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## Proposal to apply Code Powers to Quickline Communications Limited

Statutory notification under section 107(6) of the  
Communications Act 2003

Consultation

Publication date: 19 August 2016

Closing Date for Responses: 19 September 2016

# About this document

This document sets out Ofcom's proposal to apply the electronic communications code ("the Code") to Quickline Communications Limited.

The Grant of Code powers is intended to assist persons that provide an electronic communications network and/or system of conduits. In particular, persons with Code powers may:

- construct and maintain infrastructure on public land (streets) without needing to obtain a specific street works licence to do so;
- benefit from certain immunities from the Town and Country Planning legislation; and
- apply to the Court in order to obtain rights to execute works on private land in the event that agreement cannot be reached with the owner of that land.

Ofcom considers applications for the grant of Code powers from providers of electronic communications networks and providers of conduit systems (or both) with reference to the matters set out in section 107(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ("the Act").

As such, Ofcom has reviewed an application for Code powers submitted by Quickline Communications Limited and this document sets out a summary of the contents of that application, as well as Ofcom's proposal to grant Code powers in favour of Quickline Communications Limited.

Ofcom will consider any responses to this consultation before deciding whether or not to make a direction, under section 106(3) of the Act, applying the Code to Quickline Communications Limited.

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## Section 1

# Summary

## Purpose of consultation

- 1.1 We are proposing to apply the electronic communications code set out in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984 as amended (the “**Code**”) on terms proposed in this consultation to Quickline Communications Limited, whose registered company number is 05034183 (the “**Applicant**”). Further background about the Code (including the procedure that applies in this context) is set out in Section 2 of this document.
- 1.2 The reasons for our proposal are set out in Section 3 of this document and our draft direction applying the Code to the Applicant is set out in Annex 4 to this document.
- 1.3 The closing date for responses is 19 September 2016 and stakeholders wishing to respond to this consultation are directed to Annex 1 for information on how to do so.

## Proposed application and terms

- 1.4 The only purposes for which the Code may be applied in a person’s case are:
  - 1.4.1 the purposes of the provision of an electronic communications network; or
  - 1.4.2 the purposes of the provision of a system of conduits which he is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision by them of their networks.
- 1.5 The Applicant has confirmed that it has already made 4,000 connections in North Lincolnshire and is aiming to cover a further 2,211 under the current BDUK project. However, it has applied for Code powers for the United Kingdom as a whole. In support of this, the Applicant has explained that, in addition to the BDUK initiative, it currently aims to provide a broadband service along the M62/A1 corridor taking in areas such as Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland and Birmingham and that it is also currently acquiring sites in East and North Yorkshire.
- 1.6 The Applicant has explained that it is working in conjunction with a government initiative called Broadband UK (“BDUK”) which aims to provide superfast broadband of up to 30 Mbps to rural areas where there is very little or no current service provision. According to the Applicant, its infrastructure is primarily based on wireless mast distribution rather than fibre to the premises (“FTTP”) or fibre to the home (“FTTH”), although it will use fibre optic cabling in some locations. The Applicant notes that in many of the locations to which it plans to deploy superfast broadband, FTTP or FTTH would not be viable.
- 1.7 Having considered the Applicant’s application for Code powers, we propose that the Code should have effect in its case for the provision by the Applicant of its electronic communications network in the United Kingdom; and secondly, the provision by the Applicant in the United Kingdom of a system of conduits which the Applicant is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications.

- 1.8 We consider that our proposal is appropriate having regard to the considerations set out in section 107(4) of the Communications Act 2003 (the “**Act**”). We consider that the performance of our statutory duties in sections 3 and 4 of the Act would be secured and furthered in relation to this proposal.
- 1.9 We will consider any responses we may receive by the closing date before making our decision as to whether we should give a direction applying the Code to the Applicant.

