

Consultation:	0871 Services
FAO:	Mr Nathan Marshall
Name of respondent:	BHAVEN PATHAK
Representing (self or organisation/s):	self

Q1: Do you agree with our proposal to create a Statement of Application for the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons and alternative suggestions.	
I do agree but provided it leads to something useful	
Q2: Do you agree that the current application of Section 1 of the Code is appropriate to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please give your reasons.	
I do agree. It is unnecessary for companies to use that number particularly since mobile networks do not include them in free minutes (to landlines or other mobiles).	
Q3: Do you agree that this is a fair and proportionate application of the network operators' due diligence requirements to the 0871 number range? If not, please give your reasons. ICSTIS would welcome further information regarding quantification of costs.	
Yes	
Q4: Do you have any further information and evidence regarding usual payment times? Additionally it would be helpful to have responses that indicate to what extent Service providers rely on immediate payments from network operators to cover their operational costs.	
Q5: Do you agree that this is a fair and proportionate application of a delayed payment mechanism to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.	
Yes	
Q6: Do you agree that the current application of Section 3 of the Code is appropriate to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.	
Yes. Although in section 3 it mentions that service providers also hold non-premium rate numbers - but that your current position on 087 is that they're ok. This contradicts the notion that 0871 are really premium rate numbers hence why they will be regulated by ICSTIS. So why should a provider hold a premium rate 087 number but not a geographic number. It is suggested therefore that service providers be required to hold a geographical or 0870 number and NOT 0871 numbers.	
Q7: Do you agree that the current application of Section 4 of the Code is appropriate to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.	
Yes	
Q8: Do you agree that it is fair and proportionate to apply ICSTIS' current application of the prior permission regime under Section 5.1 of the Code to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.	
Yes	

Q9: Do you agree that Option D is a fair and proportionate application of the undue delay requirements in paragraph 5.4.2 of the Code to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons and alternative preferred option. Additionally, please provide details of any other options you feel may be appropriate for ICSTIS to consider.

No. You state that there have been a high number of complaints concerning 0871 numbers as has Ofcom and at this time Ofcom is currently investigating scams on 0870 numbers.

Once 0870 loses its revenue share, most companies/organisations are expected to migrate to 0871 and this means scam artists will also do this.

Your proposal is not do anything about call queueing - this is not at all in the consumer interest but only in the interest of companies/organisations using these numbers.

It has been stated by ICSTIS that many companies/organisations will use 0871 not for the revenue share (can be as much as upto 6p/min) but for the advanced network features. I would disagree. If this was true then companies/organisations would use other lower-rate non-geographical numbers like 0845 which offer the same advanced network features except in most cases revenue sharing isn't passed to the company instead being retained by the service provider to pay for the advanced network services.

Therefore, the primary interest in using 0871 is for the revenue share in addition to the advanced network features available but the difference is that many consumers currently aren't aware that 0871 is premium rate which is why many companies/organisations have already migrated to 0871.

Many companies/organisations would not dare move to 09x (not even at 15p/min) because in all likelihood they are aware that consumers are aware that 09x is a premium rate and that this would cause many complaints.

Instead they have opted for 0871 where revenue still exists but without consumer knowledge that they are in fact ringing a premium rate number (albeit lower amounts) and according to your proposal, being able to gain revenue even whilst consumers are held in a queue. It's possible to be held in a queue for over 20minutes when ringing some companies on their 0870 now. This equates to the company getting over £1 for every call they get that lasts 20minutes just being in a queue. If a company gets hundreds or even thousands of calls a day then this adds up over the month and year. Therefore there can be an incentive to keep callers waiting.

I believe with the extra revenue possible from 0871 numbers that this is used to ensure that us consumers aren't charged for being kept on hold for undue delays and therefore consumers aren't charged for being in a long queue. I don't believe that with the extra revenue possible from 0871 numbers that this would add any extra financial burden on to companies/organisations operating 0871 numbers.

If this is still not possible then how about an announcement when first rung that states where you are in the queue and how long it's estimated you'll be before being answered. This would allow us consumers to know in advance that they could be a long time and can choose to ring back later, etc. Again, this could all be paid for out of the revenue from the call they receive which ICSTIS believes is really only used for network features and not to deliberately gain revenue from the call.

Q10: Do you agree that this is a fair and proportionate application of the pricing information requirements under Section 5.7 of the Code to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes, except that because consumers will not be aware that 0871 is a premium rate number

Q11: Do you agree that it is appropriate to allow a three-month implementation period, as outlined above?

Yes

Q12: Do you agree that this is a fair and proportionate application of ICSTIS' scope of regulation in respect to content of services provided on the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

Q13: Do you agree that the current application of Section 6 of the Code is appropriate to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

Q14: Do you agree that the current application of Section 7 of the Code is appropriate to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

Q15: Do you agree that the current application of Sections 8 to 11 of the Code is appropriate to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

Q16: Do you agree that this is a fair and proportionate application of the funding model in Annex 1 of the Code to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

Q17: Do you agree that this is a fair and proportionate method of collection of the funding levy to apply to the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

Q18: Do you agree that a minimum payment amount from each network operator should be £500 per annum? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes

Q19: Do you agree that it is not appropriate for ICSTIS to create and promote a separate brand for regulation of the 0871 number range? If not, please provide your reasons.

Yes, so long as ICSTIS doesn't try and hide the fact that 0871 is effectively a premium rate number service providers do not advertise the 0871 number range as 'national rate' which some CPs currently do.

Q20: Is there any other way in which ICSTIS' regulatory framework should be amended or otherwise so as to regulate the 0871 number range in a way that is fair and proportionate?

To discourage scams with missed phone calls/silent calls, ICSTIS should ensure that companies/organisations using an 0871 does not display via CLI (Caller Display Identity) their 0871 number. Instead, companies/organisations should use freephone or lower-cost number ranges. This would also save Ofcom having to investigate missed calls/silent calls (whether deliberate or not) as this is potentially in contravention of current Ofcom rules. Currently, Ofcom rules state that companies/organisations making phone calls (sales, etc) should not display any number costing more than the rate of an 0845 on CLI.

Q21: Do you agree that this is an appropriate wording for a Statement of Application based on ICSTIS' proposals? If not, please provide your reasons and alternative wording.