclamation of unused 1K number blocks, has had a beneficial impact on block utilisation rates.

- 3.29 The improved block utilisation rates have ensured that the ‘worst case scenario’ of overlay code requirement by 2012 has been averted. As explained in Section 2, we are currently re-examining our framework for managing geographic numbers, including the re-forecasting of any overlay code requirement.

Ofcom’s strategic approach to geographic number management

- 3.30 Our strategy for managing geographic numbers, as established in the 2006 numbering review, is summarised in Section 2. We are currently re-examining our forecasts and framework for managing geographic numbers to ensure that the strategy we set out in 2006 remains the best approach and to prepare for creating more geographic numbers if required. In the meantime, we will continue to operate in line with our numbering principles and take all reasonable action to forestall the need for overlay codes.
- 3.31 We understand and agree with the comments from FCS and C&W about the likely broader benefits of a common numbering database, including the prospect that such a system could allow allocation of geographic numbers to meet demand more efficiently than is possible now. We consider that a solution for interconnected fixed networks using such an approach could become viable if and when next-generation core network technology is adopted widely by network providers. While the timescale of such adoption is currently uncertain, we would encourage network providers to consider the benefits of incorporating the capability for such an approach into their next-generation network designs. We remain open to suggestions as to how we could help secure an outcome in which the routing of interconnected calls in next-generation fixed networks will use this approach.

The consultation document

- 3.32 We note Mr Steele’s comment regarding inclusion of a comprehensive list of existing conservation areas. We did not include this list as it was separately available in the Numbering Plan current at the time of the Consultation’s publication. We will make this clear in any future consultations on conservation measures.

Ofcom’s decision and next steps

- 3.33 After consideration of the seven responses to the Consultation, and taking into account that no international obligations have been notified to us by the Secretary of State, we have decided to introduce conservation measures in the additional 336 geographic area codes proposed in the Consultation.
- 3.34 In order to implement our decision, we have modified the Numbering Plan as set out in Annex 3 of this document. We consider that the modification to the Numbering Plan meets all the required legal tests in the Act for the reasons set out below. The modification is unchanged from the proposed modification on which we consulted in Annex 7 of the Consultation.

How the modification meets the legal tests

- 3.35 We must ensure that, when modifying the Numbering Plan, the modification complies with the legal tests in the Act. The legal framework is set out in Annex 2 for reference.

3.36 The effect of the modification to the Numbering Plan is to give conservation status to the additional 336 geographic areas set out in the notification (see Annex 3) from the publication date of this statement.

3.37 We are satisfied that the modification to the provisions of the Numbering Plan meets the tests set out in section 60(2) of the Act being:

- **objectively justifiable**, in that the modification is within our agreed policy for the effective and efficient management of geographic numbers, established following consultation in 2006. The modification gives conservation status to the areas listed in the notification in Annex 3 and is based on those areas meeting an objective test of number block scarcity. The test uses the number of blocks available for allocation in an area and previous allocation rates to determine whether the remaining blocks could realistically be expected to meet anticipated demand for numbers in that area for the next five years. Areas where the test demonstrates a realistic expectation of number exhaustion within the next five years will be given conservation area status as a result of this statement and the modification to the provisions of the Numbering Plan;
- **not unduly discriminatory**, in that all CPs eligible to apply for telephone numbers are subject to the modification to the Numbering Plan;
- **proportionate**, in that the modification to the Numbering Plan is the minimum revision necessary to its provisions to conserve geographic numbers and to bring the Numbering Plan into line with current geographic number availability.

As set out in the Consultation, we recognise that the implementation of conservation measures in an additional 336 areas represents a substantial increase in conservation areas. However, we consider this modification to be proportionate given the sustained level of demand over the past few years, our forecasts that such demand is likely to continue and the resulting expectation of number exhaustion if we fail to take action. Further to consultation, we are therefore acting now to reduce the block size for allocations while there is still a sufficient supply of 10K blocks available to divide into 1K blocks, otherwise areas will run out of numbers before conservation can have an effect; and

- **transparent**, in that the notification proposing the modification to the Numbering Plan, and its effects, was set out in the Consultation and in this document.

