

Additional comments:

The 0500 range should not be withdrawn and should be fully re-opened.

Question 5.1: Do you agree with the assessment criteria we have used for our analysis, in particular the two additional criteria we have identified as relevant?..:

No

Question 5.2: Do you agree with our assessment of the options for the 0500 range? In particular, do you agree with our preferred option of withdrawing the 0500 range? If not, please explain why.:

No, they should NOT be withdrawn and in fact, new allocations to Cable&Wireless' business customers should be allowed again. More importantly, some 0500 numbers are vital services and withdrawal could cause problems.

Question 5.3: Do you have any comments on the analysis presented on the costs and benefits of our preferred option? Please provide evidence to support your comments.:

Yes, it would be a complete waste of money and the current set up is not doing any harm, i've asked several people if they know how much it costs to call an 0500 number from a BT and Virgin Media landline as well as a BT payphone and they all know that they are freephone numbers.

Withdrawal would cause disruption to services such as the Missing Persons file and BBC crimewatch as well as the businesses who use such numbers.

Question 6.1: Do you support a longer implementation period of 24 months for the withdrawal of 0500 numbers? Or, do you consider that 18 months would be a preferable timescale for this withdrawal? Please explain your reasoning as well as providing any evidence to support your view.:

None, they are both too soon and strongly oppose withdrawal.

Question 6.2: Do you have any other comments on our proposed approach to the withdrawal of the 0500 range and withdrawal of 0500 number allocations? Do you have any suggestions on making consumers and service providers aware of this change?:

Recorded announcement by service providers, compensation paid out by Ofcom to Cable and Wireless Worldwide and its customers using 0500 numbers and possibly a letter and Text message sent out by all providers. Very costly for just one code change. Why not withdraw it when another wide scale code change similar to The Big Number effecting more codes occurs.

Question 6.3: Are there any other implementation issues which need to be taken into account?:

n/a