

# **Consultation response form**

#### Consultation on draft Code 15

Please complete this form in full and return by email to <u>consultations@psauthority.org.uk</u> or by post to Barbara Limon, Phone-paid Services Authority, 40 Bank Street, London, E14 5NR.

Full name	
Contact phone number	
Representing	Organisation
Organisation name	RSM 2000 Ltd a wholly owned subsidiary of PayPoint plc
Email address	

If you wish to send your response with your company logo, please paste it here:

We plan to publish the outcome of this consultation and to make available all responses received. If you want all or part of your submission to remain confidential, please clearly identify where this applies along with your reasons for doing so.

Personal data, such as your name and contact details, that you give/have given to the PSA is used, stored and otherwise processed, so that the PSA can obtain opinions of members of the public and representatives of organisations or companies about the PSA's subscriptions review and publish the findings.

Further information about the personal data you give to the PSA, including who to complain to, can be found at psauthority.org.uk/privacy-policy.

### Confidentiality

We ask for your contact details along with your response so that we can engage with you on this consultation. For further information about how the PSA handles your personal information and your corresponding rights, please see our <u>privacy policy</u>.

Your details: We will keep your contact number and email address confidential. Is there anything else you want to keep confidential?	Delete as appropriate:  My name
Your response: Please indicate how much of your response you want to keep confidential.	Delete as appropriate: We have indicated the appropriate sections we wish to be confidential.
For confidential responses, can the PSA refer to the contents of your response in any statement or other publication? Your identity will remain confidential.	Yes

## Your response

Please enter your response to each of the consultation questions in the appropriate box below.

Consultation questions	Your response
Proposed regulatory approach	
Q1 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to regulatory standards and	Confidential? Yes
requirements? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	
Q2 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to service-specific requirements? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? No  RSM 2000's involvement in the Premium Rate SMS market is limited to the provision of text donation and regular text donation services to our charity clients and we limit our comments to the matter which directly impact charity services.  We strongly object to proposal 3.3.11 – whereby opt-in consent is required to be obtained every 12 months for

subscription services, including regular giving charitable donations.

The reasons we object to this proposal are:

No problem to solve - the PSA complaint figures show ZERO complaints for the last year and as a service provider we have been operating in the text donation market for 5 years. RSM 2000 has had ZERO complaints in that time. There is therefore no requirement for change in the regulations for charitable donations.

Unlike the annual renewal of an annual contract, regular giving can be stopped at any time.

We also have monthly SKIP and STOP options for consumers, SMS receipts and OPT OUTs at any time which make regular text giving already more controllable than other means of giving.

Cost of contacting consumers – People who donate by regular text giving are used to receiving opt out SMS messages around SKIP and STOP. A proportion of donors will no longer be reading the regulatory messages from their charity because they will think they already know what they say. Charities will therefore have a challenge communicating the message asking donors to opt in.

Charities are more likely to receive complaints as a result of this change from supporters wanting to know why they are being contacted or why their donation has stopped. Public facing staff and volunteers will need briefing.

Confusing for consumers – To require the consumer to OPT IN to continue giving when every message until then has said "text STOP to opt out" is counter intuitive.

The PSA themselves have recently put out warnings about clicking on links in text messages that you are not expecting. A high number of users will not respond to an OPT IN message that they are not expecting.

Comparison with Direct Debit - Charitable donors are used to monthly recurring payments with no annual renewal by Direct Debit. Requiring text givers to effectively "opt back in" every year is completely counter intuitive and puts text giving at a disadvantage to other forms of payment.

	Faulty logic – The PSA stated they saw no evidence that an introduction of a 12 month opt in would lead to increased costs, because any costs associated with obtaining an opt in would be offset by the reduced costs associated with less consumer complaints. As a sector, charities have had no complaints, so no costs can be offset.
	<b>Revenue-</b> The PSA have commented on cost but the real concern for charities relates to loss of revenue. The introduction of an opt in renewal will increase attrition rates and income, which will leave charities investing money in other sources of donation which have a better return.
	Sensitive Market – Unlike other sectors of the premium rate market, many charity brands are newsworthy and the trustees of charities are responsible for the debts of the organisations they control. That makes charities very nervous about regulation and the approach that will be taken by the regulator going forward. Most charities would suffer a financial impact from news of a regulatory telling off, let alone a fine.
	Charities will look at how the regulator regulates before entering the market. We ask the PSA to consider what signals they are sending about their regulatory approach when dealing with a sensitive part of the market. The PSA is in danger of putting an obstacle in the way of regular text giving that does not exist in other forms of payment and is not justified by a single complaint.
Q3 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to Guidance? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q4 Are there any areas where you consider that Guidance would assist with compliance with the standards and requirements?	Confidential? Yes
Q5 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