3.38 We consider that we are fulfilling our general duty as to telephone number functions as set out in section 63 of the Act in making this modification by:

- **securing the best use of appropriate numbers**, in that the modification seeks to ensure that optimal use is made of the most limited geographic numbering resources, thus ensuring that appropriate numbers are available for allocation. The modification is consistent with the strategy previously set out in our July 2006 statement *Telephone Numbering: Safeguarding the future of numbers*; and
- **encouraging efficiency and innovation**, in that the modification seeks to improve efficiency in number use and more closely align allocation to demand, thus encouraging efficiency through improved utilisation rates. The modification seeks to ensure that sufficient and appropriate numbering resources are available to meet CPs' demands thereby facilitating innovation.

- 3.39 We consider that the modification to the Numbering Plan is consistent with our principal duty and the aims and matters to which we must have regard when carrying out our functions as set out in section 3 of the Act. In particular, we consider that the modification would further the interests of citizens in relation to communications matters and consumers in relevant markets by ensuring that the supply of telephone numbers is maintained.
- 3.40 When deciding to modify the Numbering Plan, we also considered the Community obligations set out in section 4 of the Act, particularly the requirement to promote the interests of all persons who are citizens of the European Union. Taking measures to conserve geographic numbers benefits citizens as the modification results in more efficient use of the limited resource, thus delaying or forestalling the need for more disruptive measures to ensure availability.

Impact assessment

- 3.41 We have not carried out a new impact assessment as part of this decision-making process. This is because impact assessments on the policy for geographic number management were conducted for the 2006 numbering review in the February 2006 consultation¹⁶ and the July 2006 statement¹⁷ both entitled *Telephone Numbering: Safeguarding the future of numbers*. A further impact assessment on creating additional conservation areas was included in our August 2006 statement *Conserving geographic numbers*.¹⁸ Those impact assessments concluded that while conservation measures have an impact on CPs in terms of administrative and operational costs, this is outweighed by the benefits of maintaining the supply of geographic number blocks without the need for more disruptive measures.
- 3.42 The Consultation asked CPs to advise us if significant costs or impact on decoding resources were expected as a consequence of our conservation area proposals. As summarised in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.8, BT and C&W confirmed that, although there would be impacts on the decoding resources of their network switches, they believed those resources to be sufficient to handle 1K number block routing in the 336 additional geographic areas proposed to become conservation areas. Both agreed that the impact was justified in order to conserve geographic numbers. In contrast, the two confidential responses reflected that the allocation and management of numbers in smaller blocks represented a cost to CPs in additional time and complexity required to source, manage and administer numbers.
- 3.43 We have considered the responses to the Consultation and how they relate to the aforementioned impact assessments. We agree that the creation of additional conservation areas will have an impact on CPs in terms of administrative and operational costs, as well as network implications; this has been recognised in our previous impact assessments. As mentioned in paragraphs 3.23 to 3.25, we will work with CPs where possible to reduce the impact. However, we remain of the opinion that the costs and impact of conservation measures are outweighed by the benefits of maintaining the supply of existing geographic numbers, and the forestalling or delaying of potential measures to create more numbers should that supply be exhausted.

¹⁶ <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numberingreview/numbering.pdf>

¹⁷ <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numberingreview/statement/statement.pdf>

¹⁸ *Conserving geographic numbers* – statement published by Ofcom on 10 August 2006
http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/geo_numbers/statement/geo.pdf

- 3.44 The modification and its effects are in accordance with our established numbering policy of implementing conservation measures in areas expected to run out of available number blocks within the next five years. It is our view that the matters raised in responses to the Consultation have been considered in the former impact assessments on conservation areas. Thus, the impact assessments referred to in paragraph 3.41 also apply to the modification set out here.

Next steps

- 3.45 We have simultaneously published this statement and the modified version of the Numbering Plan. Therefore, the restrictions in use applicable to the new conservation areas are effective for blocks of numbers allocated from those codes as of the publication date of this statement and the modified Numbering Plan.

Annex 1

List of respondents to the consultation

- A1.1 We received seven responses to the Consultation, two of which are confidential. The non-confidential responses are available on our website at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/conserves/responses1/>
- A1.2 The non-confidential responses to the Consultation were received from:
- BT plc
 - Cable&Wireless (C&W)
 - Federation of Communication Services (FCS)
 - Mr A Steele
 - A respondent whose name has been withheld on request ('Name Withheld')

Annex 2

Legal framework

Introduction

A2.1 Ofcom regulates the communications sector under the framework established by the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'). The Act provides, amongst other things in relation to numbering, for the publication of the National Telephone Numbering Plan ('the Numbering Plan'). It also sets out statutory procedures governing the modification of the Numbering Plan.

