

**Response to *Geographic telephone numbers: safeguarding the future of geographic numbers* consultation published 20 March 2012**

**Submitted by: 'Name Withheld 2'**

Firstly, in response to the open consultation about local dialling in Bournemouth and safeguarding numbers, not relating to just Bournemouth but the UK as a whole including the Channel Islands and Isle of Man. I strongly disagree with Ofcom's idea to withdraw local dialling. I believe there is an alternative as well as a much more effective way of safeguarding numbers as well as making it easy for consumers to dial. You need to think back to The Big Number phase 1 in 1999 and 2000. Why not have simple 3 digit area codes for the whole of the UK and have 2 or 3 additional numbers onto consumers telephone numbers like Coventry and Northern Ireland. Therefore, for the whole of Scotland introduce 027 numbers so 027-41 and 027-42 could be for Glasgow, 02742 could be a reserve as it is a big city similar to 0203 in London, 027-31 and 027-32 for Edinburgh. The rest of Scotland could have 027 numbers followed by 2 digits after such as 02723 for Aberdeen, 02756 for Livingstone and so on.... And then someone in Aberdeen calling someone in Glasgow can just dial 41 followed by the rest of the telephone number. Now for Northern Ireland, that is already complete thanks to The Big Number. As for Wales the same system but with 029 right across Wales and not just Cardiff, for example 02960 for Barry. For the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, just have one 3 digit area code instead of 3 area codes. Therefore, 026 48 for Guernsey, 026 53 for Jersey and 026 24 for Isle of Man. For London, Coventry, Portsmouth, Southampton as well as Cardiff, they should remain the same and if London needs more numbers introduce 0205 numbers. As for the rest of England, it should be divided up into regions, therefore all of Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Kent and Wiltshire should start 023 followed by 3 digits, some places with high populations or tendencies to use too many numbers could have more than one. Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire ect.. 022 numbers followed by 2 or 3 digits. Manchester, Liverpool, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Cumbria, Shropshire ect... 021 again followed by 2 or 3 digits. Newcastle, Northumberland, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Durham ect... 025 followed by 2 or 3 digits. Within each region, local/regional dialling should be allowed for example Manchester being 02161 calling someone in Blackburn Lancashire could dial 02154 but leave the 021 out. This idea will free up numbers and I've wondered why this wasn't done in 2000. 01 numbers can then be reserved for future use for something else just like 04 numbers. 01 numbers could be used for mobile phones instead of 07 numbers and 07 numbers can be used just for personal and paging numbers that generally start 070 and 076 as currently it is confusing sometimes to determine the difference between mobile, personal and paging numbers, the charges are much different and in some cases the prices are as high as premium rate numbers to call 070 numbers. As the cost of mobile termination rates fall and due to the uptake of number portability increasing as well as mobile phone usage and penetration being much higher than it was in 2000, using 01 numbers could be a good idea. 07956 Everything Everywhere allocated numbers could become 01956 and 07771 Vodafone allocated numbers could become 01771, so you are basically replacing the first 7

with a 1. 07744 and 07755 call forwarding numbers can be left behind in the 07 range as they are charged a lot more than mobile phone numbers. Many people now have a second mobile phone or number and in some cases 3 numbers, as they have 2 mobile phones and mobile broadband using a dongle which come with there own sim card and mobile number, using 01 numbers strictly for mobile phones and mobile broadband offers many numbers needed for the mobile range. Of course this cannot be done overnight and these changes have to take place at least 5 to 10 years apart from each other as people may get confused with the 01 numbers. To reduce costs, changes should be done region by region for example Scotland first, followed by Wales and then finally England and the Channel Islands and Isle of Man, 5 years after a possible migration of mobile numbers to the 01 range. Thankyou, Hope Ofcom will find this information helpful.