## Section 2

### Background

#### The Code

- 2.1 The Code is designed to facilitate the installation and maintenance of electronic communications networks.<sup>1</sup> It confers rights on providers of such networks and on providers of systems of conduits which are made available for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision of those networks, to install and maintain apparatus in, over and under land and results in considerably simplified planning procedures.
- 2.2 Where the Code is applied in any person's case, it may be subject to restrictions and conditions set out in other legislation from time to time.<sup>2</sup>

#### The application of the Code

- 2.3 The Code only has effect in the case of a person to whom it is applied by a direction given by Ofcom (or, in the case of the Secretary of State or any Northern Ireland department, where the Secretary of State or that department is providing or proposing to provide an electronic communication network).<sup>3</sup>
- 2.4 The only purposes for which the Code may be applied in a person's case by a direction are:
- 2.4.1 the purposes of the provision of an electronic communications network; or
  - 2.4.2 the purposes of the provision of a system of conduits which he is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision by them of their networks.<sup>4</sup>
- 2.5 A direction applying the Code to a person may take effect:
- 2.5.1 in relation only to such places or localities as may be specified or described in the direction;
  - 2.5.2 for the purposes only of the provision of such electronic communications network, or part of an electronic communications network, as may be so specified or described; or

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<sup>1</sup> "Electronic communications network" for the purposes of the Code has the same meaning as in the Act: see Telecommunications Act 1984, Schedule 2, paragraph 1(1) and section 32 of the Act.

<sup>2</sup> Section 109 of the Act— see, at present, the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 2553), as amended by the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009 No. 584) and the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013 No. 1403).

<sup>3</sup> Section 106(3) of the Act.

<sup>4</sup> Section 106(4) of the Act.

- 2.5.3 for the purposes only of the provision of such conduit<sup>5</sup> system, or part of a conduit system, as may be so specified or described.<sup>6</sup>

## Application process for applying the Code

- 2.6 Ofcom must not give a direction applying the Code in any person's case except on an application made for the purpose by that person.<sup>7</sup>
- 2.7 Any such application must be made in accordance with the requirements for the time being in force with respect to the content of an application for a direction applying the Code and the manner in which such an application is to be made.<sup>8</sup>

## Time limit for making a decision on application

- 2.8 Regulation 3(2) of the Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011<sup>9</sup> provides that, except in cases of expropriation, Ofcom must make its decision within 6 months of receiving the completed application. In other words, that time limit applies from the moment Ofcom receives an application that fully complies with the requirements described above.

## Statutory consultation process on proposal

- 2.9 Before giving a direction applying the Code to the applicant in question, Ofcom must publish a notification of its proposal to give the direction and consider any representations about that proposal that are made to Ofcom within the period specified in the notification.<sup>10</sup>
- 2.10 Such a notification must contain the following<sup>11</sup>:
- 2.10.1 a statement of Ofcom's proposal;<sup>12</sup>
  - 2.10.2 a statement of Ofcom's reasons for that proposal;
  - 2.10.3 a statement of the period within which representations may be made to Ofcom about the proposal (which period must end no less than one month after the day of the publication of the notification<sup>13</sup>).

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<sup>5</sup> "Conduit" includes a tunnel, subway, tube or pipe.

<sup>6</sup> Section 106(5) of the Act.

<sup>7</sup> Section 107(1) of the Act.

<sup>8</sup> Section 107(2) of the Act. The current requirements are set out in a notification under section 107(2) of the Act dated 6 October 2003 and published on 10 October 2003 at Annex B to statement entitled '*The Granting of the Electronic Communications Code by the Director General of Telecommunications – A Statement issued by the Director General of Telecommunications*'

<sup>9</sup> SI 2011 No. 1210.

<sup>10</sup> Section 107(6) of the Act.

<sup>11</sup> Section 107(7) of the Act.

<sup>12</sup> Subject to sections 113(7) and 115(5) of the Act, the statement of Ofcom's proposal must contain a statement that Ofcom proposes to apply the code in the case of the person in question and set out any proposals of Ofcom to impose terms under section 106(5): see section 107(8) of the Communications Act 2003.

<sup>13</sup> Section 107(9) of the Act.

- 2.13 The publication by Ofcom of a notification must be a publication in such manner as Ofcom considers appropriate for bringing the notification to the attention of the persons who, in Ofcom's opinion, are likely to be affected by it.<sup>14</sup>
- 2.12 The notification published at Annex 4 to this document is a notification for such purposes, which notification should be read in conjunction with the entirety of this document, including the reasons set out in Section 3.

