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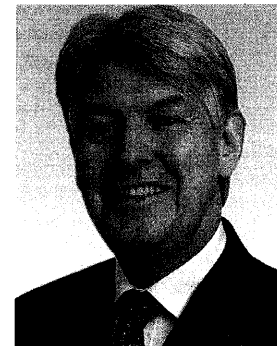
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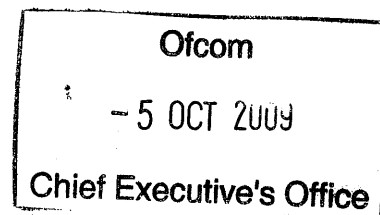
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MC/jw/Ofcom/consultation

28 September 2009

Ed Richards
Chief Executive
Ofcom
Riverside House
2A Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA



Dear Mr Richards

Ofcom Consultation on Mobile Number Portability

In August, Ofcom published a preliminary consultation which set out four possible options for reform of the current donor-led porting process in the UK.

- Option A: moving to a recipient-led process with porting completed within 2 hours.
- Option B: retaining a donor-led process but with porting completed within 2 hours
- Option C: moving to a recipient-led process with porting completed with next working day
- Option D: moving to a donor-led process but with porting completed the next working day

Having considered the options, I believe that only a recipient led system will deliver real consumer benefit. This would bring the UK into line with the rest of Europe and other major economies where consumers are not, in effect, required to ask their existing provider for permission to leave and take their mobile number with them. The UK system also requires consumers to wait two working days before they can 'port' their number. Forcing consumers to request the Porting Authorisation Code (PAC) from their existing provider and making them wait for two days limits the ability of consumers to exercise choice, diminishes competition in the market and only benefits larger incumbent operators.

The complicated UK system requires consumers to make at least two calls and arguably deters people from porting; only 16% of UK mobile phone owners have ported their number, compared to 44% in Australia, where porting takes just two hours and is recipient-led.

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I believe that Ofcom's consultation offers a unique opportunity to change this outdated system and give UK consumers the same rights as their European Counterparts.

I urge Ofcom to recommend Option A - moving to a recipient-led process with porting completed within 2 hours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Connarty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Connarty MP
Linlithgow and East Falkirk Constituency