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Dear Liz,

Geographic telephone numbers

I am pleased to set out below TalkTalk Group's brief response to the above-captioned consultation.

- We believe that efficient geographic numbering management is absolutely essential and we generally support Ofcom's efforts in this area.
- We support the proposal to close local dialling in areas where numbers are becoming scarce. We believe the consumer impact would be minimal (for instance consumers today are used to dialling the full number for a mobile phone). The proposal could also be accompanied by a consumer information campaign with clear information being available on the Ofcom website.
- In contrast, we do not support the introduction of overlay codes. They do not resolve the underlying problem of efficient numbering management. The allocation of geographic numbers in 100 blocks is so clearly a much more efficient way of addressing the problem caused by scores of numbers in 10k blocks being left unused. In fact, as a next generation network operator, we do not in principle see any reason by numbers could not be allocated on an individual basis and that this ultimately is the most efficient numbering management method.
- We are supportive of the proposal to charge for numbers in areas of scarcity. However we would like reassurances from Ofcom that the reasons for introducing charging is genuinely one of managing scarcity and not a way of introducing a much wider programme of number charging in the UK. On a point of detail, we would also like to understand how Ofcom intends to deal with ported numbers and whether it would be the range holder or the importing operator who would be liable for the charge.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our response

Yours sincerely,

Rickard Granberg
Head of Telecoms Regulation