## Relevant considerations in making a decision (four factors)

- 2.13 In considering whether to apply the Code in any person's case, Ofcom must have regard, in particular, to each of the following matters<sup>15</sup>:
- 2.13.1 the benefit to the public of the electronic communications network or conduit system by reference to which the Code is to be applied to that person;
  - 2.13.2 the practicability of the provision of that network or system without the application of the Code;
  - 2.13.3 the need to encourage the sharing of the use of electronic communications apparatus;
  - 2.13.4 whether the person in whose case it is proposed to apply the Code will be able to meet liabilities arising as a consequence of the application of the Code in that person's case and any conduct of that person in relation to the matters with which the Code deals.
- 2.14 For the purposes of this process, those four factors rank equally with Ofcom's statutory duties under sections 3 and 4 of the Act.<sup>16</sup> Where appropriate, outside of those statutory considerations, we will also have regard to any additional factors that, in our opinion, are relevant to the particular application.

## Statutory duties

### General duties

- 2.15 In carrying out its functions under the Act (which includes giving a direction to apply the Code), Ofcom's principal duty as set out in section 3 of the Act is to further the interests of citizens in relation to communications matters and to further the interests of consumers in relevant markets, where appropriate by promoting competition.
- 2.16 In so doing, we are required to secure a number of specific objectives and to have regard to a number of matters set out in section 3. As to the prescribed specific statutory objectives in section 3(2), we consider that the objective of securing the availability throughout the UK of a wide range of electronic communications services objectives is particularly relevant to this consultation.
- 2.17 In performing its duties, Ofcom is also required to have regard to a range of other considerations, which appear to us to be relevant in the circumstances. In this context, we consider that a number of such considerations are relevant, particularly:

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<sup>14</sup> Section 107(10) of the Act.

<sup>15</sup> Section 107(4).

<sup>16</sup> Section 107(5).



- 2.17.1 the desirability of promoting competition in relevant markets;
  - 2.17.2 the desirability of encouraging investment and innovation in relevant markets; and
  - 2.17.3 the desirability of encouraging the availability and use of high speed data transfer services throughout the United Kingdom.
- 2.18 We have also had regard to the principles under which regulatory activities should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent, and targeted only at cases in which action is needed, as well as the interest of consumers in respect of choice, price, quality of service and value for money.
- 2.19 Ofcom has a wide measure of discretion in balancing its statutory duties and objectives. In so doing, we will take account of all relevant considerations, including any responses received during this consultation process, in reaching our conclusions.

### **Specific duties for fulfilling Community obligations**

- 2.20 The function of giving a direction to apply the Code would involve us exercising functions falling under the EU regulatory framework. As such, section 4 of the Act requires us to act in accordance with the six European Community requirements for regulation.
- 2.21 In summary, these six requirements are:
- 2.21.1 to promote competition in the provision of electronic communications networks and services, associated facilities and the supply of directories;
  - 2.21.2 to contribute to the development of the European internal market;
  - 2.21.3 to promote the interests of all persons who are citizens of the European Union;
  - 2.21.4 to take account of the desirability of Ofcom's carrying out of its functions in a manner which, so far as practicable, does not favour one form of or means of providing electronic communications networks, services or associated facilities over another, i.e. to be technologically neutral;
  - 2.21.5 to encourage, to such extent as Ofcom considers appropriate for certain prescribed purposes, the provision of network access and service interoperability, namely securing efficient and sustainable competition, efficient investment and innovation and the maximum benefit for customers of communications providers;
  - 2.21.6 to encourage compliance with certain standards in order to facilitate service interoperability and secure freedom of choice for the customers of communications providers.
- 2.22 We consider that the first and fifth of those requirements are of particular relevance to our proposal in this consultation and that no conflict arises in this regard with the specific objectives in section 3 we have identified above as particularly relevant in this context.

## Impact assessment and equality impact assessment

- 2.23 The analysis presented in the entirety of this consultation represents an impact assessment, as defined in section 7 of the Act.
- 2.24 Impact assessments provide a valuable way of assessing different options for regulation and showing why the preferred option was chosen. They form part of best practice policy-making. This is reflected in section 7 of the Act, which means that generally Ofcom has to carry out impact assessments where its proposals would be likely to have a significant effect on businesses or the general public, or when there is a major change in Ofcom's activities. However, as a matter of policy Ofcom is committed to carrying out and publishing impact assessments in relation to the great majority of its policy decisions. For further information about Ofcom's approach to impact assessments, see the guidelines, Better policy-making: Ofcom's approach to impact assessment, which are on the Ofcom website:  
[http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/policy\\_making/guidelines.pdf](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/policy_making/guidelines.pdf)
- 2.25 Specifically, pursuant to section 7, an impact assessment must set out how, in our opinion, the performance of our general duties (within the meaning of section 3 of the Act) is secured or furthered by or in relation to what we propose.
- 2.26 There are two main options for this consultation:
- 2.26.1 give a direction to apply the Code to the Applicant; or
- 2.26.2 not to give such a direction.
- 2.27 In carrying out our functions (again, something which includes giving a direction to apply the Code), we are also under a general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:
- 2.27.1 eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- 2.27.2 advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and
- 2.27.3 foster good relations between different groups,
- in relation to the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender re-assignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.
- 2.28 Such equality impact assessments ("EIAs") also assist us in making sure that we are meeting our principal duty under section 3 of the Act.
- 2.29 We have therefore considered what (if any) impact the proposal in this consultation may have on equality. We do not, however, consider the impact of the proposal in this consultation to be to the detriment of any group within society. We have therefore not carried out separate EIAs in relation to race or gender equality, or equality schemes under the Northern Ireland and Disability Equality Schemes.

