

Telephone Numbering – Safeguarding the future of numbers

Redstone consultation response

Question 1

Redstone prefer option A.

Option A is simple to understand for consumers, the most easily implemented and provides clear commercials for operators.

Option B is complicated and more than likely unworkable. Varying the amount that consumers pay dependant on their tariff would require operators to make changes to their billing operations. Interconnect payments would also become complicated: Interconnect rates are denoted by number range which is the only currently workable method. The situation could therefore exist where an originating operator has a mobile tariff lower than the interconnect rate due for the 070 range, in fact this is quite likely and therefore unworkable.

Question 3

Redstone agrees.

Question 4

Redstone questions whether it is necessary to reserve the entire 0300 range for public service and not for profit bodies. The volume of numbers being set aside far exceeds the number of organisations of this type by several billion.

The 0300 range will be desirable for organisations of all type and making them available to all type of organisations would likely increase to speed of uptake of 03 numbers which may otherwise be slower than Ofcom desire.

There is definite value in a distinct range for public service and not for profit bodies. Redstone suggest 03000. i.e. a distinct and identifiable sub-division of 0300 which is arguably more desirable.

Telcos that operate Personal numbering services are in the minority and the level to which personal numbering has succeeded has fallen well short of what was intended. The fact that the companies that will not be affected by withdrawing 070 outnumber those that will is no justification for leaving the future of this business hanging in the balance. This will have a detrimental effect on business and stifle innovation for at least 18 months. In effect not taking a decision on 06 numbers for eighteen months is likely to materially affect the outcome of the review when it does occur.

Redstone therefore request that Ofcom state from when 06 ranges will be available without delay and what on what terms. This will enable us and companies like us to take strategic decisions on our strategy around personal numbering services.