

Why We Propose to Charge a Fee on Telephone Numbers?

Background

On December 21 2007 the Government published a notice in the Gazette to invite public views on the proposed introduction of the unified carrier licence (UCL), a new licensing regime to pave the way for fixed-mobile convergence in the telecommunications sector. On 14 January 2008 the administration briefed the Legislative Council Panel on Information, Technology and Broadcasting about the salient points of the proposed UCL regime.

Among the various proposals featured in the UCL consultation paper, the licence fee component of \$3 per telephone number allocated has aroused widespread media coverage. A number of professionals and columnists have subsequently written on the subject. To clarify the position of the administration and to explain the rationale behind the proposed fee, Mr. T. Y. Chan, our Assistant Director (Regulatory Affairs), has published an article entitled “Effective Allocation and Use of Telephone Numbers” in the Hong Kong Economic Journal on 28 January 2008.

Meanwhile, we have also been exchanging views with various stakeholders, including the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, the Consumer Council and the Hong Kong Telecommunications Users Group. This note encapsulates the views and the information that we have conveyed to these stakeholders during these exchanges.

The views and the information contained in this note are not the final conclusion of the Government. The consultation on UCL ended on 4 March 2008. We will carefully consider all the submissions and comments received before making a final decision.

Introduction

We propose that a number fee (at \$3 per number) should be imposed on the telephone numbers allocated to operators, irrespective of whether the numbers have been assigned to end customers or not. However, should an operator choose to return idle numbers to us, they will not need to pay such

fee in respect of the returned numbers.

There are suggestions that we should charge the idle numbers only. However, doing so would encourage operators to assign the numbers in a less than disciplined manner in order to avoid the number fee, hence defeating our objective of utilising the numbers effectively. A case in point would be the assignment of more numbers to commercial PABX users.

Since the number fee will be part and parcel of the licence fee through which the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) recovers the cost of administering the licences, it is reasonable that allocated numbers should be charged a number fee too. However, the operators can always minimise the cost incurred by the number fee by making prudent use of the numbers allocated to them, and returning promptly to OFTA the numbers they do not need.

Upon return of the numbers, OFTA may then re-allocate the numbers to other operators, hence achieving more effective utilisation of the scarce number resources. At present, around 40% of the numbers allocated to fixed and mobile operators are lying idle, and such idle numbers amount to 13 million. The return of these or part of these numbers to OFTA will help defer the introduction of a 9- or 10-digit numbering plan, which will incur substantial economic and social costs.

It is relevant to point out that instead of standing to gain additional revenue when the UCL comes into place, we have to budget for a downturn in our revenue from mobile carriers during the transitional period from now to July 2010. As OFTA operates under the trading fund arrangement, we have to operate with financial prudence and our planned budget is such that we will strive to maintain the specified annual rate of return of 8.5% on fixed assets employed. But this is by no means certain as operators may choose to return their idle numbers to OFTA.

The Government making more money?

There is suspicion that the Government intends to increase revenue by imposing a number fee. We would like to make it clear that the purpose of the number fee is to encourage effective utilisation of numbers, not to increase licence fee revenue for OFTA. The components of the licence fee under the UCL would be broadly the same as those under the existing carrier

licences. We will standardise the licence fee for both fixed and mobile services to facilitate introduction of converged services and to promote competition. For example, the customer connection fee for each fixed subscriber under the current fixed carrier licence is \$7 while the corresponding figure for mobile service is \$18. Under the proposed UCL, it will be standardised as \$8. With the number fee added on top, the licence fee for mobile service will enjoy a reduction of \$7 per customer while that for fixed service will have an increase of \$4. The new UCL licence fee will not in the long run bring additional licence revenue to OFTA.

Passing onto End Customers?

There are concerns that the operators may pass on the number fee to the end customers. We expect that the mobile carriers will have the financial incentive to convert their mobile carrier licences to UCL as soon as it is put in place due to a reduction in licence fee. In view of such reduction, mobile operators should have little excuse to increase their retail price on the pretext of the number fee.