## Section 3

# Reasons for proposal

## Introduction

3.1 This Section contains our reasons for proposing to apply the Code to the Applicant.

## Factual matters

### Receipt of a completed application

3.2 On 17 June 2016, we received a fully completed application from the Applicant.

3.3 Accordingly, we consider that the Applicant's completed application meeting the requirements described in Section 2 of this document was received on 17 June 2016.

### The person seeking Code powers

3.4 According to the application, the person seeking Code powers is:

3.4.1 Company name: Quickline Communications Limited

3.4.2 Registered company number: 05034183

3.4.3 Registered office: Riverside, Kelk, Driffield, East Yorkshire, YO25 8HG

### Description and location of the network or conduit system for Code powers

3.5 The Applicant has explained that it is working in conjunction with a government initiative called BDUK (having been successful in winning a pilot contract worth £2 million with BDUK) to provide superfast broadband of up to 30 Mbps to rural areas where there is currently very little or no access to broadband services. According to its application, the Applicant's network will provide superfast broadband to homes, businesses and public authorities such as schools and councils.

3.6 According to the Applicant, its infrastructure is primarily based on wireless mast distribution rather than FTTP or FTTH, although it will use fibre optic cabling in some locations. The Applicant has explained that developments in wireless technology mean that connections no longer require a clear line of site as traditional wireless systems had previously. To receive broadband from the Applicant, it has explained that customers are required to have a small antenna installed on the top of their homes which is smaller than most TV aerials and satellite dishes.

3.7 The Applicant states that it currently has 4000 connections in North Lincolnshire and is aiming to expand its coverage under the current BDUK project to a further 2,211 connections. However, the Applicant has requested that Ofcom does not impose any geographical restrictions on the locations for which any Code powers will have effect. It will expand along the M62/A1, which will take in areas such as Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland and Birmingham.

## Analysis of the four factors

### **The benefit to the public of the electronic communications network or conduit system by reference to which the Code is to be applied to the Applicant**

- 3.8 The Applicant has explained that, as a result of its use of wireless technology, its network and conduit system will provide superfast broadband services to rural areas which currently have little or no broadband. Its aim, outside of the BDUK project, is stated to be to provide connectivity to all with no geographic or social boundaries.
- 3.9 According to its application, the Applicant will also provide discounted connection charges for some homes to address digital social exclusion. It also adopts a less-common, and more inclusive, approach to market which includes using re-sellers including village shops, pubs and other local businesses.
- 3.10 The Applicant has also explained that it uses its network in order to operate a number of programs, and that it is committed to expanding these further. These include “Superfast Wi-Fi ‘Hot Zones’” (currently in Scunthorpe and Brigg) and “Safe and Connected” (a project developed with schools, children in care and vulnerable adults which allows care providers to control the content and also monitors any signs of suicide risk, self-harming, grooming etc).
- 3.11 For these reasons, Ofcom consider that granting the Applicant Code powers would benefit the public.

### **The practicability of the provision of the network or conduit system without the application of the Code**

- 3.12 The Applicant has explained that it would like to increase the speed and delivery of broadband services particularly in relation to BDUK areas and its core customer base. However, it explained that it currently has to go through the full planning process on all of its sites when a high proportion of those would be within ‘permitted development’ rights and therefore could, with Code powers, be accessed without such planning processes. In its view, Code powers would enable it to make sites ‘transmission’ ready 8 weeks (minimum) earlier than currently achieved.
- 3.13 Further, the Applicant has explained that, in the absence of Code powers, it has not sought to carry out development on the highways. However, it has suggested that (in a small proportion of its sites) it will need to deploy infrastructure on streets in order to make deployment possible and that Code powers will be important in order to ensure that it can deploy its network cost-efficiently (and, in respect of the BDUK scheme, at good value for the tax payer).
- 3.14 The Applicant has also explained that it is important that its infrastructure has security of tenure, so it can provide broadband services smoothly with no interruption and not be at a disadvantage to other BDUK contractors. In its view, Code powers will provide it with this security.
- 3.15 For these reasons, we consider that the grant of Code powers is necessary for the practicable provision of the Applicant’s network.

