

Telephone Numbering

Proposals for modifications to the National Telephone Numbering Plan, General Condition 17 and the telephone number application forms within existing numbering policy

Consultation

31 August 2010

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Summary

- 1.1 Ofcom is proposing to modify the documents that we publish in order to fulfil our duties in relation to telephone numbering in Part 2 of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'). We are doing this to ensure that the documents are accurate and reflect current numbering policy in a consistent manner. No changes to policy or administrative processes are suggested and the proposals only directly relate to communications providers applying for the allocation of telephone numbers and the adoption of those numbers.
- 1.2 The proposed modifications are to the following documents, known collectively as 'the Numbering Documents':
 - the National Telephone Numbering Plan ('the Numbering Plan'), which sets out telephone numbers available for allocation and any restrictions on their adoption or use;¹
 - General Condition of Entitlement 17 ('the Numbering Condition'), which sets out general requirements relating to the allocation, adoption and use of telephone numbers, plus its annex, which sets out telephone numbers available for use or adoption in accordance with their designation;² and
 - the telephone number application forms ('the Numbering Application Forms'), which communications providers must complete when applying for the allocation of telephone numbers from Ofcom.³
- 1.3 The proposed modifications to the Numbering Documents relate to:
 - the addition of new numbers within existing designated numbering resource;
 - amendments to definitions;
 - deletion of obsolete text and numbers;
 - the correction of textual errors;
 - accurate classification of certain number ranges; and
 - ensuring consistent reflection of numbering policy across the Numbering Documents.
- 1.4 The reasons for the proposed modifications are explained in the body of this document and the specific text that we propose to modify in each document is set out in the annexes. Certain statutory procedures apply when we propose modifications to the Numbering Documents and this consultation follows those procedures.
- 1.5 We are seeking responses to the specific consultation questions set out in the document and general comments on our proposals by 5pm on 8 October 2010.

¹ The National Telephone Numbering Plan.

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/telecoms/numbering/numplan280710.pdf² The Numbering Condition is reproduced as an Annex to the Numbering Plan.

³ The Numbering Application Forms are accessed from our website at

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/telecoms/numbering/applying-activating-tele-no/applying-telenumbers/. The Numbering Application Forms are for communications provider use only and are password protected.

Introduction and background

2.1 Ofcom is responsible for the administration of the UK's telephone numbers. We do this as part of our regulation of the communications sector under the framework established by the Act. The Act transposes the European Union electronic communications regulatory framework into UK law. It provides, among other things, for the publication and modification of certain documents as part of our regulation of telephone numbers. The basis of these documents is explained below.

The Numbering Documents

The Numbering Plan

2.2 It is our duty, as required by section 56 of the Act, to publish a Numbering Plan setting out the telephone numbers available for allocation and any restrictions on how they may be adopted or used. We make the latest version of the Numbering Plan available on our website.⁴

The Numbering Condition

2.3 Section 58 of the Act provides for the setting of general conditions about the allocation and adoption of telephone numbers. The Numbering Condition sets out general requirements relating to the allocation, adoption and use of telephone numbers. Its annex sets out numbers available for use or adoption in accordance with their designation and without application to Ofcom. The latest version of the Numbering Condition is published as an annex to the Numbering Plan.

The Numbering Application Forms

2.4 The Numbering Condition requires Ofcom to make appropriate application forms available for communications providers to use when applying for the allocation of telephone numbers. It also requires communications providers to use the appropriate form and provide the information required when applying for numbers.

Modification of the Numbering Documents

- 2.5 The Act provides for us to review and revise the Numbering Documents and sets out the process we must follow to do this. In summary, we must consult on proposed modifications and set out how the proposals meet certain legal tests. Further information on the legal framework is provided at Annex 6.
- 2.6 The purpose of this consultation is to set out and consult on the modifications that we propose to make to the Numbering Documents within existing numbering policy in order to ensure that these documents are accurate and reflect current policy in a consistent manner.
- 2.7 The proposed modifications to each document are explained in sections 3 to 5. How we consider that the proposals meet the legal tests is set out in section 6, and the specific text that we propose to delete and insert in each document is set out in Annexes 7 to 9.

⁴The National Telephone Numbering Plan

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/telecoms/numbering/numplan280710.pdf

The Numbering Plan

Introduction

3.1 We are proposing a number of modifications to the Numbering Plan to ensure that it is consistent with current numbering policy and other Numbering Documents. The proposed modifications are explained below and set out in Annex 7.

Proposals to make more numbers available for allocation

3.2 We are proposing to add certain numbers to the Numbering Plan to make them available for allocation.

Assignment of location significance to additional numbers in the 0191 geographic area code for Tyneside, Durham and Sunderland

- 3.3 In the early 1980's, the geographic areas of Tyneside, Durham and Sunderland were united under the area code '091' (which become '0191' in 1995). This extended linking of areas under the same geographic area code provided a larger pool of numbers for Tyneside, Durham and Sunderland, and gave consumers the ability to dial numbers across the three areas without using the dialling code.
- 3.4 The geographic area code '0191' is designated in the Numbering Plan as covering the geographic areas of Tyneside, Durham and Sunderland. Specific location significance is provided by the first digit of the subscriber number following the 0191 code. The Numbering Plan has assigned the digits '2' to '6' to subscriber numbers in each of the specified areas. However, the digits '7' to '9' have yet to be assigned as subscriber numbers in Tyneside, Durham and Sunderland.
- 3.5 Demand for numbers in Tyneside, Durham and Sunderland continues to grow and a significant proportion of the numbers assigned with location significance for those areas has been allocated. In order to ensure the ongoing availability of numbers for allocation to communications providers, and to preserve the location significance provided by the first digit of the subscriber number that is valued by consumers, we propose to assign the digits '7' to '9' to subscriber numbers as set out below:
 - 0191 7 to Tyneside, in addition to 0191 2, 4, 6
 - 0191 8 to Sunderland, in addition to 0191 5
 - 0191 9 to Durham, in addition to 0191 3

Mobile Number Portability Codes

- 3.6 Mobile Number Portability ('MNP') is the facility by which consumers can retain their existing mobile telephone number while switching communications provider. To facilitate the MNP process, we make MNP codes available for allocation to mobile communications providers. MNP codes are used by donor providers (i.e. the communications provider to whom the block of mobile numbers containing the ported number is allocated) before onward routing calls to the ported mobile number and are used to identify the recipient provider (i.e. the communications provider to whom the number ported number is allocated).
- 3.7 The number of mobile communications providers that have been allocated mobile numbers by Ofcom increases each year and, as a result, the demand for codes to

facilitate MNP has also grown. We expect this demand to continue. As only ten MNP codes remain available for allocation we propose to make more available in order to facilitate the MNP process and benefit consumers by assisting industry in its provision of number portability.

- 3.8 In 2006,⁵ we consulted on the structure for MNP codes and decided that:
 - they should be in keeping with the NICC's⁶ recommended format of 4-digits for MNP codes; and
 - they should be in the format 76XX, with the corresponding 076XX block of numbers protected from allocation for use as paging numbers.
- 3.9 In keeping with the established format for MNP codes, we have selected 27 additional 76XX numbers that we propose to designate as MNP codes in the Numbering Plan. We have selected these numbers as the corresponding 076XX number blocks designated for paging services are not allocated and can be protected so as not to clash with the proposed MNP codes set out below:

7630 to 7639 inclusive 7650 to 7659 inclusive 7680 to 7681 inclusive 7694 to 7698 inclusive

Communications Provider Identification (CUPID) Codes

- 3.10 CUPID codes are used for administrative purposes as a means of identifying specific communications providers when requesting and using various electronic communications industry-related services. CUPID codes are set out in the Numbering Plan as 3-digit numbers from the range 000 to 999 inclusive. This gives us a total of 1,000 codes; however, only a third remains available for allocation.
- 3.11 Following discussion with representatives from BT,⁷ we understand that the type of service that requires the use of CUPID codes for administrative purposes has increased over time (e.g., providers of Wholesale Line Rental (WLR) 3 now require a CUPID code). As a result, there has been an increase in demand for CUPID codes. To ensure that we have sufficient resource, and are thereby able to support industry's processes for WLR3 and other administrative requirements for CUPID codes, we propose to increase the supply.
- 3.12 We have discussed the best way of making additional CUPID codes available with BT, given that BT makes the most administrative use of the codes. We found that BT uses its own 4-digit administrative code system and could therefore accommodate 4-digit CUPID codes. Given this, we propose to change the structure of CUPID codes to 4-digit numbers in the range 0000 to 9999 inclusive, thereby increasing the amount of codes from 1,000 to 10,000.