The Numbering Plan

A2.2 Section 56(1) of the Act states that:

"It shall be the duty of OFCOM to publish a document (to be known as "the National Telephone Numbering Plan") setting out-

- a) the numbers that they have determined to be available for allocation by them as telephone numbers;
- b) such restrictions as they consider appropriate on the adoption of numbers available for allocation in accordance with the plan; and
- c) such restrictions as they consider appropriate on the other uses to which numbers available for allocation in accordance with the plan may be put."

A2.3 The Act provides for Ofcom to review and revise the Numbering Plan. Section 56(2) states that:

"It shall be OFCOM's duty –

- a) from time to time to review the National Telephone Numbering Plan; and
- b) to make any modification of that plan that they think fit in consequence of such a review;

but this duty must be performed in compliance with the requirements, so far as applicable, of section 60."

A2.4 Section 60 of the Act provides for the modification of documents referred to in the Numbering Conditions (which includes the Numbering Plan) and explains the procedures to be followed in order to conduct this review. Section 60(2) of the Act provides that:

"OFCOM must not revise or otherwise modify the relevant provisions unless they are satisfied that the revision or modification is–

- a) objectively justifiable in relation to the matters to which it relates;

- b) not such as to discriminate unduly against particular persons or against a particular description of persons;
- c) proportionate to what the modification is intended to achieve; and
- d) in relation to what it is intended to achieve, transparent."

A2.5 Section 60(3) provides that:

"Before revising or otherwise modifying the relevant provisions, OFCOM must publish a notification-

- a) stating that they are proposing to do so;
- b) specifying the Plan or other document that they are proposing to revise or modify;
- c) setting out the effect of their proposed revisions or modifications;
- d) giving their reasons for making the proposal; and
- e) specifying the period within which representations may be made to OFCOM about their proposal."

A2.6 Section 60(5) further provides that:

"OFCOM may give effect, with or without modifications, to a proposal with respect to which they have published a notification under subsection (3) only if –

- (a) they have considered every representation about the proposal that is made to them within the period specified in the notification; and
- (b) they have had regard to every international obligation of the United Kingdom (if any) which has been notified to them for the purposes of this paragraph by the Secretary of State."

Ofcom's duties

Ofcom's general duty as to telephone numbering functions

A2.7 Ofcom has a general duty under section 63(1) of the Act in carrying out its numbering functions

- "a) to secure that what appears to them to be the best use is made of the numbers that are appropriate for use as telephone numbers; and
- b) to encourage efficiency and innovation for that purpose."

General duties of Ofcom

A2.8 The principal duty of Ofcom to be observed in the carrying out of its functions is set out in section 3(1) of the Act as the duty:

a) to further the interests of citizens in relation to communications matters; and

b) to further the interests of consumers in relevant markets, where appropriate by promoting competition.”

Duties for the purpose of fulfilling Community obligations

A2.9 In addition to our general duties and our duty regarding telephone numbers, Ofcom must also take into account the six Community requirements in carrying out its functions as set out in section 4 of the Act. These include the requirement to promote competition in the provision of electronic communications networks and services, as well as the requirement to promote the interests of European citizens.

Annex 3

Modification to the provisions of the Numbering Plan under section 56(2) of the Act

Modification to Appendix A of the Numbering Plan under section 56(2) of the Act

Whereas –

- A) section 56(2) of the Act provides that it shall be Ofcom's duty from time to time to review the Numbering Plan and make such revisions that they think fit, provided such revisions are made, so far as applicable, in accordance with section 60 of the Act;
- B) section 60 of the Act applies whereby General Condition 17 is a numbering condition for the time being having effect by reference to provisions of the Numbering Plan;
- C) by virtue of the Transitional Provisions, references to the Director in General Condition 17 should be read as references to Ofcom;
- D) Ofcom issued a notification pursuant to section 60(3) of the Act of a proposal to make a modification to Appendix A of the Numbering Plan on 30 November 2009 ("the Notification");
- E) for the reasons set out in the statement accompanying this modification Ofcom are satisfied that, in accordance with section 60(2) of the Act, this modification is:
 - objectively justifiable in relation to the matter to which it relates;
 - not such as to discriminate unduly against particular persons or against a particular description of persons;
 - proportionate to what the modification is intended to achieve; and
 - in relation to what it is intended to achieve, transparent;
- F) for the reasons set out in the statement accompanying this modification Ofcom are satisfied that they acted in accordance with the relevant duties set out in sections 3, 4 and 63 of the Act;
- G) a copy of the Notification was sent to the Secretary of State;
- H) in the Notification and accompanying consultation document Ofcom invited representations about any of the proposals therein by 11 January 2010;
- I) by virtue of section 60(5) of the Act, Ofcom may give effect to the proposal set out in the Notification, with or without modification, only if:
 - they have considered every representation about the proposal that is made to them within the period specified in the Notification; and

