

Response to *Geographic telephone numbers: safeguarding the future of geographic numbers*

Submitted by: Earl, Mr D

Dear Ofcom,

With reference to shortage of numbers, why is it not simply possible to allocate additional area codes to areas with a number shortage?

Why would it matter, for example, if some numbers in Cambridge are 01223 and others are 02511 (say). There appear to be about 150 unused 01xxx area codes and thousands of 02xxx unused area codes. Surely it is not hard to understand that if you share the same area code you don't need to dial it, irrespective of where the callers are. Its not as if boundaries are all that meaningful. I have to dial area codes for some people who are geographically closer to me than others for which I don't.

But if you really want to have people dial the whole number including code, I do think it should be all or nothing so that there us a consistent method. If it is the case sometimes, then inevitably people will do it all the time because they don't know which areas it applies to, except possibly in one's home area. Dialling more digits is hardly a big deal: most commonly called numbers are in phone memories anyway, and those that aren't are in other areas as often as not. It just doesn't seem to buy you very much to do this compared to using additional areas codes.

Regards