⁵ Supplying numbers for 09 premium rate services and codes to facilitate mobile number portability, consultation published 11 May 2006 and statement published 10 August 2006. http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/supply_numbers/?a=0

⁶ The NICC is a technical forum for the UK communications sector that develops interoperability standards for public communications networks and services in the UK. http://www.niccstandards.org.uk/

⁷ References to 'BT' mean British Telecommunications plc, whose registered company number is 1800000, and any of its subsidiaries or holding companies, or any subsidiary of such holding companies, all as defined in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006.

- 3.13 Under this proposal, existing 3-digit CUPID codes would have the digit '0' inserted at the front of the code and current allocations would remain in place.
- 3.14 We are proposing a similar amendment to the Numbering Application Form for CUPID codes (see paragraph 5.27).

Proposals to modify definitions and interpretations in the Numbering Plan

3.15 The Numbering Plan includes a 'Definitions and Interpretation' section for the purpose of interpreting the conditions within.

Definition of 'BT'

- 3.16 The Numbering Plan includes a definition of the company British Telecommunications plc ('BT'), as reference is made to BT in the designation of certain number ranges. Reference is also made to BT in certain Numbering Application Forms and the forms use the Numbering Plan's definition of words and expressions for interpretation.
- 3.17 The definition of 'BT' in the Numbering Plan refers to the Companies Act 1985, as amended by the Companies Act 1989. We propose to modify the definition to refer to the relevant section of the Companies Act in force, which is section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006.

Definition of 'Inbound Routing Codes'

- 3.18 We make available specific ranges of numbers to be used as network codes to facilitate the routing of calls. One such range is 'Inbound Routing Codes' (089930 to 089999 inclusive), which are used to facilitate the inbound routing of calls to UK geographic numbers that originate from outside the UK.
- 3.19 The definition of 'Inbound Routing Codes' in the Numbering Plan contains an error as it refers to the use of such codes to facilitate portability of geographic numbers. Portability of geographic numbers is the facility by which consumers can retain their existing geographic telephone number while switching communications provider. Inbound Routing Codes are not used for this purpose. We therefore propose to amend the current definition, replacing 'Portability' with 'routing' as set out in bold and strikethrough text below:

"Inbound Routing Code' means a Telephone Number Adopted or otherwise used for the **routing** Portability of Geographic Numbers to identify Electronic Communication Services, carriers and End-Users;".

Definition of Reseller Identification (RID) Codes

3.20 RID codes are used by the electronic communications industry for administrative purposes and to identify resellers of certain services. The definition of RID codes in the Numbering Plan states that they are used to identify those who resell Carrier Pre-Selection (CPS) services. However, RID codes are also used to identify resellers of WLR and Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) services and may be used to identify those who resell other wholesale services sold via BT.

- 3.21 On 3 May 2007, we published a statement⁸ updating the Numbering Application Form S18 for RID codes to extend their application to resellers of WLR and LLU services. We did not modify the Numbering Plan at that time to reflect the additional service use of RID codes.
- 3.22 Recognising that further additional wholesale services sold via BT may require the use of RID codes, we now propose to modify the definition of RID codes in the Numbering Plan to remove the specification of service as set out in bold and strikethrough text below:

"'Reseller Identification Code' means a three-character alphabetic Telephone Number (e.g., 'AAB') that is Adopted or otherwise used for administrative purposes to identify those who resell Carrier Pre-Selection wholesale services sold via BT".

3.23 We propose to make a similar amendment to Numbering Application Form 18 for RID codes (see paragraph 5.29).

Definition of BT's Standard National Call Retail Price

- 3.24 On 23 April 2009, we published a statement *Changes to 0870*⁹ that confirmed measures designed to improve pricing transparency and consumer protection for 0870 numbers. These measures included a modification to the designation of 0870 numbers in the Numbering Plan. The new 0870 regulations came into effect on 1 August 2009 and the Numbering Plan was modified accordingly to reflect the new 0870 designation.
- 3.25 The new designation for 0870 numbers no longer refers to 'BT's Standard National Call Retail Price'. The deletion of this reference in the designation of 0870 numbers means that there is no longer any reference to this pricing arrangement in the Numbering Plan. We therefore propose to delete the obsolete definition.

Interpretations section in the Numbering Plan

- 3.26 The Numbering Plan provides a section on interpretation of words and expressions used within. The first paragraph in the section contains a textual error, in that the Numbering Condition was published in Part 2 of the Schedule to the Notification by the Director on 22 July 2003 and not 24 July 2003 as stated.
- 3.27 In addition to correcting the text so as to refer to the actual publication date of the Numbering Condition, we also propose, in the definition of the Numbering Condition, to make reference to the Numbering Condition "as modified by Ofcom from time to time". This is to ensure that the interpretation of words and expressions are taken as defined in the Numbering Condition currently in force.

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the proposed modifications to the Numbering Plan?

⁸ Availability of numbering resource, statement published 3 May 2007 <u>http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/numresource/statement/statement.pdf</u> ⁹ Changes to 0870, statement published 23 April 2009 <u>http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/0870calls/</u>

The Numbering Condition

Introduction

4.1 We are proposing a number of modifications to the Numbering Condition to ensure that the designation of numbers in its Annex are consistent with our current policy and with other Numbering Documents. The proposed modifications are explained below and set out in Annex 8.

Freephone numbers in the 0500 and 0800 plus 6-digit ranges

4.2 The Annex to the Numbering Condition sets out numbers available for use, or where specified, for adoption.¹⁰ These numbers must be used in line with their designation as set out in the Numbering Condition. There are also specific restrictions applied to different numbers.

Restrictions on allocation and adoption

- 4.3 Section 5 of the Annex to the Numbering Condition sets out number ranges that are no longer available for allocation from Ofcom but which may be used by new and existing customers if already allocated (i.e., may still be adopted). This section currently includes the freephone 0500 and 0800 plus 6-digit number ranges.
- 4.4 Numbers in the 0500 and 0800 plus 6-digit ranges are no longer available for allocation from Ofcom as they are not in accordance with the Numbering Plan (the Numbering Plan designates 080 numbers in the '0' plus 10-digit format as 'Freephone Numbers'). However, in addition to not being available for allocation, freephone 0500 and 0800 plus 6-digit numbers are, in fact, no longer available for adoption (i.e. they may not be used to provide new services). They are, therefore, designated incorrectly at present. We propose to correct this by setting these two number ranges out in a new section 'Public Telephone Network Numbers not available for Allocation or Adoption' in the Annex to the Numbering Condition to ensure that the restrictions on adoption are clear.

Designation of 'Freephone Number'

4.5 The definition of 'Freephone Number' in the Numbering Plan is "a number that is reached free of charge to the Customer except where a charge is notified to the End-User at the start of the call". This definition is reflected in the designation of 0800 numbers but not 0500 numbers. Both are 'Freephone Numbers' and we therefore propose to modify the designation of the 0500 number range in the Annex to the Numbering Condition from "No charge to Caller" to "No charge to Customer (except where charges shall be notified to callers at the start of the call)" to reflect the definition of Freephone Number and to match the current designation of 0800 numbers. This modification is proposed alongside the setting out of the 0500 and 0800 6-digit number ranges in a new section in the Annex to the Numbering Condition entitled 'Public Telephone Network Numbers not available for Allocation or Adoption' as explained in paragraph 4.4.

¹⁰ The numbers set out in the Annex to the Numbering Condition are not available for allocation by Ofcom to specific communications providers, either because they are available for general use in line with their designation or because the number range is no longer open for new allocations.

4.6 This modification is proposed to ensure that the designation of 0500 numbers is consistent with the definition of Freephone Number in the Numbering Plan and reflects current policy. The proposal has no affect on any future proposals with regard to the definition of 'Freephone Number' and is not related to our review of non-geographic calls services.¹¹

Obsolete directory enquiry numbers

4.7 The Numbering Plan designates '118XXX' as 6-digit numbers used to access Directory Enquiry Facilities. Previous to 118XXX numbers, '153' was used to provide access to International Directory Enquiry Facilities and '192' was used to provide access to National Directory Enquiry Facilities. These numbers were in use until August 2003, followed by a period of network message provision regarding the new 118XXX numbers. Both numbers went out of service on 20 June 2004 and we therefore propose to delete '153' and '192' from the Annex to the Numbering Condition.