compliance support? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.  Q6 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to Best Practice information? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q7 Are there any areas where you consider that Best Practice information would be helpful?	Confidential? Yes
Q8 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to supervision and verification? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes
Q9 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to Code compliance: engagement and enforcement? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q10 Do you agree with our proposal to tailor our approach to regulation, including introducing Bespoke and General permissions as part of the draft Code? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q11 Do you have any comments about the existing permissions and exemptions under Code 14 and/or our proposed approach to ensuring certainty and clarity on their status under Code 15?	
Q12 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach to prior permissions? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

Standards and requirements	
Q13 Do you agree with our proposed Integrity standard and requirements? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential?
Q14 Do you agree with our assessment against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q15 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new transparency standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q16 Do you agree with our assessment of the transparency standard against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q17 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new fairness standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q18 Do you agree with our assessment against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q19 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new customer care standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q20 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

customer care standard against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view	
Q21 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new vulnerable consumers standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q22 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new vulnerable consumers standard against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q23 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new consumer privacy standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q24 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new consumer privacy standard against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q25 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new prevention of harm and offence standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q26 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new prevention of harm and offence standard against the general principles which we set out in the	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	
Q27 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new organisation and service information standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q28 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new organisation and service information standard against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q29 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new DDRAC standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q30 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new DDRAC standard against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q31 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new systems standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q32 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new systems standard against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

Supervision	
Q33 Do you agree with our proposed general approach to supervision? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q34 Do you agree with our proposed compliance monitoring methods? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q35 Do you agree with our proposals on reporting and notification requirements? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q36 Do you agree with our assessment of our proposed new supervisory function against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Engagement and enforcement	
Q37 Do you agree with our proposed approach on engagement and enforcement? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q38 Do you agree with our proposed changes to settlement? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q39 Do you agree with our proposals to strengthen the existing interim measures regime? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q40 Do you agree with our proposals to introduce a new "single decision	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

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maker" as an alternative to the full Tribunal for more straightforward cases? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	
Q41 Do you agree with our proposal to reduce the range of circumstances in which a provider can request an oral hearing? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q42 Do you agree with our proposal to expand the test for prohibiting a relevant individual from the industry? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q43 Do you agree with our proposal to strengthen and expand our information gathering powers (including for the purpose of supervision/engagement and enforcement)? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q44 Do you agree with our provisional assessment of our proposals relating to: (i) engagement and enforcement proposals; and (ii) additional powers, responsibilities and obligations – against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our view?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Other general Code considerations	
Q45 Do you agree with our proposals on general funding arrangements? Do you have any further information or evidence which would inform our assessment of our proposals on general funding arrangements?	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

Q46 Do you agree with our proposals on amending our current terminology to better reflect the current phonepaid services value chain? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	
Q47 Do you agree with our proposal to retain the rules of the current Notice of specific service charges and durations of calls within Annex 1 of Code 15? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q48 Do you agree with our proposal to include a broad amendment power in Code 15 to facilitate more efficient amendments to single or small numbers of specific Code provisions? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.  Impact assessment	
impact assessment	
Q49 Are there other impacts which we have not considered in relation to our proposal to move from a regulatory approach based on outcomes to one based on standards? If so, please provide appropriate evidence of the likely impact of the change.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q50 Are there other impacts which we have not considered in relation to our proposal to focus on prevention of harm rather than cure? If so, please provide appropriate evidence of the likely impact of the change.	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
Q51 Are there other impacts which	

appropriate evidence of the likely	
impact of the change.	
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Q52 Are there other impacts which	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
we have not considered in relation to	
our proposed changes to our	
investigations and sanctions policies	
and procedures? If so, please provide	
appropriate evidence of the likely	
impact of the change.	
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Equality impact assessment	
Q53 Do you agree with our	Confidential? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
provisional assessment on the impact	
of our proposals in relation to	
equality? Do you have any further	
information or evidence which would	
inform our view?	
informout view:	
Next Steps	
Q54 Do you agree with our proposal	
to set out transitional arrangements	
that allow the new Code procedures	
to apply from the commencement	
date to all investigations and/or	
_	
complaints or monitoring which	
commenced under Code 14?	

## Submit your response

To send your responses to the PSA please email this completed form to <a href="mailto:consultations@psauthority.org.uk">consultations@psauthority.org.uk</a> or by post to Barbara Limon, Phone-paid Services Authority, 40 Bank Street, London, E14 5NR.