

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **The Use of "306X XXXX" Numbers by FTNS Operators for Calling Card Services**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views and comments on whether "306X XXXX" numbers could be assigned to Fixed Telecommunication Network Services (FTNS) operators as access numbers for their calling card service.

#### **Usage of "306" Numbers**

2. At the 31st NAC meeting, the Telecommunications Authority (TA) announced to allocate "306" number blocks to FTNS operators for assignment of "306X XXXX" numbers to Public Non-exclusive Telecommunications Service (PNETS) operators (including external telecommunications services (ETS) operators) who operate "IDD-type of services". "306X XXXX" numbers are subject to Local Access Charge (LAC) and FTNS operators will measure or meter the traffic passed through the access lines of "306X XXXX" numbers in order to calculate the LAC to be paid by the operators concerned.

3. Recently, a FTNS operator is planning to launch a new pre-paid calling card service and it proposes to use "306X XXXX" numbers as the access numbers for this new service. Using the "306X XXXX" access numbers, the service is accessible over all public telecommunications networks and public payphones. When accessing the service over public payphones, unlike the "20X" calling card services, callers need to deposit a \$1 coin or more to pay for the local call charge. While for "20X" service, such local call charge is absorbed by the FTNS operator concerned when the caller is making the call from public payphones.

4. With this proposed arrangement, the FTNS operator will have two groups of calling card access numbers, namely, (i) "20X" short codes and (ii) "306X XXXX" numbers. The FTNS operator can make use of the two groups of access numbers to differentiate different types of calling card services.

#### **The TA's Consideration**

5. To facilitate the provision of external telecommunications service, the TA has assigned "00X" indirect access codes and "20X" codes to FTNS operators for their one-stage dialling IDD service and calling card service respectively. Likewise, the TA has assigned to ETS operators the "15/16xx" short codes for their one-stage dialling IDD service and "306X XXXX" numbers for their calling card services. Currently, "306X" number blocks are allocated to FTNS operators for onward assignment to PNETS/ETS operators for the provision of calling card services.

6. From the technical point of view, it is considered feasible for FTNS operators to use "306X" numbers for their calling card services. "306X" number blocks are allocated to calling card services and hence are metered for the required LAC to be paid by the operators. Hence, the provision of "306X" calling card service by FTNS operators would not impose any metering or network routing problems.

7. From the resource management point of view, with sufficient numbers available in the "306X" number level, there would not be any constraints in number resources to meet the FTNS operator's proposed requirement.

8. It is not for OFTA to judge whether it is necessary for the FTNS operator applying for the "306X XXXX" access numbers to operate two classes of calling card services. It is entirely a business decision of the FTNS operator in question. Due to design limitation of the payphones, it is not technically feasible to programme selected "20X" access codes for access requiring the \$1 coin deposit.

### **Advice Sought**

9. Having considered the technical feasibility and numbering related issues, the TA would like to solicit any views from TNAC members before a decision on the proposal is made. Members are invited to give their comments on the proposal on or before 28 May 1999 to the Secretary of TNAC.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority  
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