> Question 2: Do you have any comments on the proposed modifications to the Annex to the Numbering Condition?

¹¹ Further information on the review of non-geographic calls services is contained in the 'call for input' document published on 30 April 2010.

The Numbering Application Forms

5.1 We are proposing a number of modifications to the Numbering Application Forms to ensure that all forms are up-to-date, clear in the information that they request from communications providers applying for numbers and are consistent with our current policy and with other Numbering Documents. The proposed modifications are explained below and set out in Annex 9.

Proposed modifications to all or the majority of Numbering Application Forms

- 5.2 We make a series of Numbering Application Forms available for communications providers to use when applying to Ofcom for the allocation of telephone numbers. Specific forms are provided for different number ranges, totalling 16 forms currently. The forms are coded as 'SX', with 'X' denoting the Numbering Application Form number. We refer to the 'form number' in this document and a reference table for the form number and the form type is provided for reference at Annex 5.
- 5.3 Generally, we consult on modifications to the Numbering Application Forms as part of our consultation process for modifying numbering policy. This means that some forms associated with numbers that have not been subject to changes in policy have been in use for up to seven years without modification and contain some elements that require updating.

Definitions and Interpretations section

5.4 Each Numbering Application Form has a 'Definitions and Interpretation' section at the front, the first paragraph of which refers to the interpretation of words and expressions in accordance with the Numbering Plan. As mentioned, we modify the Numbering Plan from time to time following consultation. References to words and expressions in the Numbering Plan should be to the Numbering Plan currently in force. However, a number of forms refer to former versions of the Numbering Plan (e.g., the first version of the Numbering Plan published on 22 July 2003). Words and expressions used in the Numbering Plan may have been modified and therefore we are proposing that reference be made to the Numbering Plan as "published by Ofcom from time to time" rather than a specific version. This proposed modification relates to Forms S1, S3, S56 and S12 to S20.

Applicants' company details and application form reference

- 5.5 We are proposing to modify two sections on each Numbering Application Form to make it clearer for communications providers applying for numbers to provide us with the information that we require to process the applications efficiently.
- 5.6 The first proposal relates to making it a requirement for applicants to provide a reference on each Numbering Application Form if multiple applications are submitted (rather than the current optional requirement). This will aid our efficient assessment by alerting us to the need to cross-reference multiple applications.
- 5.7 In addition, we propose to set out the applicant details required for entry on each Numbering Application Form more clearly. We have found that the current layout results in some communications providers missing out required information, which can delay the processing of the application. We also propose to require provision of additional applicant information, in the form of the company's status (e.g.,

registered company, sole trader, partnership), Company House registered number if relevant and website address.

Reference to defunct voluntary register of providers of Public Electronic Communications Networks (PECNs)

- 5.8 In May 2003,¹² it was proposed that Ofcom would maintain a voluntary register of PECNs to facilitate the negotiation of interconnection rights and obligations between communications providers who provide PECNs. In line with this proposal for a voluntary PECN register, we included a section in the annex of each of the initial Numbering Application Forms asking applicants whether they were listed on this register.
- 5.9 In November 2004, we decided not to proceed with the creation of a voluntary PECN register.¹³ Numbering Application Forms that have been modified or introduced since November 2004 have not included a reference to the PECN register. However a number of forms have not been modified since that decision was taken and references to the defunct register remains in Sections A1 and/or A4 of the annex, which we are now proposing to remove from Forms S3, S56, S12 to S17, S19 and S20.

Proposed modifications to specific Numbering Application Forms

Form S7: mobile, personal and paging numbers beginning with '07'

- 5.10 The numbering ranges 071 to 075 and 077 to 079 are designated as numbers for 'Mobile Services' in the Numbering Plan.
- 5.11 The Numbering Application Form S7, which communications providers must complete in order to apply for an allocation of mobile numbers, lists available mobile service numbers as being from the ranges 075 and 077 to 079. We propose to add 071 to 074 to Form S7 to reflect the designation in the Numbering Plan and to make clear to applicants the number ranges used for mobile services.

Form S8: Special Services numbers beginning with '08'

- 5.12 Following consultation, we announced in February 2009¹⁴ that 087 numbers (with the exception of 0870 Non-Geographic Numbers) would formally be recognised as Premium Rate Services from 1 August 2009, putting them under the remit of PhonepayPlus' Code of Practice.
- 5.13 To ensure that applicants are aware that the promotion and content of services on these numbers is regulated by PhonepayPlus, we propose to add a paragraph to Form S8 setting out this information and advising that some services require prior permission. The proposed paragraph replicates that included on Form S9 for Special Services at a Premium Rate and the text is set out below:

¹²Guidelines for the interconnection of Public Electronic Communications Networks, statement published 23 May 2003.

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/archive/oftel/publications/eu_directives/2003/intercon0503.htm

¹³Discontinuation of conditions and directions continued in July 2003 from licences made under the *Telecommunications Act 1984, except for certain specific provisions,* statement published 11 November 2004.

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/Prop1984tele/statement/Discontinuation.pdf ¹⁴*Extending Premium Rate Services regulation to 0870 numbers*, statement published 5 February 2009. http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/087prs/statement/statement.pdf

"Please note that that the promotion and content of 'Special Services at a Premium Rate' is regulated by PhonepayPlus. This includes services provided on 087 (excluding 0870) numbers. Most services can be provided without PhonepayPlus' prior permission; however, some services that have been found to pose a greater risk to consumers, do require permission. More information on the services that do require prior permission can be found on PhonepayPlus' website at:

www.phonepayplus.org.uk/service_providers/setting_up_services/pri or_permission.asp".

Form S9: Special Services at a Premium Rate numbers beginning with '09'

090 and 091 sub-range designations

- 5.14 The numbering ranges '090' and '091' are designated in the Numbering Plan as "Special Services at a Premium Rate, that is charged at rates for Customers of BT which are generally either a) higher than 10p per minute up to and including £1.50 per minute including VAT, or b) fixed fee calls costing over 10p, up to and including £1.50 including VAT".
- 5.15 Some number ranges, including '090' and '091' Special Services at a Premium Rate numbers, are sub-divided according to service and/or tariff. These sub-ranges are not set out in the Numbering Plan but are provided for communications provider guidance on the relevant Numbering Application Form.
- 5.16 Form S9 includes the sub-range designations for '0911' but does not set out the sub-range designations for '0910' and '0912-0919' which, as stated in paragraph 5.14, have been designated for Special Services at a Premium Rate in the Numbering Plan. We propose to include these on Form S9 as follows:
 - 0910 and 0912 Special Services, time charged calls up to and including 60ppm and total call cost not greater than £5 or fixed fee up to £1 per call (all prices are for BT customers)
 - 0913 to 0919 Special Services, open ended time dependent charge or fixed fee up to £1.50 for BT customers

0907 'Pay for Product'

- 5.17 Form S9 includes the designation for '0907' sub-range of "Special Services pay for product that costs more than £1 in total for BT customers".
- 5.18 Number blocks available for allocation from the '0907' sub-range are now in limited supply. We have considered whether it remains appropriate to separate such services from general Special Services at a Premium Rate and whether it would be best use of numbers to designate a further sub-range for 'pay for product' services.
- 5.19 We have concluded that there is no obvious merit in retaining a distinct sub-range for 'pay-for-product' services. We have not allocated any new blocks from the '0907' range since January 2009 as recent requests for '09' numbers to provide services selling products such as ring-tones have requested blocks from the general Special Services open ended time dependent or fixed fee sub-ranges.
- 5.20 We are also concerned that multiple sub-ranges increase the lack of service and tariff transparency for consumers. Our previous consumer research has

demonstrated a lack of transparency associated with the '09' number range, meaning that consumers are not getting key information on services and/or tariffs from the Numbering Plan. In 2006, we found that only 29 per cent of residential consumers, when prompted, said that they recognised numbers beginning with '09'.¹⁵ Awareness of individual sub-ranges is likely to be much lower, given the complex structure involving a variety of services and tariffs.

- 5.21 Recognising that multiple sub-ranges can unnecessarily increase overall demand for numbers and reduce service and tariff transparency for consumers, we favour discontinuing the separation of 'pay for product' services. We have discussed this possibility with PhonepayPlus, who shared our view. We are therefore proposing to remove the 'pay for product' designation from the '0907' sub-range on Form S9, replacing it with the designation "Special Services, open ended time dependent charge or fixed fee up to £1.50 for BT customers", which is applied to the majority of '090' and '091' sub-ranges.
- 5.22 This modification is proposed to ensure that the designation of '090' and '091' numbers makes the best use of numbers within current numbering policy for subrange designation by service and/or tariff. The proposal has no affect on any future proposals with regard to '09' number range designations and is not related to our review of non-geographic calls services.

