Confirmation Decision in respect to a Contravention of General Condition 17.13 of the General Conditions of Entitlement issued under section 96C of the Communications Act 2003

Confirmation Decision issued by the Office of Communications ("Ofcom") to Danemere Street Creative Limited ("Danemere"), a company registered in the UK whose registered company number is 03506479

- 1. Under section 96C of the Communications Act 2003 (the "Act"), Ofcom may issue a decision (a "Confirmation Decision") confirming the imposition of requirements on a person where: that person has been given a Notification under section 96A of the Act; Ofcom have allowed that person an opportunity to make representations about the matters notified; and the period allowed for the making of representations has expired. Ofcom may give a Confirmation Decision to a person if, having considered any representations, we are satisfied that the person has, in one or more of the respects notified, been in contravention of a condition specified in the Notification under section 96A.
- 2. Section 45(1) of the Act gives Ofcom power to set conditions, including general conditions which are binding on the person to whom they are applied. A general condition is a condition which contains the provisions authorised or required by (amongst others) section 58 of the Act.
- 3. The Schedule to a Notification issued by the Director General of Telecommunications on 22 July 2003 under section 48(1) of the Act, which took effect from 25 July 2003, sets out the General Conditions of Entitlement (the "General Conditions" or "GCs") which apply to all Communications Providers ("CPs") defined in each GC. The GCs have, from time to time, been amended¹.
- 4. GC 17.13 is a general condition which has been set by Ofcom under section 58 of the Act. GC 17.13 relates to the charges which Ofcom may impose on CPs with respect to allocations of Specified Geographic Numbers².
- 5. GC 17.13 requires that:
 - "The Communications Provider shall pay to Ofcom any applicable Annual Number Charge within 14 days of receipt of an invoice from Ofcom."
- 6. The Annual Number Charge is a charge invoiced by Ofcom to a CP in respect of a Charging Year and is calculated in accordance with GC 17.15³. The Charging Year means the 12 month period beginning on 1 April and ending on 31 March (excluding

¹ A consolidated version of the General Conditions as at 28 May 2015 is located on the Ofcom website at http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/telecoms/ga-scheme/general-conditions/.

² As defined in GC 17.33(w) of the General Conditions.

³ GC 17.33(d) of the General Conditions.

- 29 February in any leap year) and the first Charging Year shall be 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
- 7. Under GC 17.14, the Annual Number Charge will be billed annually in arrears following the end of each Charging Year.
- 8. Danemere holds [≫] Specified Geographic Numbers, allocated to it by Ofcom, and is a Communications Provider for the purposes of GC 17.13. A schedule of the Specified Geographic Numbers which have been allocated to Danemere is attached at Confirmation Decision Annex 1 to this Notification.

Notification given by Ofcom to Danemere under section 96A of the Act

- 9. On 27 August 2015, Ofcom issued a Notification under section 96A of the Act ("the Notification") to Danemere, stating that Ofcom had reasonable grounds for believing that Danemere had contravened, and continued to contravene, GC 17.13 in that it had failed to pay Ofcom the applicable Annual Number Charge imposed on it for the 2013/14 Charging Year in accordance with that GC.
- 10. The Notification set out the step that Danemere should take in order to comply with the requirements of GC 17.13 and to remedy the consequences of the contravention, namely to pay Ofcom the invoice sum of £[≫] forthwith and, in any event, no later than 25 September 2015. Danemere was given 14 days in which to make written representations to Ofcom about the matters set out in the Notification (ie.until 5pm on 10 September 2015) ("the Deadline"). A copy of the Notification is attached at Confirmation Decision Annex 2.
- 11. The Notification was served on Danemere on 27 August 2015 at its registered office, 27 Belle Meade Close, Woodgate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 3YD. A copy of the Statement of Service, signed by Stuart Wheeler, is attached at Confirmation Decision Annex 3.
- 12. On 28 August 2015, the day after Ofcom had served Danemere with the Notification, Danemere filed a change of registered address at Companies House. A copy of the relevant AD01 form, recording the details of Danemere's new registered address is attached at Confirmation Decision Annex 4.
- 13. On 1 September 2015, Ofcom sent by special delivery a further copy of the Notification to Danemere at its new registered address, 7 Henrietta Street, London, WC2E 8PS. A copy of Ofcom's letter dated 1 September is attached at Confirmation Decision Annex 5. A copy of the special delivery 'Track and Trace', confirming the delivery of the Notification to Danemere's new registered address, is attached at Confirmation Decision Annex 6.
- 14. Danemere did not provide Ofcom with any written representations by the Deadline, nor has it paid Ofcom the invoice sum of £[≫] in relation to the Annual Number Charge imposed on it for the 2013/14 Charging Year.

15. Danemere continues to retain the allocation of Specified Geographic Numbers for which the Annual Number Charge for the 2013/14 Charging Year was imposed. Despite Ofcom's repeated attempts to secure payment from Danemere of this Annual Number Charge, and despite Ofcom issuing the Notification to Danemere, Danemere has failed to respond and/or make such payment. On this basis, Ofcom is satisfied that Danemere has contravened, and is continuing to contravene, GC 17.13.

Confirmation Decision given by Ofcom to Danemere under section 96C of the Act

- 16. For the reasons set out above, Ofcom confirms the imposition of requirements on Danemere in accordance with the Notification. This means that, in order to comply with the requirements of GC 17.13 and to remedy the consequences of the contravention, Danemere must pay to Ofcom the invoice sum of £[≫] forthwith, and in any event no later than by 25 September 2015.
- 17. Danemere should be aware that its continuing failure to pay the Annual Number Charge for the 2013/14 Charging Year may result in Ofcom seeking to recover this sum by issuing civil proceedings in the courts and/or considering whether or not to issue a notification under section 61(3) of the Act proposing the withdrawal of the Specified Geographic Numbers which are currently allocated to Danemere.

Next steps

18. Danemere has until **5.00pm on 25 September 2015** ("the Deadline") to comply with the requirements imposed by this Confirmation Decision.

Interpretation

19. Words or expressions used in this Notification have the same meaning as in the GCs or the Act, except as otherwise stated in this Notification.

Neil Buckley Director of Investigations

16 September 2015