## **The need to encourage the sharing of the use of electronic communications apparatus**

- 3.16 The Applicant has confirmed that, as part of the BDUK project, it anticipates that it will be able to help other operators to enhance their network coverage in rural areas and that it is already obliged to share its assets with other parties.
- 3.17 Further, it has explained that it has already negotiated sharing rights where possible to allow it to share sites with other operators and is proposing to allow rival competitors equal access to its network. The Applicant has confirmed that it is fully prepared for sharing sites and equipment.
- 3.18 As a result of the above, we consider that sharing of the use of apparatus would be encouraged by granting the Applicant Code powers.

## **Whether the Applicant will be able to meet liabilities as a consequence of (i) the application of the Code; and (ii) any conduct in relation to the application of the Code**

- 3.19 The Applicant has considered its duties and responsibilities with regard to compliance with Regulation 16 (Funds for Liabilities).<sup>17</sup>
- 3.20 The Applicant has assessed its potential liabilities for any future network deployment and has confirmed that, before exercising Code powers, sufficient funds for liabilities will be set aside. In particular, it has provided Ofcom with a signed letter from its director which confirms that it will put in place a performance bond in order to satisfy its obligations under Regulation 16.

## **Overall assessment**

- 3.21 In addition to our consideration of the four factors discussed above, we consider that our proposal would secure or further the performance of our statutory duties under sections 3 and 4 of the Act.
- 3.22 In particular, we consider that, if the Applicant's intended infrastructure plans through the use of Code powers are realised, it may contribute to the availability throughout the United Kingdom of high-speed electronic communications services. We also believe that our proposal will encourage competition in the provision of electronic communications networks and services, as well as encouraging further investment and innovation.
- 3.23 The impact of implementing the proposal is likely to be low. Any costs to those affected by the Applicant's use of Code powers are likely to be outweighed by the benefits. On the other hand, the detrimental effect on the Applicant if such powers are not granted is likely to be significant. As noted in Section 2 of this document, we are also of the view that the impact of our proposal is not likely to be to the detriment of any protected group within society.

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<sup>17</sup> Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 2553) (as amended).

## Proposal

3.24 For these reasons we propose that Ofcom should give a direction applying the Code to the Applicant.

## Annex 1

# 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 19 September 2016**.
- A1.2 Ofcom strongly prefers to receive responses using the online web form at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/ecc-quickline-communications/howtorespond/form>, 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 contact [numbering.information@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:numbering.information@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.
- Numbering Team  
Ofcom  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Riverside House  
2A Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA
- Fax: 020 7981 3061
- 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.

## Further information

- A1.6 If you want to discuss the issues and questions raised in this consultation, or need advice on the appropriate form of response, please contact Ofcom's Numbering Team on 020 7981 3000.

## Confidentiality

- A1.7 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](http://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.

- A1.8 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.
- A1.9 Please also note that copyright and all other intellectual property in responses will be assumed to be licensed to Ofcom to use. Ofcom's approach on intellectual property rights is explained further on its website at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/about/accoun/disclaimer/>

## Next steps

- A1.10 Following the end of the consultation period, Ofcom intends to publish a statement in September 2016.
- A1.11 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](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/select_list.htm)

## Ofcom's consultation processes

- A1.12 Ofcom seeks to ensure that responding to a consultation is as easy as possible. For more information, please see our consultation principles in Annex 2.
- A1.13 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](mailto: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.
- A1.14 If you would like to discuss these issues or Ofcom's consultation processes more generally you can alternatively contact Steve Gettings, Secretary to the Corporation, who is Ofcom's consultation champion:

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

Tel: 020 7981 3601

Email [Steve.Gettings@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:Steve.Gettings@ofcom.org.uk)



## Annex 2

# Ofcom's consultation principles

A2.1 Ofcom 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.

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.

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.