Adoption of existing telephone numbers

5.23 Numbering Application Forms request applicants to provide specific information so that we can determine whether the granting of the allocation request is appropriate. One piece of information required is details of adoption of existing allocations of related telephone numbers. However, the relevant section (Section 7) on Form S9 contains incorrect text, which makes it difficult for communications providers to interpret and complete the form appropriately. We are proposing to replace the incorrect text with the text used on the other Numbering Application Forms, which explains to applicants that they should provide utilisation figures for existing allocations.

Form S12: Number Portability Prefix Codes (NPPCs)

- 5.24 Form S12, which is provided for communications providers to apply for codes to facilitate Number Portability, makes reference to an Ofcom maintained Number Portability Functional Specification document.
- 5.25 In our statement in 2006 on Number Portability and technology neutrality,¹⁶ we decided that the detailed technical processes for portability should be owned by industry rather than Ofcom and that we would not continue to maintain the Number Portability Functional Specification. We also removed reference to the Functional Specification from the legal requirement for Number Portability (General Condition of Entitlement 18 on Number Portability).
- 5.26 Given the position regarding the Number Portability Functional Specification, we propose to remove reference to it from Form S12.

¹⁵ *Telephone Numbering: Safeguarding the future of numbers*, consultation published 23 February 2006 (see paragraphs 4.25 and 4.26).

http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/numberingreview/numbering.pdf ¹⁶ Number portability and technology neutrality, statement published 30 March 2006. http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/numport/statement/mod_statement.pdf

Form S17: Communications Provider Identity (CUPID) Codes

- 5.27 CUPID codes are administrative codes used to identify communications providers when requesting and using various electronic communications industry-related services. As explained in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.13, the type of services that make use of CUPID codes for administrative purposes has increased and, as a result, demand for codes has grown. We propose to increase supply by modifying the structure of CUPID codes in the Numbering Plan from 3- to 4-digit codes. We therefore propose to make a similar modification to the description of CUPID codes in Form S17.
- 5.28 The increased range of services that may refer to CUPID codes means that some applicants may not be providers of a Public Electronic Communications Network or Service. To cover such cases, we propose to include a question requesting the reason for the application if the applicant is not a provider of a PECN or a PECS and to instruct the applicant that completion of the Form S17 Annex (which requests deals of the PECN or PECS provided) is not required. We also propose to delete the redundant question on national or regional provision of service.

Form S18: Reseller Identification (RID) codes

- 5.29 RID codes are administrative codes used to identify resellers of certain services. Form S18 states that RID codes may be used to identify resellers of Carrier Pre-Selection (CPS), Wholesale Line Rental (WLR) and Local Loop Unbundling (LLU) services. We recognise that RID codes may be required to identify resellers of other wholesale services sold via BT. We therefore propose to modify Form S18 to remove the reference to specific services for which RID codes may be used for administration processes.
- 5.30 We are making a similar proposal for a modification to the definition of RID codes in the Numbering Plan (see paragraphs 3.20 to 3.22).

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the proposed modifications to the Numbering Application Forms?

Review of proposed modifications to the Numbering Documents

Introduction

- 6.1 The preceding sections have explained a series of modifications that we propose to make to the Numbering Documents. As stated, the proposals do not represent any changes to numbering policy or administrative processes. We consider that the proposals only directly relate to communications providers applying for the allocation of telephone numbers and the adoption of those numbers.
- 6.2 Due to the nature of the proposed modifications being within existing numbering policy, we do not foresee any impact on stakeholders as a result of the proposals' implementation. The outcome of our proposals would serve to clarify policy and processes for communications providers and would contribute to the effective and efficient use of numbers. For these reasons, we have not conducted an impact assessment in relation to the proposals contained in this document.
- 6.3 The various legal tests and duties, and how we have complied with them in consulting on the proposals, are set out below.

Legal tests

- 6.4 It is our duty, when proposing modifications to the Numbering Documents, to show how we consider that our proposals comply with the legal tests set out in section 60(2) of the Act in relation to modifications to the Numbering Plan; in section 47(2) of the Act in relation to modifications to the Numbering Condition; and in section 49(2) of the Act in relation to modifications to the Numbering Application Forms.
- 6.5 We are satisfied that the proposed modifications meet the tests being:

objectively justifiable, because they will ensure that the Numbering Documents that we are required to publish as part of our administration of the UK's telephone numbers are accurate and reflect current policy in a consistent manner;

not unduly discriminatory, in that all communications providers would be subject to the proposed modifications to the Numbering Documents;

proportionate, in that the proposed modifications to the Numbering Documents are the minimum necessary to ensure that current numbering policy is consistently and accurately reflected in the Numbering Documents and thereby communicated to communications providers; and

transparent, in that the proposed modifications are explained in this document and the text that we propose to delete and insert in the Numbering Documents is set out in the Schedules to the Notifications in Annexes 7 to 9 of this document.

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

securing the best use of appropriate numbers, in that the proposed modifications would ensure that policy on the best use of numbers is reflected in a

consistent and accurate manner across the Numbering Documents, including the setting out of numbers available for allocation and their relevant designations; and

encouraging efficiency and innovation, in that the proposed modifications ensure that communications providers may access consistent and accurate information with regard to the allocation, adoption and use of telephone numbers, which supports efficiency and facilitates innovation.

- 6.7 We consider that our proposals to modify the Numbering Documents are consistent with our general duties in carrying out our functions as set out in section 3 of the Act. In particular, we consider that the proposals further the interests of citizens in relation to communications matters and consumers in relevant markets by ensuring that current numbering policy and administration processes are accurately and consistently reflected in the Numbering Documents, thus facilitating communications providers in their provision of communications services to consumers.
- 6.8 In proposing the modifications, we have also considered the Community obligations set out in section 4 of the Act, particularly the first requirement to promote competition in the provision of electronic communications networks, services and associated facilities. The proposed modifications will facilitate such provision by ensuring that the Numbering Documents provide an accurate and clear representation of numbering policy and administrative processes.

Notifications of proposed modifications to the Numbering Documents

6.9 The Notifications of the proposed modifications to the Numbering Plan, the Numbering Condition and the Numbering Application Forms are set out in Annexes 7 to 9 of this consultation document.

Next steps

6.10 The deadline for responses to this consultation is 8 October 2010. Taking into account all submissions received by that date, we will decide whether to implement the modifications (either as proposed or with amendments). We expect to publish our statement on our proposed modifications to the Numbering Documents in the autumn.

Responding to this consultation

How to respond

- A1.1 Ofcom invites written views and comments on the issues raised in this document, to be made **by 5pm on 8 October 2010**.
- A1.2 Ofcom strongly prefers to receive responses using the online web form at http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/telephone-numbering/, as this helps us to process the responses quickly and efficiently. We would also be grateful if you could assist us by completing a response cover sheet (see Annex 3), to indicate whether or not there are confidentiality issues. This response coversheet is incorporated into the online web form questionnaire.
- A1.3 For larger consultation responses particularly those with supporting charts, tables or other data - please email elizabeth.greenberg@ofcom.org.uk attaching your response in Microsoft Word format, together with a consultation response coversheet.
- A1.4 Responses may alternatively be posted or faxed to the address below, marked with the title of the consultation.

Elizabeth Greenberg Ofcom 4th Floor Competition Group Riverside House 2A Southwark Bridge Road London SE1 9HA

Fax: 020 7783 4109

- A1.5 Note that we do not need a hard copy in addition to an electronic version. Ofcom will acknowledge receipt of responses if they are submitted using the online web form but not otherwise.
- A1.6 It would be helpful if your response could include direct answers to the questions asked in this document, which are listed together at Annex 4. It would also help if you can explain why you hold your views and how Ofcom's proposals would impact on you.

Further information

A1.7 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, or need advice on the appropriate form of response, please contact Elizabeth Greenberg on 020 7783 4163.

Confidentiality

A1.8 We believe it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views expressed by consultation respondents. We will therefore usually publish all responses on our website, www.ofcom.org.uk, ideally on receipt. If you think your response should be kept confidential, can you please specify what part or whether

all of your response should be kept confidential, and specify why. Please also place such parts in a separate annex.