- they have had regard to every international obligation of the United Kingdom (if any) which has been notified to them for this purpose by the Secretary of State;
- J) Ofcom received seven responses to the Notification and have considered every such representation made to them in respect of the proposals set out in the Notification and accompanying consultation document and the Secretary of State has not notified Ofcom of any international obligation of the United Kingdom for this purpose;
- K) in considering whether to make the modification proposed in the Notification Ofcom have complied with all relevant requirements set out in section 60 of the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, OFCOM, PURSUANT TO SECTION 56(2) HEREBY MAKES THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATION:

1. Ofcom in accordance with section 56(2) of the Act hereby makes the following modification to the Numbering Plan to take effect on the date of publication of this notification.
- a) In Appendix A of the Numbering Plan, the following modification in respect of conservation area status and assignment shall be made:

Geographic Area Code	Geographic Area	Conservation Status
01200	Clitheroe	Y
01209	Redruth	Y
01237	Bideford	Y
01239	Cardigan	Y
01241	Arbroath	Y
01250	Blairgowrie	Y
01258	Blandford	Y
01259	Alloa	Y
01261	Banff	Y
01263	Cromer	Y
01267	Carmarthen	Y
01269	Ammanford	Y
01286	Caernarvon	Y
01287	Guisborough	Y
01288	Bude	Y
01289	Berwick-on-Tweed	Y
01290	Cumnock	Y
01291	Chepstow	Y
01300	Cerne Abbas	Y
01301	Arrochar	Y
01307	Forfar	Y
01308	Bridport	Y
01309	Forres	Y
01320	Fort Augustus	Y
01328	Fakenham	Y
01330	Banchory	Y
01333	Peat Inn	Y
01334	St Andrews	Y
01335	Ashbourne	Y
01337	Ladybank	Y
01336	Craigellachie	Y

Conserving geographic numbers statement

01341	Barmouth	Y
01346	Fraserburgh	Y
01347	Easingwold	Y
01348	Fishguard	Y
01349	Dingwall	Y
01350	Dunkeld	Y
01353	Ely	Y
01354	Chatteris	Y
01356	Brechin	Y
01357	Strathaven	Y
01358	Ellon	Y
01359	Pakenham	Y
01360	Killearn	Y
01361	Duns	Y
01362	Dereham	Y
01363	Crediton	Y
01364	Ashburton	Y
01366	Downham Market	Y
01367	Faringdon	Y
01368	Dunbar	Y
01369	Dunoon	Y
01371	Great Dunmow	Y
01373	Frome	Y
01377	Driffield	Y
01380	Devizes	Y
01381	Fortrose	Y
01395	Budleigh Salterton	Y
01397	Fort William	Y
01398	Dulverton	Y
01400	Honington	Y
01405	Goole	Y
01406	Holbeach	Y
01407	Holyhead	Y
01408	Golspie	Y
01409	Holsworthy	Y
01428	Haslemere	Y
01431	Helmsdale	Y
01433	Hathersage	Y
01435	Heathfield	Y
01436	Helensburgh	Y
01439	Helmsley	Y
01440	Haverhill	Y
01445	Gairloch	Y
01449	Stowmarket	Y
01450	Hawick	Y
01451	Stow-on-the-Wold	Y
01456	Glenurquhart	Y
01458	Glastonbury	Y
01461	Gretna	Y
01464	Insch	Y
01465	Girvan	Y
01466	Huntly	Y

