

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

Submitted by: SSE

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?:

SSE is a retail supplier in the telephony market and does not have allocations of telephone numbers itself. We therefore do not have any comments on the detail of what is proposed for management of the geographic numbers going forward. However, given the need for coordination between communications providers (CPs) who do have allocations of telephone numbers and the public interest requirement of making the best use of the numbering resource, it appears to us that this area is one that could benefit from a co-regulatory arrangement going forward. This could be constituted to give day-to-day control of numbering issues to a representative market body, acting to carry out objectives set and monitored by Ofcom. This may help to reduce Ofcom costs and empower the industry to sort out issues with numbers between the various interested parties without reducing Ofcom's input and control over the direction of policy in this area.

We note that Ofcom intends, in any case, to set up an "industry forum" to tackle various aspects of the implementation of the current proposals and suggest that this could be built on to develop a more enduring market body. We believe this would be consistent with Ofcom's duty under the Communications Act on "the desirability of promoting and facilitating the development and use of effective forms of self-regulation"

(no comment on other questions)