- A1.9 If someone asks us to keep part or all of a response confidential, we will treat this request seriously and will try to respect this. But sometimes we will need to publish all responses, including those that are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations.
- A1.10 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Our approach on intellectual property rights is explained further on our website at http://www.ofcom.org.uk/about/accoun/disclaimer/

Next steps

- A1.11 Following the end of the consultation period, we intend to publish a statement in autumn 2010.
- A1.12 Please note that you can register to receive free mail Updates alerting you to the publications of relevant Ofcom documents. For more details please see: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/select_list.htm

Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.13 Ofcom seeks to ensure that responding to a consultation is easy as possible. For more information please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.14 If you have any comments or suggestions on how Ofcom conducts its consultations, please call our consultation helpdesk on 020 7981 3003 or e-mail us at consult@ofcom.org.uk . We would particularly welcome thoughts on how Ofcom could more effectively seek the views of those groups or individuals, such as small businesses or particular types of residential consumers, who are less likely to give their opinions through a formal consultation.
- A1.15 If you would like to discuss these issues or our consultation processes more generally you can alternatively contact Vicki Nash, Director Scotland, who is Ofcom's consultation champion:

Vicki Nash Ofcom Sutherland House 149 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5NW

Tel: 0141 229 7401 Fax: 0141 229 7433

Email vicki.nash@ofcom.org.uk

Ofcom's consultation principles

A2.1 Of com has published the following seven principles that it will follow for each public written consultation:

Before the consultation

A2.2 Where possible, we will hold informal talks with people and organisations before announcing a big consultation to find out whether we are thinking in the right direction. If we do not have enough time to do this, we will hold an open meeting to explain our proposals shortly after announcing the consultation.

During the consultation

- A2.3 We will be clear about who we are consulting, why, on what questions and for how long.
- A2.4 We will make the consultation document as short and simple as possible with a summary of no more than two pages. We will try to make it as easy as possible to give us a written response. If the consultation is complicated, we may provide a shortened Plain English Guide for smaller organisations or individuals who would otherwise not be able to spare the time to share their views.
- A2.5 We will consult for up to 10 weeks depending on the potential impact of our proposals.¹⁷
- A2.6 A person within Ofcom will be in charge of making sure we follow our own guidelines and reach out to the largest number of people and organisations interested in the outcome of our decisions. Ofcom's 'Consultation Champion' will also be the main person to contact with views on the way we run our consultations (see paragraph A1.15).
- A2.7 If we are not able to follow one of these principles, we will explain why.

After the consultation

A2.8 We think it is important for everyone interested in an issue to see the views of others during a consultation. We would usually publish all the responses we have received on our website. In our statement, we will give reasons for our decisions and will give an account of how the views of those concerned helped shape those decisions.

¹⁷ This consultation will last for six weeks. In line with our consultation guidelines (see <u>http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/how-will-ofcom-consult</u>), we have classified this as a Category 3 consultation. This is because the proposals are only limited amendments to existing policy or regulation. Category 3 consultations generally last for one month. We have added an additional two weeks to take account of the summer period.

Consultation response cover sheet

- A3.1 In the interests of transparency and good regulatory practice, we will publish all consultation responses in full on our website <u>www.ofcom.org.uk</u>.
- A3.2 We have produced a coversheet for responses (see below) and would be very grateful if you could send one with your response (this is incorporated into the online web form if you respond in this way). This will speed up our processing of responses, and help to maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- A3.3 The quality of consultation can be enhanced by publishing responses before the consultation period closes. In particular, this can help those individuals and organisations with limited resources or familiarity with the issues to respond in a more informed way. Therefore we encourage respondents to complete their coversheet in a way that allows us to publish their responses upon receipt, rather than waiting until the consultation period has ended.
- A3.4 We strongly prefer to receive responses via the online web form which incorporates the coversheet. If you are responding via email, post or fax you can download an electronic copy of this coversheet in Word or RTF format from the 'Consultations' section of our website at <u>www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/</u>.
- A3.5 Please put any parts of your response you consider should be kept confidential in a separate annex to your response and include your reasons why this part of your response should not be published. This can include information such as your personal background and experience. If you want your name, address, other contact details, or job title to remain confidential, please provide them in your cover sheet only, so that we don't have to edit your response.

Cover sheet for response to an Ofcom consultation

BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title: Telephone Numbering: proposals for modifications to the National Telephone Numbering Plan, General Condition 17 and the telephone number application forms within existing policy

To (Ofcom contact): Elizabeth Greenberg

Name of respondent:

Representing (self or organisation/s):

Address (if not received by email):

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please tick below what part of your response you consider is confidential, giving your reasons why

Nothing	Name/contact details/job title	
Whole response	Organisation	
Part of the response	If there is no separate annex, which p	oarts?
	our name or your organisation not to be contents of your response (including,	

Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response that Ofcom can publish. However, in supplying this response, I understand that Ofcom may need to publish all responses, including those which are marked as confidential, in order to meet legal obligations. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom seeks to publish responses on receipt. If your response is	
non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to	
publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.	

Name

Signed (if hard copy)

Consultation questions

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the proposed modifications to the Numbering Plan?

Question 2: Do you have any comments on the proposed modifications to the Numbering Condition?

Question 3: Do you have any comments on the proposed modifications to the Numbering Application Forms?

Numbering Application Form codes

- A5.1 We make a series of Numbering Application Forms available on our website¹⁸ for communications providers to complete when applying for the allocation of numbers from Ofcom. The forms currently available are set out below for reference:
 - Form S1 Geographic numbers (numbers starting with '01/02')
 - Form S3 UK Wide Numbers (numbers starting with '03')
 - Form S56 Location Independent Electronic Communications Service (numbers starting with '056')
 - Form S7 Personal Numbering, Radiopaging and Mobile numbers (numbers starting with '07')
 - Form S8 Special Services (numbers starting with '08')
 - Form S9 Special Services at a Premium Rate (numbers starting with '09')
 - Form S10 Access Codes (e.g. Directory Enquiry (DQ), Indirect Access, etc.)
 - Form S12 Number Portability Prefix Codes (NPPCs)
 - Form S13 Targeted Transit Codes
 - Form S14 National Signalling Point Codes (NSPCs)
 - Form S15 International Signalling Point Codes (ISPCs)
 - Form S16 Carrier Pre-Selection (CPS) Codes
 - Form S17 Communications Provider Identity (CUPID) Codes
 - Form S18 Reseller Identity Codes (RIDs)
 - Form S19 Mobile Network Codes (MNCs)
 - Form S20 Partial Calling Line Identity (PCLI) Codes

¹⁸ The Numbering Application Forms are available via password on our website at <u>http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/telecoms/numbering/applying-activating-tele-no/applying-tele-numbers/number-application-form-link/</u> Communications Providers may register with the Numbering Team at

<u>numbering.applications@ofcom.org.uk</u> to obtain the access password for the Numbering Application Forms.

Legal framework

The legal framework

A6.1 Ofcom regulates the communications sector under the framework established by the Communication Act 2003 (the "Act"). The Act provides, among other things in relation to numbering, for the publication of the National Telephone Numbering Plan (the "Numbering Plan") and the setting of General Conditions of Entitlement relating to Telephone Numbers ("Numbering Condition"). It also sets out statutory procedures governing the modification of the Numbering Plan and any General Conditions, as well as the giving of directions under conditions such as the Numbering Condition, for instance in relation to application forms for telephone numbers.

The Numbering Plan

A6.2 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."
- A6.3 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 to 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."

A6.4 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 revisions is -

a) objectively justifiable in relation to the matter 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 is intended to achieve, transparent."
- A6.5 Section 60(3) further 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 proposals."

The Numbering Condition

A6.6 Section 45 of the Act gives Ofcom the power to set conditions:

"(1) Ofcom shall have the power to set conditions under this section binding the persons to whom they are applied in accordance with section 46;

(2) A condition set by Ofcom under this section must be either -

- (a) a general condition...."
- A6.7 Section 58 of the Act states that general conditions may include conditions about the allocation and adoption of numbers, including conditions which impose restrictions on and requirements in connection with the adoption of telephone numbers by a communications provider.
- A6.8 Section 47 of the Act sets out the test for setting and modifying conditions, while section 48 sets out the procedures for setting, modifying and revoking conditions which includes the publication of a notification setting out the modifications.
- A6.9 The test set out in section 47(2) is that the condition or modification is:

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

(b) not such 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 is intended to achieve, transparent."

