

Consultation response form

Consultation on draft Code 15

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

Full name	Amanda Jones
Contact phone number	
Representing	Individual Giving & Mass Engagement
Organisation name	RSPCA
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 [privacy policy](#).

Your details: We will keep your contact number and email address confidential. Is there anything else you want to keep confidential?	No
Your response: Please indicate how much of your response you want to keep confidential.	None
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 requirements? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Yes
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.	No
Q3 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to Guidance? Please provide an	Yes

explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	
Q4 Are there any areas where you consider that Guidance would assist with compliance with the standards and requirements?	Yes
Q5 Do you agree with our proposed regulatory approach relating to compliance support? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Yes
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.	Yes
Q7 Are there any areas where you consider that Best Practice information would be helpful?	All
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.	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.	Yes
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.	Yes As long it is consistent within the same sector/industry
Q11 Do you have any comments about the existing permissions and exemptions under Code 14 and/or	No

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.	Yes
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.	Yes
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?	No Please see questions 17 & 18
Q15 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new transparency standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Yes
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?	Yes
Q17 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new fairness standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Yes We agree a fairness standard is a good thing for consumers.
Q18 Do you agree with our assessment against the general principles which we set out in the discussion document? Do you have	No We do not agree with the PSA's assessment against the general principles which they set out in the

<p>any further information or evidence which would inform our view?</p>	<p>discussion document. We believe charities should be exempt for the following reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While the CMA are currently reviewing subscription products to assess whether they need to change guidelines to avoid consumers being affected by the issue of a “loyalty penalty”, we do not believe that charity donations would be affected. There is no loyalty penalty in charitable donations since supporters are not signing up for a fixed period, can opt-out at any point and their donation amount is never increased unless instructed by the donor. The notion of a loyalty penalty or fixed period is alien to a donors’ understanding of the relationship they have entered into. 2. If the CMA were to introduce this requirement and to apply it to charity donations, then this change would affect regular giving through all payment mechanics. There is therefore no need for the PSA to require this for PSMS only in the meantime, as they will damage the PSMS regular giving market. Instead, the PSA should wait for any changes from the CMA and then align their code accordingly. Making changes that are not mirrored in other payment methods will cause confusion in the market place amongst donors, especially as it is introducing a concept that does not make sense in charitable giving. 3. Sending a message requiring re-optin could constitute marketing and breach GDPR for most donors that have not consented. There is therefore no mechanism for those donors to continue the subscription that they wanted to give to in the first place, it would create a misleading default cancellation that the donor did not want or agree to, having been told initially that their donation would continue until they choose to stop it. 4. Very low levels of harm in charity PSMS, both single and regular. No known complaints or an issue with recurring donation services. We have never had a
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	<p>single complaint about a subscription period not coming to an end, as this is not a transaction relating to the delivery of a service with a meaningful time period, it is the expectation of the donor that it continues until they cancel.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Existing mechanic is very clear at sign up and is clear on how to cancel. When supporters sign up to a regular gift via PSMS they receive messages as covered in the existing Special Condition for Recurring Donations. This includes a double opt-in at sign up. Each month the supporter then receives two messages, the first before their donation is due giving them the option to SKIP and a receipt for their donation the following day, assuming they did not SKIP. The supporter is therefore fully aware of the fact that they are donating each month and have the opportunity and details to stop their donation at any time. 6. The supporter's expectation is that they will continue to donate unless they take action not to (ie to skip a month). It will be counter-intuitive to supporters to receive additional messages asking them to take action in order to continue, when this is not what they are doing. 7. The current proposal is impractical. It requires a double opt-in to be captured every 12 months. For most regular givers, only a mobile number is held, so this requirement would involve sending supporters an SMS asking them to reply YES in order to continue their donation, and if they do so, then sending an additional message asking them to reply YES a second time for double opt-in.
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?	Yes
Q20 Do you agree with our assessment of the proposed new customer care standard against the	Yes

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?	Yes A difficult area that requires support
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?	Yes
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?	Yes)
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?	Yes
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?	Yes
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 discussion document? Do you have	Yes

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?	Yes
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?	Yes
Q29 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new DDRAC standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Yes
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?	Yes
Q31 Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a new systems standard? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree?	Yes
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?	Yes
Supervision	
Q33 Do you agree with our proposed general approach to supervision?	Yes

Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	
Q34 Do you agree with our proposed compliance monitoring methods? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Yes
Q35 Do you agree with our proposals on reporting and notification requirements? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Yes
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?	Yes
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.	Yes
Q38 Do you agree with our proposed changes to settlement? Please provide an explanation as to why you agree or disagree.	Yes
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.	Yes
Q40 Do you agree with our proposals to introduce a new “single decision maker” as an alternative to the full Tribunal for more straightforward	Yes

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.	Yes
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	Yes
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.	Yes
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?	Yes
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?	Yes
Q46 Do you agree with our proposals on amending our current terminology to better reflect the current phone-	Yes

paid 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.	Yes
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.	Yes
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.	No
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.	No
Q51 Are there other impacts which we have not considered in relation to our proposal to move to a new Code which is simpler and easier to comply with? If so, please provide appropriate evidence of the likely impact of the change.	No
Q52 Are there other impacts which we have not considered in relation to	No

our proposed changes to our investigations and sanctions policies and procedures? If so, please provide appropriate evidence of the likely impact of the change.	
Equality impact assessment	
Q53 Do you agree with our 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?	Yes
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?	Yes

Submit your response

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