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National Security Inspectorate

Sentinel House
5 Reform Road
Maidenhead
SL6 8BY UK

T +44 (0)1628 637512

F +44 (0)1628 773367

E nsi@nsi.org.uk

W nsi.org.uk

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To: All NSI NACOSS Gold, Fire Gold, Systems Silver & Fire Silver approved companies and applicants

Dear Colleague

CHANGES IN LOCAL DIALLING SCHEMES AFFECTING DIGITAL COMMUNICATORS

Since the introduction of deregulation within the telecommunications sector, Ofcom have block allocated local subscriber numbers within area codes (01xxx) to the different communications providers (CPs). However, this system has proved to be inefficient and within some area codes the ability to continue to provide subscriber numbers by block allocation has been assessed by Ofcom as being unsustainable.

To address this issue Ofcom have, after consultation within the telecommunications industry, decided to change the way in which subscriber numbers are distributed and in future numbers in the affected areas will be allocated to the CPs on an as required basis instead of in blocks.

The impact on the consumers within these areas will be the requirement to dial the full subscriber number when making local calls, i.e. to call a local number the consumer will have to dial the subscriber number plus the local area code.

When the changes are implemented in the affected areas it is likely that signalling carried out by digital communicators will fail if they are programmed to dial six figure local numbers. Installers should therefore consider carrying out surveys to identify any digital communicators that may be affected by the changes and reprogram them if necessary.

The first of these changes occurred in the Bournemouth area (01202) on 1 November 2012 and the following areas will be moved across to closed local dialling on the 1 October 2014; Aberdeen (01224), Bradford (01274), Brighton (01273), Middlesbrough (01642) and Milton Keynes (01908). Details of further area codes that will be affected by these changes and expected timescales can be found in Annex A

These changes will not affect digital communicators dialling non-geographic numbers, e.g. 0800 or 0845, or those programmed with both an area code and local subscriber number.

Further information on the most recent Ofcom consultation can be found at:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/local-area-codes/summary/local-area-codes.pdf>

Yours sincerely

Mark Gallagher
Technical Officer



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Annex A

PROJECTED DATES AND AREA CODES AFFECTED BY CHANGES TO NUMBER ALLOCATION

Before 2017

Aberdeen(01224), Brighton(01273), Bradford(01274), Middlesbrough(01642), Milton Keynes(01908)

2017 to 2020

Hull(01482), Norwich(01603), Plymouth(01752), Stoke-on-Trent(01782), Oxford(01865)

2021 to mid 2023

Bolton(01204), Bath(01225), Aldershot(01252), Blackpool(01253), Blackburn(01254), Basingstoke(01256), Derby(01332), Exeter(01392), Ipswich(01473), Guildford(01483), Northampton(01604), Newport(01633), Newbury(01635), Rotherham(01709), Peterborough(01733), Slough(01753), Preston(01772), Swindon(01793), Wolverhampton(01902), York(01904), Worcester(01905), Watford(01923), Wakefield(01924)