The Numbering Application Forms

A6.10 The General Conditions Notification that took effect on 25 July 2003 includes General Condition 17, which contains provisions relating to the allocation, adoption and use of telephone numbers.

A6.11 Clause 17.9 states that:

"When applying for an Allocation or Reservation of Telephone Numbers, the Communications Provider shall:

(a) use an appropriate application form as directed by the Director from time to time as he thinks fit;

(b) provide such information as is required by such application form (...)

- A6.12 By virtue of the Transitional Provisions, references to the Director in the Numbering Condition should read as references to Ofcom.
- A6.13 Section 49(4) further provides that:

"Before the direction, approval or consent is given, modified or withdrawn, a notification must be published -

- a) stating that there is a proposal to give, modify or withdraw it;
- b) identifying the person whose proposal it is;

c) setting out the direction, approval or consent to which the proposal relates;

d) setting out the effect of the direction, approval or consent or of its proposed modification or withdrawal;

e) giving reasons for the making of the proposal; and

f) specifying the period within which representations may be made about the proposals to the person whose proposal it is."

Ofcom's general duty as to telephone numbering functions

A6.14 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 to use as telephone numbers; and

b) to encourage efficiency and innovation for that purpose."

General duties of Ofcom

A6.15 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

A6.16 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.

Notification of proposed modification to the provisions of the Numbering Plan under section 60(3) of the Act

- 1. Of com, in accordance with section 60 of the Act, hereby makes the following proposals for a modification to the provisions of the Numbering Plan.
- 2. The Condition has effect by reference to provisions of the Numbering Plan.
- 3. The draft modification to the Numbering Plan is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
- 4. The reasons for making the proposal and the effect of the modifications are set out in the accompanying consultation document.
- 5. Of com considers that the proposed modification complies with the requirements in section 60(2) of the Act.
- 6. In making the proposals referred to above Ofcom have considered and acted in accordance with the six Community requirements in section 4 of the Act as well as performed their general duties under section 3 of the Act and their duty as to telephone numbering in section 63 of the Act.
- 7. Representations may be made to Ofcom about the proposal by 5pm on 8 October 2010.
- 8. Copies of the Notification have been made available to the Secretary of State.
- 9. In this Notification-
- 'Act' means the Communications Act 2003;
- 'Condition' means General Condition 17 of the General Conditions of Entitlement set by the Director by way of publication of a Notification on 22 July 2003;
- 'Ofcom' means the Office of Communications; and
- 'Numbering Plan' means the National Telephone Numbering Plan published by Ofcom from time to time.

Signed by

Daniel Gordon Competition Policy Director

A person authorised by Ofcom under paragraph 18 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2003

31 August 2010

Draft Schedule

Deletions

A. The following text shall be deleted from paragraph 1 of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' section:-

'BT' means British Telecommunications plc, whose registered company number is 1800000, and any of its subsidiaries or holding companies, or any subsidiary of such holding companies, all as defined by section 736 of the Companies Act 1985, as amended by the Companies Act 1989;

'BT's Standard National Call Retail Price' means the retail price for a National Call made by BT customers which operates as the standard retail price before the application of calling packages and discounts as shown on BT's retail price list;

'Inbound Routing Code' means a Telephone Number Adopted or otherwise used for the Portability of Geographic Numbers to identify Electronic Communication Services, carriers and End-Users;

'Reseller Identification Code' means a three-character alphabetic Telephone Number (eg, 'AAB') that is Adopted or otherwise used for administrative purposes to identify those who resell Carrier Pre-Selection;

B. The following text shall be deleted from paragraph 2 of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' section:-

(i) in General Condition 17 (entitled 'Allocation, Adoption and Use of Telephone Numbers') in Part 2 of the Schedule to the Notification published by the Director on 24 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act;

(ii) if, and only if, it has no meaning ascribed as mentioned in (i) above, and only if the context so permits, in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of the Schedule to the Notification published by the Director on 24 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act;

C. The following text shall be deleted from 'Part A Section A3: Network Codes':

7603 to 7622 inclusive	Mobile Number Portability Codes
7682 to 7692 inclusive	
7991 to 7998 inclusive	

D. The following text shall be deleted from 'Part A Section A4: Administrative Codes':

000 to 999 inclusive	Communications Provider Identification
	Codes

E. The following text shall be deleted from 'Appendix A: Geographic Numbering – Geographic Area Codes and applicable Geographic Area':-

0191	Tyneside (2,4,6)
	Durham (3)
	Sunderland (5)

Insertions

F. The following text shall be inserted in alphabetical order in paragraph 1 of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' section:-

'BT' means British Telecommunications plc, whose registered company number is 1800000, and any of its subsidiaries or holding companies, or any subsidiary of such holding companies, all as defined in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;

'Inbound Routing Code' means a Telephone Number Adopted or otherwise used for the routing of Geographic Numbers to identify Electronic Communication Services, carriers and End-Users;

'Reseller Identification Code' means a three-character alphabetic Telephone Number (e.g., 'AAB') that is Adopted or otherwise used for administrative purposes to identify those who resell wholesale services sold via BT;

G. The following text shall be inserted numerically by sub-section in paragraph 2 of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' section:-

(i) in General Condition 17 (entitled 'Allocation, Adoption and Use of Telephone Numbers') in Part 2 of the Schedule to the Notification published by the Director on 22 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act and modified by Ofcom from time to time;

(ii) if, and only if, it has no meaning ascribed as mentioned in (i) above, and only if the context so permits, in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of the Schedule to the Notification published by the Director on 22 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act and modified by Ofcom from time to time;

H. The following text shall be inserted numerically in 'Part A Section A3: Network Codes':

7603 to 7622 inclusive	Mobile Number Portability Codes
7630 to 7639 inclusive	
7650 to 7659 inclusive	
7680 to 7692 inclusive	
7694 to 7698 inclusive	
7991 to 7998 inclusive	

I. The following text shall be inserted numerically in 'Part A Section A4: Administrative Codes':

0000 to 9999 inclusive	Communications Provider Identification
	Codes

J. The following text shall be inserted numerically in 'Appendix A: Geographic Numbering – Geographic Area Codes and applicable Geographic Area':-

0191	Tyneside (2,4,6,7) Durham (3,9)
	Sunderland (5,8)

Notification of proposed modification to the provisions of General Condition of Entitlement 17 under section 48(2) of the Act

Proposal for modification of General Condition 17 on Allocation, Adoption and Use of telephone numbers which is set out in the Schedule to the Notification under section 48(1) of the Communications Act 2003 published by the Director General of Telecommunications on 22 July 2003 and modified by Ofcom from time to time

1. Ofcom, in accordance with section 48(2) of the Act, hereby makes the following proposals for the modification of General Condition 17 on allocation, adoption and use of telephone numbers.

2. The draft modification is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.

3. The reasons for making the proposal and the effect of the modifications are set out in the accompanying consultation document.

4. Ofcom considers that the proposed modifications comply with the requirements in sections 45 to 50 of the Act, as appropriate.

5. In making the proposals set out in this Notification, Ofcom have considered and acted in accordance with the six Community requirements in section 4 of the Act as well as performed their general duties under section 3 of the Act and their duty as to telephone numbering in section 63 of the Act.

6. Representations may be made to Ofcom about the proposal by 8 October 2010.

7. Copies of the Notification have been made available to the Secretary of State.

8. In this Notification:-

- 'Act' means the Communications Act 2003;
- 'Condition' means General Condition 17 of the General Conditions of Entitlement set by the Director by way of publication of a Notification on 22 July 2003;
- 'Ofcom' means the Office of Communications; and
- 'Numbering Plan' means the National Telephone Numbering Plan published from time to time by Ofcom.

9. Except insofar as the context otherwise required, words or expressions shall have the meaning assigned to them in this Notification. Otherwise any word or expression shall have the same meaning as it has in the Act. For the purposes of interpreting this Notification:

(i) headings and title are to be disregarded;

(ii) the Interpretation Act 1978 applies as if this Notification were an Act of Parliament.

Signed by

Daniel Gordon Competition Policy Director

A person authorised by Ofcom under paragraph 18 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2002.

