

David Halliday
The Office of the Telecommunications Adjudicator
Riverside House,
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA

Cristina Luna-Esteban
Director, Consumer Policy
Direct line: 020 7981 3339
Email: Cristina.LunaEsteban@ofcom.org.uk

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Dear David,

Switching and porting

As you will be aware, the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) which comes into force in December 2020 contains provisions relating to switching and porting. Ofcom will consult on changes and additions to the General Conditions in due course but, recognising that developing new industry arrangements takes time, we want to encourage industry to commence work for fixed services as soon as possible.

We would like the OTA to convene and manage an industry working group to develop switching and porting processes in relation to fixed services in line with the new EECC requirements.

In particular, we would like the OTA to:

- convene a group representing the full range of industry – for example including newer or smaller network operators as well as incumbents, and smaller communications providers as well as the major ones;
- ensure wider industry, beyond those that participate directly in the working group, are updated on the groups work for example by publishing working group papers and summary notes;
- coordinate all elements of industry input and provide advice as necessary so any proposed solutions meet the requirement of the EECC;
- ensure that industry takes into account related initiatives (e.g. blockchain numbering trial) and technological developments (e.g. move to full fibre, transition to VoIP) so that any proposals are as future proof as possible;
- submit initial recommendations to Ofcom by 30 November 2019; and,
- continue work with industry on process development and implementation as agreed with Ofcom following the initial recommendations.

We have attached a briefing on the EECC requirements. I have asked [redacted] to arrange a meeting to discuss this request further and how Ofcom can best support it on an ongoing basis.

Yours sincerely,

Cristina Luna-Esteban

Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7981 3000
or +44 (0)300 123 3000

www.ofcom.org.uk