

**Additional comments:**

**Question 1: Do you agree with the consumer harm identified from Communications Providers? ability to raise prices in fixed term contracts without the automatic right to terminate without penalty on the part of consumers?:**

Yes, this is extremely unfair. The contracts are heavily stacked against the consumer. We cannot leave the contract whether we discover that the service level is unsatisfactory or if they hike the prices, yet they can do whatever they like it seems.

**Question 2: Should consumers share the risk of Communications Providers? costs increasing or should Communications Providers bear that risk because they are better placed to assess the risks and take steps to mitigate them?:**

This should not be anything to do with the consumer. I am not aware of any other business where, as a customer or consumer, I have to bail out business mistakes by my suppliers. If they need to increase prices for my next order or contract then that is up to them and I have a choice as to whether or not I find another supplier. It is not fair to allow them to do this mid-contract.

**Question 3: Do you agree with the consumer harm identified from Communications Providers? inconsistent application of the ?material detriment? test in GC9.6 and the uncertainties associated with the UTCCRs?:**

**Question 4: Should Communications Providers be allowed (in the first instance) to unilaterally determine what constitutes material detriment or should Ofcom provide guidance?:**

Ofcom should provide guidance

**Question 5: What are your views on whether guidance would provide an adequate remedy for the consumer harm identified? Do you have a view as to how guidance could remedy the harm?:**

No actually, if guidance is used to allow them to effectively break contract to the detriment of the consumer then it should not be countenanced.

**Question 6: Do you agree with the consumer harm identified from the lack of transparency of price variation terms?:**

Yes

**Question 7: Do you agree that transparency alone would not provide adequate protection for consumers against the harm caused by price rises in fixed term contracts?:**

Yes

**Question 8: Do you agree that any regulatory intervention should protect consumers in respect of any increase in the price for services provided under a contract applicable at the time that contract is entered into by the consumer?**

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Yes

**Question 9: Do you agree that any regulatory intervention should apply to price increases in relation to all services or do you think that there are particular services which should be treated differently, for example, increases to the service charge for calls to non-geographical numbers?:**

All services

**Question 10: Do you agree that the harm identified from price rises in fixed term contracts applies to small business customers (as well as residential customers) but not larger businesses?:**

It applies to all customers regardless of size but small business owners are likely to be hit the hardest.

**Question 11: Do you agree that any regulatory intervention that we may take to protect customers from price rises in fixed term contracts should apply to residential and small business customers alike?:**

Yes

**Question 12: Do you agree that our definition of small business customers in the context of this consultation and any subsequent regulatory intervention should be consistent with the definition in section 52(6) of the Communications Act and in other parts of the General Conditions?:**

Yes

**Question 13: Do you agree that price rises due to the reasons referred to in paragraph 5.29 are outside a Communications Provider's control or ability to manage and therefore they should not be required to let consumers withdraw from the contract without penalty where price rises are as a result of one of these factors?:**

No. Fixed term is fixed term. We agree to these contracts taking a view to our economic future. If we lose work beyond our reasonable foresight this does not give us the opportunity to break contract or reduce what we will pay so the same logic must apply to both sides equally.

**Question 14: Except for the reasons referred to in paragraph 5.29, are there any other reasons for price increases that you would consider to be fully outside the control of Communications Providers or their ability to manage and therefore should not trigger the obligation on providers to allow consumers to exit the contract without penalty?:**

No. All variations within a fixed-term contract should annul the contract

**Question 15: Do you agree that Communications Providers are best placed to decide how they can communicate contract variations effectively with its consumers?:**

There should be no contract variations within the fixed-term

**Question 16: Do you agree with Ofcom's approach to liaise with providers informally at this stage, where appropriate, with suggestions for better practice where we identify that notifications could be improved?:**

No. You should protect the consumer instead of cosyng up to billion dollar multi-nationals and then create clear protection for the consumer through regulation.

**Question 17: What are your views on Ofcom's additional suggestions for best practice in relation to the notification of contractual variations as set out above? Do you have any further suggestions for best practice in relation to contract variation notifications to consumers?:**

Best practice? No variation.

Variation? Contract broken

Result? Consumer walks away if they so wish.

**Question 18: What are your views on the length of time that consumers should be given to cancel a contract without penalty in order to avoid a price rise? For consistency, should there be a set timescale to apply to all Communications Providers? :**

90 days from clear notification as set out by the Regulator

**Question 19: What are your views on whether there should be guidance which sets out the length of time that Communications Providers should allow consumers to exit the contract without penalty to avoid a price rise?:**

Not guidance. Regulation

**Question 20: Do you agree that this option to make no changes to the current regulatory framework is not a suitable option in light of the consumer harm identified in section 4 above?:**

Yes I agree that not changing the current regulatory framework is not a suitable option

**Question 21: Do you agree with Ofcom's analysis of option 2? If not, please explain your reasons.:**

No because there should simply be no potential for price variations within a fixed-term contract without annulling the contract. If this was the regulated system there is no need for any greater transparency

**Question 22: Do you agree with Ofcom's analysis of option 3? If not, please explain your reasons.:**

Yes

**Question 23: What are your views on option 4 to modify the General Condition to require Communications Providers to notify consumers of their ability to withdraw from the contract without penalty for any price increases?:**

I full-heartedly support option 4

**Question 24: Do you agree with Ofcom's assessment that option 4 is the most suitable option to address the consumer harm from price rises in fixed term contracts?:**

Yes

**Question 25: Do you agree that Ofcom's proposed modifications of GC9.6 would give the intended effect to option 4?:**

Yes

**Question 26: What are your views on the material detriment test in GC9.6 still applying to any non-price variations in the contract?:**

I disagree because, as stated by Ofcom in Option 4, changes to service levels can effectively be unit price rises. Any changes should trigger option 4

**Question 27: For our preferred option 4, do you agree that a three month implementation period for Communications Providers would be appropriate to comply with any new arrangements?:**

Yes

**Question 28: What are your views on any new regulatory requirement only applying to new contracts?:**

No, all contracts with more than 6 months to run