31 August 2010

Draft Schedule

Deletions

A. The following text shall be deleted from 'Section 1: Public Telephone Network Numbers' in the Annex to the Numbering Condition:-

153*	Access to International Directory Enquiry Facilities until 12.01am on 24 August 2003 (Type A Access Code). From 24 August 2003 until 12.01am 20 June 2004, access to a network message only, advising that Directory Enquiry Facility numbers have changed to 6-digit numbers starting with 118 and advising where the caller may obtain information about the new 118 International Directory Enquiry Facility numbers. This advice must be a freephone number open to all 118 service providers where the caller is given at least one appropriate 118 number on a fair and impartial basis. A specific number may not be provided. The network message must be free-to-caller. (Type A Access Code). Deleted after 12.01am 20 June 2004.
192*	Access to National Directory Enquiry Facilities until 12.01am on 24 August 2003 (Type A Access Code). From 24 August 2003 until 12.01am 20 June 2004, access to a network message only, advising that Directory Enquiry Facility numbers have changed to 6-digit numbers starting with 118 and advising where the caller may obtain information about the new 118 National Directory Enquiry Facility numbers. This advice must be a freephone number open to all 118 service providers where the caller is given at least one appropriate 118 number on a fair and impartial basis. A specific number may not be provided. The network message must be free-to- caller. (Type A Access Code). Deleted after 10.01am 20 June 2004.

B. The following text shall be deleted from 'Section 5: Public Telephone Network Numbers not available for Allocation but which can be Adopted where already Allocated' in the Annex to the Numbering Condition:-

0500	No charge to Caller
0800 (plus 6-digits)	Special Services – No charge to caller (except where charges shall be notified to callers at the start of the call)
0908 and 0909	<i>From 9 November 2007</i> Sexual Entertainment Services at a Premium Rate

Insertions

C. The following text shall be inserted numerically in 'Section 5: Public Telephone Network Numbers not available for Allocation but which can be Adopted where already Allocated' in the Annex to the Numbering Condition:-

0908 and 0909	Sexual Entertainment Services at a Premium Rate

D. The following text shall be inserted in a new 'Section 6: Public Telephone Network Numbers not available for Allocation or Adoption' in the Annex to the Numbering Condition:-

6. Public Telephone Network Numbers not available for Allocation or Adoption		
Numbers beginning	Designation	
0500	Special Services – No charge to caller (except where charges shall be notified to callers at the start of the call)	
0800 (plus 6-digit)	Special Services – No charge to caller (except where charges shall be notified to callers at the start of the call)	

Notification of proposed modification to the provisions of the numbering application forms under section 49(4) of the Act

Proposal for making a Direction under paragraph 17.9(a) of General Condition 17 relating to numbering application forms

- 1. Of com hereby makes the following proposal for a Direction to be given under paragraph 17.9(a) of General Condition 17.
- 2. The draft Direction is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
- 3. The reasons for making the proposal and the effect of the draft Direction are set out in the accompanying consultation document.
- 4. Representations may be made to Ofcom about the proposed draft Direction **by 5pm on 8 October 2010**.
- 5. Copies of this Notification have been made available to the Secretary of State.
- 6. Except as otherwise defined in this Notification, words or expressions used shall have the same meaning as they have been ascribed in the Act.
- 7. In this Notification:
 - "Act" means the Communications Act 2003;
 - "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(1) of the Act;
 - "Director" means the Director General of Telecommunications as appointed under section 1 of the Telecommunications Act 1994; and
 - "Ofcom" means the Office of Communications.

Signed by Daniel Gordon

Competition Policy Director

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

31 August 2010

Schedule

Draft Direction under paragraph 17.9(a) of General Condition 17

WHEREAS-

- A. paragraph 17.9(a) of General Condition 17 provides that when applying for an Allocation or reservation of Telephone Numbers, the Communications Provider shall use an appropriate application form as directed by the Director from time to time as he thinks fit;
- **B.** by virtue of the Transitional Provisions, references to the Director in General Condition 17 should be read as references to Ofcom;
- **C.** for the reasons set out in the Statement accompanying this Direction, Ofcom are satisfied that the modifications to the numbering application forms in the Annex to this Direction ensure that the numbering application forms are appropriate for use by Communications Providers when applying for an Allocation or reservation of Telephone Numbers;
- **D.** for the reasons set out in the Statement accompanying this Direction Ofcom are satisfied that, in accordance with section 49(2) of the Act, this Direction is:

objectively justifiable in relation to the networks, services, facilities, apparatus or directories to which it relates;

not such as to discriminate unduly against particular persons or against a particular description of persons;

proportionate to what it is intended to achieve; and

in relation to what it is intended to achieve, transparent.

- E. for the reasons set out in the Statement accompanying this Direction Ofcom are satisfied that they have acted in accordance with the relevant duties set out in sections 3 and 4 of the Act;
- **F.** a notification of a proposal to give this Direction was given under section 49(4) of the Act on 31 August 2010 (the 'Notification');
- **G**. a copy of the Notification was made available to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 50(1)(b) of the Act;
- H. in the Notification and accompanying consultation document Ofcom invited representations about any of the proposals therein **by 5pm 8 October 2010**;
- I. by virtue of section 49(9) of the Act, Ofcom may give effect to the proposal set out in the Notification, with or without Modification, only if-

i. they have considered every representation about the proposal that is made to them within the period specified in the notification; and

ii. 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 X 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 49 of the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, OFCOM PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 17.9(a) OF GENERAL CONDITION 17, HEREBY DIRECT THAT-

- 1. Of com in accordance with Condition 17.9(a) hereby direct that for the time being the numbering application forms modified as set out in the Annex to this Direction shall be used by Communications Providers when applying for an Allocation of telephone numbers.
- 2. In this Direction-

'the Act' means the Communications Act 2003;

'Allocation' shall have the same meaning as in General Condition 17;

'Communications Provider' shall have the same meaning as in General Condition 17;

'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(1) of the Act and modified by Ofcom from time to time;

'the Director' means the Director-General of Telecommunications as appointed under section 1 of the Telecommunications Act 1984;

'Ofcom' means the Office of Communications;

'Telephone Number' shall have the same meaning as in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of the Schedule to the Notification published by the Director on 22 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act;

'Transitional Provisions' means sections 408 and 411 of the Act, the Communications Act 2003 (Commencement No.1) Order 2003 and the Office of Communications Act 2002 (Commencement No.3) and Communications Act 2003 (Commencement No 2) Order 2003.

3. Except in so far as the context otherwise requires, words or expressions shall have the meaning assigned to them. Otherwise, any word or expression shall have the same meaning as it has-

i. in the National Telephone Numbering Plan published by Ofcom from time to time pursuant to section 56 of the Act;

ii. if, and only if, it has no meaning ascribed as mentioned in (i) above, and only if the context so permits, in General Condition 17 (entitled 'Allocation, Adoption and Use of Telephone Numbers') set by the Director by way of publication of a Notification on 22 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act and modified by Ofcom from time to time; iii. if, and only if, it has no meaning ascribed as mentioned in (i) and (ii) above, and only if the context so permits, in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of the Schedule to the Notification published by the Director on 22 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act and modified by Ofcom from time to time; and

iv. if, and only if, it has no meaning ascribed as mentioned in (i), (ii) and (iii) above, and only if the context so permits, in the Act.

- 4. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply as if this Direction were an Act of Parliament.
- 5. Headings and titles shall be disregarded.
- 6. This direction takes effect on the date it is published.

Signed by Daniel Gordon

Competition Policy Director

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

[insert date]

Annex to Schedule

Deletions

A. The following text shall be deleted from Paragraph 1(i) of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' Section on page 1 of Numbering Application Forms S1, S3, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18 and S19:-

 (i) in the National Telephone Numbering Plan published by the Director on 22nd July 2003 pursuant to section 56 of the Communications Act 2003 (the 'Act');

B. The following text shall be deleted from Paragraph 1(i) of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' Section on page 1 of the Numbering Application Form S56:-

 (i) in the National Telephone Numbering Plan published by Ofcom on 6 September 2004 pursuant to section 56 of the Communications Act 2003 (the 'Act');

C. The following text shall be deleted from Paragraph 1(i) of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' Section on page 1 of the Numbering Application Form S20:-

- (i) in the National Telephone Numbering Plan published by Ofcom on 28 October 2004 pursuant to section 56 of the Communications Act 2003 (the 'Act');
- D. The following text shall be deleted from Section 1 of each Numbering Application Form:-

1.	Your reference (optional):	

E. The following text shall be deleted from Section 2 of each Numbering Application Form:-

2. <u>Applicant details and date of</u> application:	
Your name, company name, address, direct telephone, direct fax, direct e-mail, mobile.	

F. The following text shall be deleted from Section A1 in the Annex to Numbering Application Forms S3, S56, S12, S13 Parts A, B and C, S14, S15, S16, S17, S19 and S20.