01467	Inverurie	Y
01469	Killingholme	Y
01470	Isle of Skye - Edinbane	Y
01471	Isle of Skye - Broadford	Y
01477	Holmes Chapel	Y
01478	Isle of Skye – Portree	Y
01479	Grantown-on-Spey	Y
01485	Hunstanton	Y
01487	Warboys	Y
01488	Hungerford	Y
01490	Corwen	Y
01496	Port Ellen	Y
01497	Hay-on-Wye	Y
01499	Inveraray	Y
01501	Harthill	Y
01503	Looe	Y
01508	Brooke	Y
01520	Lochcarron	Y
01526	Martin	Y
01528	Laggan	Y
01529	Sleaford	Y
01531	Ledbury	Y
01538	Ipstones	Y
01540	Kingussie	Y
01542	Keith	Y
01544	Kington	Y
01545	Llanarth	Y
01546	Lochgilphead	Y
01547	Knighton	Y
01548	Kingsbridge	Y
01549	Lairg	Y
01550	Llandovery	Y
01554	Llanelli	Y
01555	Lanark	Y
01556	Castle Douglas	Y
01557	Kirkcudbright	Y
01558	Llandeilo	Y
01559	Llandyssul	Y
01560	Moscow	Y
01561	Laurencekirk	Y
01563	Kilmarnock	Y
01564	Lapworth	Y
01566	Launceston	Y
01567	Killin	Y
01568	Leominster	Y
01569	Stonehaven	Y
01570	Lampeter	Y
01571	Lochinver	Y
01572	Oakham	Y
01573	Kelso	Y
01575	Kirriemuir	Y
01576	Lockerbie	Y

Conserving geographic numbers statement

01577	Kinross	Y
01578	Lauder	Y
01579	Liskeard	Y
01581	New Luce	Y
01583	Carradale	Y
01584	Ludlow	Y
01586	Campbeltown	Y
01588	Bishops Castle	Y
01590	Lymington	Y
01591	Llanwrtyd Wells	Y
01593	Lybster	Y
01594	Lydney	Y
01595	Lerwick,Foula & Fair Isle	Y
01597	Llandrindod Wells	Y
01598	Lynton	Y
01599	Kyle	Y
01600	Monmouth	Y
01608	Chipping Norton	Y
01609	Northallerton	Y
01620	North Berwick	Y
01621	Maldon	Y
01626	Newton Abbot	Y
01630	Market Drayton	Y
01631	Oban	Y
01637	Newquay	Y
01641	Strathy	Y
01643	Minehead	Y
01644	New Galloway	Y
01646	Milford Haven	Y
01647	Moretonhampstead	Y
01650	Cemmaes Road	Y
01651	Oldmeldrum	Y
01652	Brigg	Y
01653	Malton	Y
01654	Machynlleth	Y
01655	Maybole	Y
01659	Sanquhar	Y
01661	Prudhoe	Y
01663	New Mills	Y
01664	Melton Mowbray	Y
01665	Alnwick	Y
01666	Malmesbury	Y
01667	Nairn	Y
01668	Barnburgh	Y
01669	Rothbury	Y
01671	Newton Stewart	Y
01672	Marlborough	Y
01673	Market Rasen	Y
01674	Montrose	Y
01675	Coleshill	Y
01676	Meriden	Y
01677	Bedale	Y

01678	Bala	Y
01680	Isle of Mull - Craignure	Y
01681	Isle of Mull - Fionnphort	Y
01683	Moffat	Y
01685	Merthyr Tydfil	Y
01687	Mallaig	Y
01688	Isle of Mull – Tobermory	Y
01690	Betws-y-Coed	Y
01691	Oswestry	Y
01692	North Walsham	Y
01694	Church Stretton	Y
01700	Rothesay	Y
01720	Isles of Scilly	Y
01721	Peebles	Y
01725	Rockbourne	Y
01728	Saxmundham	Y
01729	Settle	Y
01730	Petersfield	Y
01736	Penzance	Y
01740	Sedgefield	Y
01746	Bridgnorth	Y
01747	Shaftesbury	Y
01748	Richmond	Y
01749	Shepton Mallet	Y
01750	Selkirk	Y
01751	Pickering	Y
01754	Skegness	Y
01756	Skipton	Y
01757	Selby	Y
01758	Pwllheli	Y
01759	Pocklington	Y
01760	Swaffham	Y
01761	Temple Cloud	Y
01763	Royston	Y
01764	Crieff	Y
01765	Ripon	Y
01766	Porthmadog	Y
01767	Sandy	Y
01769	South Molton	Y
01770	Isle of Arran	Y
01771	Maud	Y
01775	Spalding	Y
01776	Stranraer	Y
01777	Retford	Y
01778	Bourne	Y
01779	Peterhead	Y
01780	Stamford	Y
01787	Sudbury	Y
01790	Spilsby	Y
01794	Romsey	Y
01796	Pitlochry	Y
01797	Rye	Y

