

Response to *Geographic telephone numbers: safeguarding the future of geographic numbers*

Submitted by: Name Withheld 5

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the objectives and approach to this review of geographic number management? Do you agree with the policy principles that we consider should inform the review?:

Yes

Question 2: Do you agree that we should not consider further at this stage options that would change existing numbers?:

Yes

Question 3: Do you agree that local solutions are appropriate based on our current forecasts of anticipated requirement of more numbers?:

Yes and no. Local solutions are appropriate at the provider side. But end users should have consistency across the country - someone moving to another area of the country for a short time should not have to 'relearn' how to dial the phone - for example by dialling an area code for a local number. Especially when their call may be of an urgent nature.

Question 4: Do you agree with our assessment of the options for providing new supplies of numbers in four-digit code areas, as presented in Section 4 and in Annex 3:

Yes

Question 5: Do you agree that closing local dialling followed, if necessary, by the introduction of an overlay code should be the preferred option for providing new supplies of numbers in four-digit areas that may need them? Please give reasons for your answers, and provide evidence where possible.:

No. The experience of dialling should be consistent across the country - all areas should dial area codes for local calls or none. Or a person from a rural area may feel their phone is malfunctioning when making local calls in a metropolitan area. Another option would be a universal code to dial a local number - for example a star, a hash or a '3'.

Question 6: Are there any other number supply measures that we should consider for four-digit areas?:

Maybe let new connections opt to have an extra digit at the end of their number - possibly with the incentive of a reduced line rental

Questions 7 – 27: no comment