It is not Ofcom's intention for a Communications Provider to be assessed more than once to determine whether or not it is a provider of a Public Electronic Communications Network.

Therefore, please now complete question A4. If you have answered 'yes' to question A4(a), you do not need to answer questions A1(a) and (b) below.

If you have not registered i.e. you have answered no to question A4(a), Ofcom needs certain information from you in order to determine whether or not you are a provider of a Public Electronic Communications Network.

G. The following text shall be deleted from Section A4 in the Annex to Numbering Application Forms S56, S12, S13 Parts A, B and C, S14, S15, S16, S17 and S19:-

A4. <u>Register of providers of Public Electronic</u> <u>Communication Networks</u>	
Ofcom maintains a voluntary register of providers of Public Electronic Communications Networks.	
a) Is your company listed on this register?	
b) If so, under which name is your company registered?	
c) If different from b), what is the 'trading name' under which your company will sub-allocate the Telephone Numbers applied for in this application?	

H. The following text shall be deleted from below the heading '<u>APPLICATION FOR</u>' on page 1 of Numbering Application Form S7:-

MOBILE NUMBERS (STARTING 075/7/8/9)

I. The following text shall be deleted from below the heading '<u>SPECIAL SERVICES AT A</u> <u>PREMIUM RATE APPLICATION</u>' on page 1 of Numbering Application Form S9:-

Special Services at a Premium Rate numbers can be applied for under the following categories:

0900, 0901 and 090	02 Special Services, time charged calls up to and including 60ppm and total call cost not greater than £5 or fixed fee up to £1 per call (all prices are for BT customers);
0903, 0904, 0905,	Special Services, open ended time dependent charge or fixed
0906 and 0911	fee up to £1.50 for BT customers;
0907	Special Services pay for product that costs more than £1 in total
	for BT customers; and
098	Sexual Entertainment Services at a Premium Rate

J. The following text shall be deleted from Section 7 of the Numbering Application Form S9:-

7. Telephone Numbers required:

When completing the table below, you should give a 1st and 2nd choice for each type of Telephone Number block applied for in case the block you've applied for is nle at the time the application is processed. You should select the number blocks within the appropriate block type (as shown at the top of this Form) and ensure that a maximum of 15 blocks are entered on this Application Form. A new Form S8 should be completed for further blocks.

K. The following text shall be deleted from below the heading '<u>NUMBER PORTABILITY</u> <u>PREFIX CODE ("NPPC") APPLICATION'</u> on page 1 of the Numbering Application Form S12:-

, identified in Ofcom's Number Portability Functional Specification eg. Geographic, Personal Numbering, Mobile, Freephone, Local Rate, National Rate and Premium Rate Service numbers, etc.

L. The following text shall be deleted from Section 5 of the Numbering Application Form S12:-

When completing the table below, you should:

i) refer to Ofcom's Functional Specification to establish the types(s) of NPPC you require: and

ii) Ofcom will select the actual codes – you do not need to select the codes.

M. The following text shall be deleted from below the heading <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> <u>PROVIDER IDENTITY ("CUPID") CODE APPLICATION</u> on Numbering Application Form S17:-

CUPIDs (previously known as Licenced Operator Identity – LOPID – codes) are three-digit codes of the format eg. '625' that may be used for administrative purposes.

N. The following text shall be deleted from Section 5 of Numbering Application Form S17:-

5. <u>T</u>	elephone Numbers – CUPIDs required:
Stat	te:
Ń	ow many CUPID codes are required (Ofcom vill select the actual codes – you do not need o select the codes);
,	or each CUPID required, state whether the CUPID is for National use or Regional use; and
	rovide a justification where more than one CUPID code is required.

O. The following text shall be deleted from below the heading **RESELLER IDENTIFICATION** ("**RID**") CODE APPLICATION on page 1 of Numbering Application Form S18:-

Reseller Identification ("RID") Codes are three character alphabetic codes that are used to provide information to the Communications Providers and End-users about which person is providing Carrier Pre-Selection ("CPS"), Wholesale Line Rental ("WLR") or Local Loop Unbundling ("LLU") to End-users.

The RID will be included in the electronic order for CPS, WLR or LLU as appropriate.

Insertions

P. The following text shall be inserted numerically in Paragraph 1 of the 'Definitions and Interpretation' Section on Numbering Application Forms S1, S3, S56, S12, S13, S14, S15, S16, S17, S18, S19 and S20:-

(i) in the National Telephone Numbering Plan pursuant to section 56 of the Communications Act 2003 (the 'Act') published by Ofcom from time to time;

Q. The following text shall be inserted in Section 1 of each Numbering Application Form:-

2.	Your reference (required when
	submitting multiple applications):

R. The following text shall be inserted at the top of Section 2 in each Numbering Application Form:-

2. <u>Applicant details and date of</u> <u>application</u> :	
All applicants please provide:	
Your name	
Company name	
Company number	
Address	
Direct telephone	
Direct e-mail	
Mobile (if available)	
Website (if available)	

S. The following text shall be inserted below the sub-heading 'Providers of Public Electronic Communications Networks' in Section A1 in the Annex to Numbering Application Forms S3, S56, S12, S13 Parts A, B and C, S14, S15, S16, S17, S19 and S20:-

Of com needs certain information from you in order to determine whether or not you are a provider of a Public Electronic Communications Network. You will only need to provide this information with your first application.

T. The following text shall be inserted at the top of Numbering Application Form S7:-

MOBILE NUMBERS (STARTING 071-075 and 077-079)

U. The following text shall be inserted below the table setting out the 08 service types on page 2 of Numbering Application Form S8:-

Please note that that the promotion and content of 'Special Services at a Premium Rate' is regulated by PhonepayPlus. This includes services provided on 087 (excluding 0870) numbers. Most services can be provided without PhonepayPlus' prior permission; however, some services that have been found to pose a greater risk to consumers, do require permission. More information on the services that do require prior permission can be found on PhonepayPlus' website at: www.phonepayplus.org.uk/service_providers/setting_up_services/prior_permission.a sp

V. The following text shall be inserted below the heading 'SPECIAL SERVICES AT A **PREMIUM RATE APPLICATION**' on page 1 of Numbering Application Form S9:-

Special Services at a Premium Rate numbers can be applied for under the following categories:

0900-0902, 0910	Special Services, time charged calls up to and including 60ppm
and 0912	and total call cost not greater than £5 or fixed fee up to £1
	per call (all prices are for BT customers)
0903-907, 911 and	Special Services, open ended time dependent charge or fixed
0913-0919	fee up to £1.50 (including pay for product services) for BT customers
098	Sexual Entertainment Services at a Premium Rate

W. The following text shall be inserted in Section 7 of Numbering Application Form S9:-

7. Adoption of existing Telephone Number blocks:

For each Telephone Number block applied for above, you should provide details, in the table below, of any other number blocks in the same category (and at the same tariff – where relevant) that you have been allocated to date. Consistent with Ofcom's duty in the Communications Act 2003 to secure best use of numbers, we require a justification for applying for further numbering capacity where there may be non-utilised numbers.

X. The following text shall be inserted under the heading '<u>5. Telephone Numbers (NPPC)</u> required' in Section 5 of Numbering Application Form S12:-

State the type of NPPC that you require. Note: Ofcom will select the actual codes – you do not need to select the codes.-

Y. The following text shall be inserted below the heading <u>COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER</u> <u>IDENTITY ("CUPID") CODE APPLICATION</u> in Numbering Application Form S17:-

CUPIDS are four-digit codes (e.g., in the format '1625') that may be used for administrative purposes to identify specific communications providers.

Z. The following text shall be inserted as Section 5 in Numbering Application Form S17:-

5. <u>Telephone Numbers – CUPIDs required</u> :	
State:	
 a) how many CUPID codes are required (Ofcom will select the actual codes – you do not need to select the codes); 	
b) provide a justification where more than one CUPID code is required; and	
c) if you are not a Public Electronics Communications Network or Service Provider please state the reason why you require a CUPID code (e.g. WLR3). NOTE: you are not required to complete Annex A.	

AA. The following text shall be inserted below the heading **RESELLER IDENTIFICATION** ("**RID**") CODE APPLICATION on page 1 of Numbering Application Form S18:-

Reseller Identification ("RID") Codes are three character alphabetic codes that are used to provide information to Communications Providers and End-users about which person is providing wholesale services sold via BT to End-users.

The RID Code will be included in the electronic order for wholesale services sold via BT as appropriate.