Conserving geographic numbers statement

01798	Pulborough	Y
01799	Saffron Walden	Y
01805	Torrington	Y
01806	Shetland	Y
01807	Ballindalloch	Y
01808	Tomatin	Y
01809	Tomdoun	Y
01821	Kinrossie	Y
01822	Tavistock	Y
01824	Ruthin	Y
01825	Uckfield	Y
01828	Coupar Angus	Y
01829	Tarporley	Y
01830	Kirkwhelpington	Y
01832	Clopton	Y
01833	Barnard Castle	Y
01834	Narberth	Y
01835	St Boswells	Y
01837	Okehampton	Y
01838	Dalmally	Y
01840	Camelford	Y
01841	Newquay	Y
01842	Thetford	Y
01844	Thame	Y
01845	Thirsk	Y
01848	Thornhill	Y
01852	Kilmelford	Y
01854	Ullapool	Y
01855	Ballachulish	Y
01856	Orkney	Y
01857	Sanday	Y
01858	Market Harborough	Y
01859	Harris	Y
01862	Tain	Y
01863	Ardgay	Y
01864	Abington	Y
01866	Kilchrenan	Y
01869	Bicester	Y
01870	Isle of Benbecula	Y
01871	Castlebay	Y
01873	Abergavenny	Y
01874	Brecon	Y
01875	Tranent	Y
01876	Lochmaddy	Y
01877	Callandar	Y
01878	Lochboisdale	Y
01879	Scarinish	Y
01880	Tarbert	Y
01882	Kinloch Rannoch	Y
01883	Caterham	Y
01884	Tiverton	Y
01885	Pencombe	Y

01886	Bromyard	Y
01887	Aberfeldy	Y
01888	Turriff	Y
01889	Rugeley	Y
01896	Galashiels	Y
01899	Biggar	Y
01920	Ware	Y
01929	Wareham	Y
01931	Shap	Y
01938	Welshpool	Y
01939	Wem	Y
01943	Guiseley	Y
01944	West Heslerton	Y
01945	Wisbech	Y
01947	Whitby	Y
01948	Whitchurch	Y
01949	Whatton	Y
01950	Sandwick	Y
01951	Colonsay	Y
01953	Wymondham	Y
01954	Madingley	Y
01955	Wick	Y
01957	Mid Yell	Y
01959	Westerham	Y
01963	Wincanton	Y
01967	Strontian	Y
01968	Penicuik	Y
01969	Leyburn	Y
01970	Aberystwyth	Y
01971	Scourie	Y
01972	Glenborrodale	Y
01974	Llanon	Y
01980	Amesbury	Y
01981	Wormbridge	Y
01982	Builth Wells	Y
01984	Watchet	Y
01985	Warminster	Y
01986	Bungay	Y
01987	Ebbsfleet	Y
01988	Wigtown	Y
01989	Ross-on-Wye	Y
01993	Witney	Y
01994	St Clears	Y
01995	Garstang	Y
01997	Strathpeffer	Y

b)

2. In making the modifications, Ofcom have considered and acted in accordance with the six community requirements set out in section 4 of the Act and their duties in section 3 and 63 of the Act.
3. In this modification:

- the 'Act' means the Communications Act 2003;
 - 'the Director' means the Director General of Telecommunications as appointed under section 1 of the Telecommunication Act 1984;
 - 'General Condition 17' means General Condition 17 of the General Conditions of Entitlement set by the Director on 22 July 2003 pursuant to section 45 of the Act by way of publication of a Notification pursuant to section 48(2) of the Act;
 - 'Ofcom' means the Office of Communications;
 - 'the Numbering Plan' means the National Telephone Numbering Plan published by Ofcom from time to time pursuant to section 56 of the Act; and
 - 'Transitional Provisions' means section 408 and 411 of the Act, the Communications Act 2003 (commencement No 1) Order 2003 and the Office of Communication Act 2002 (Commencement No.3) and Communication Act 2003 (Commencement No 2) Order 2003.
4. Except in so far as the context otherwise require, words or expressions shall have the meaning assigned to them otherwise any word or expression shall have the meaning it has in the Act, or if it has no meaning there, in the Numbering Plan.
 5. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply as if this Modification were an Act of Parliament.
 6. Heading and titles shall be disregarded.

Signed by Daniel Gordon

Competition Policy Director

A person authorised on behalf of Ofcom under paragraph 18 of the Schedule of the Office of Communications Act 2002.

8 April 2010