## Annex 3

# 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, [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk).
- 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, Ofcom would encourage respondents to complete their coversheet in a way that allows Ofcom 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 [www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/).
- 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:

To (Ofcom contact):

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name/contact details/job title	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole response	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part of the response	<input type="checkbox"/>	if there is no separate annex, which parts?	

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation not to be published, can 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)

## Annex 4

# Statutory notification

## Notification under section 107(6) of the Communications Act 2003

### Proposal to give a direction applying the electronic communications code

#### Proposal in this Notification

1. Ofcom hereby proposes, in accordance with section 107(6) of the Act, to give a direction under section 106(3) of the Act applying the Code to the Applicant.
2. The proposed direction applying the Code to the Applicant on the terms proposed is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
3. Ofcom's reasons for giving the proposed direction are set out in the accompanying consultation document.

#### Ofcom's duties

4. In making this proposal, Ofcom has had regard, in particular, to each of the matters set out in section 107(4) of the Act. Furthermore, Ofcom has considered and acted in accordance with its general duties in section 3 of the Act and the six Community requirements in section 4 of the Act.

#### Making representations

5. Representations on this proposal may be made to: Numbering Team, Ofcom, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA, by no later than 5pm on **19 September 2016**.

#### Interpretation

6. In this Notification—
  - (a) “**Act**” means the Communications Act 2003;
  - (b) “**Applicant**” means Quickline Communications Limited, whose registered company number is 05034183
  - (c) “**Code**” means the electronic communications code set out in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984 (as amended); and
  - (d) “**Ofcom**” means the Office of Communications.
7. For the purpose of interpreting this Notification—
  - (a) headings and titles shall be disregarded; and
  - (b) the Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply as if this Notification were an Act of Parliament.

8. The Schedule hereto forms part of this Notification.

**Signed**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Potterill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Brian Potterill**  
**Competition Policy Director**

A person duly authorised in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2002

**19 August 2016**

## SCHEDULE

### **[Proposed] Direction under section 106(3) of the Communications Act 2003 applying the electronic communications code**

#### **Background**

1. The Applicant has applied to Ofcom for a direction applying the Code to the Applicant.
2. The date on which Ofcom received a completed application that meets the statutory requirements with respect to the content of an application for a direction applying the Code and the manner in which such an application is to be made was 17 June 2016.
3. By virtue of regulation 3 of the Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011 (SI 2011 No. 1210), except in cases of expropriation, Ofcom must make its decision within 6 months of receiving the completed application.
4. Prior to giving a decision under section 106(3) of the Act to apply the Code to the Applicant, Ofcom must publish a notification of its proposal to give the direction and consider any representations about that proposal that are made to Ofcom within the period specified in the notification.
5. On 19 August 2016, Ofcom published, in accordance with section 107(6) of the Act, a notification of its proposal to give a direction applying the Code to the Applicant for the reasons set out in the consultation document accompanying that notification. That notification invited representations to Ofcom by no later than 5pm on 19 September 2016.
6. Ofcom has considered every representation about the proposal made to them. For the reasons set out in the explanatory statement accompanying this proposed Direction, Ofcom has had regard, in particular, to each of the matters set out in section 107(4) of the Act. Furthermore, Ofcom has considered and acted in accordance with its general duties in section 3 of the Act and the six Community requirements in section 4 of the Act.

#### **Decision**

7. Ofcom hereby directs, in accordance with section 106 of the Act, as follows—
  - (a) the Code shall apply to the Applicant for the purposes of the provision by the Applicant of:
    - a. an electronic communications network; and
    - b. a system of conduits which the Applicant is making available, or proposing to make available, for use by providers of electronic communications networks for the purposes of the provision by them of their networks;
  - (b) that application of the Code shall have effect throughout the United Kingdom.
8. This Direction shall take effect on the day it is published.

#### **Interpretation**

9. In this Direction —

- (a) “**Act**” means the Communications Act 2003;
- (b) “**Applicant**” means Quickline Communications Limited, whose registered company number is 05034183;
- (c) “**Code**” means the electronic communications code set out in Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984 (as amended); and
- (d) “**Ofcom**” means the Office of Communications.

**10.** For the purpose of interpreting this Direction —

- (a) headings and titles shall be disregarded; and
- (b) the Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply as if this Notification were an Act of Parliament.

**Signed**

**Brian Potterill**  
**Competition Policy Director**

A person duly authorised in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2002