It is a fact that the fixed carriers will see an increase of fee from \$7 to \$11 per customer per annum under the UCL, but this will not happen immediately. This is because under our proposal, fixed carriers may continue to operate their services under their existing licences until their expiry. In other words, the earliest date for the first batch of incumbent fixed carriers to take up the UCL could therefore be end June 2010, when the existing fixed carrier/Fixed Telecommunication Network Services (FTNS) licences of PCCW, HGC, WT&T and NWT expire. Fixed operators should have little excuse to increase their retail price on the pretext of the number fee before they switch to UCL. They will also have more than two years to improve their service platform to prepare for advent of UCL. By June 2010, they should be in a position to return surplus numbers to OFTA should they wish to contain the rise in licence fee under UCL. In fact, the proposed \$3 number fee per number per year (or 25 cents per month) should be a small portion (around 0.5%) of the lowest annual subscription (ranging between \$580 to \$1060 per year) of a fixed telephone line, and therefore it should not have a significant impact on the cost of the operator and hence the setting of the retail price level.

We anticipate that by June 2010, the convergence of fixed and mobile services and new services brought about by new technologies (such as VoIP)

should find much wider applications. Fixed operators will face increasing competition from the mobile operators and other operators offering innovative services and any attempt to raise retail price on the part of fixed operators will have to be handled with care.

Other Measures to Achieve Better Number Utilisation

Apart from the proposed number fee, OFTA has taken other measures to facilitate better number utilisation. Under the existing code of practice, an operator is required to return a number block if it is not opened for use within 12 months. Operators are also required to recover immediately any numbers or codes which have been given up by customers after termination of service (except for number portability requirements) or which are no longer used for a particular service. The recovered numbers/codes have to be re-cycled for use within six months. Last year, we set up a working group under the Telecommunications Numbering Advisory Committee to study various issues of the existing 8-digit Numbering Plan, including longer-digit migration options and the need to increase the utilisation rate. After several rounds of meetings, we managed to lift the threshold for applying for allocation of new number blocks from a utilisation rate at 50% to 60% for fixed operators. This is a significant improvement as fixed operators held a strong view against the proposal at the beginning but finally we managed to obtain their support. The working group has been disbanded upon completion of its work. To add momentum to measures which are already in place, OFTA will set up a new working group to look at other possible measures to boost number utilisation.

It would not be viable to wait till other measures to be proposed by the new working group are in place before we implement the number fee proposal. For one thing, we have already implemented some measures but they so far only have limited effect in encouraging operators to return idle numbers to us. We believe the number fee is an appropriate measure which strikes a proper balance between the interest of the community at large and that of the operators. It has to be considered now in the context of the UCL licence fee falling which OFTA will have few alternative avenues to charge the number fee. The proposal should not come as a surprise to the industry. It was first raised in the first round of consultation on UCL back in 2005 and the public is being consulted on it for the third time now. Once the number fee is in place, we expect to see operators approaching OFTA for return of numbers and taking measures to use numbers allocated to them more

effectively.

During the conceptualising stage, we conducted a survey on whether the overseas administrations have imposed any licence fee on the use of numbers. According to a survey conducted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)¹ in 2004, number fee is not uncommon, particularly in Europe. Of the 99 countries that are covered by the survey, 41 countries have applied a number fee and these include Denmark, Germany, Spain and Australia. In addition to the ITU survey, OFTA has conducted further research about the practices that have been adopted in Australia, Thailand², and Denmark. The study paper is attached as an appendix to this note.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
March 2008

¹ The replies concerning numbering issues, received by ITU/BDT in response to the questionnaire, Telecommunication Regulatory Survey, 2004, Reference DM-135, sent by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to all Administrations on 22 April 2004. The relevant information may be found at <http://www.itu.int/oth/T0207000004/en>.

² Thailand did not appear to have responded to the 2004 ITU survey.

Note on Foreign Experience In Number Fees

Background

1. Currently, network operators (including both fixed and mobile network operators) and service providers (hereafter collectively referred to as “operator”) may apply to the Telecommunications Authority (“TA”) for allocation of telephone numbers free-of-charge. Based on the existing consumption rate, the 8-digit Numbering Plan is expected to be exhausted in seven years if appropriate preventive measures are not taken in time.

2. According to OFTA's record, around 40% of the subscriber numbers currently allocated to fixed and mobile operators are not yet assigned for use by end customers. The unassigned numbers are left idle. The lifetime of the current 8-digit Numbering Plan can be extended if the utilisation rate can be further improved. In this connection, the TA considers it necessary to introduce measures to provide the operators with the necessary incentives to use the allocated numbers in a more efficient manner.

3. Following the above, the TA proposed in the consultation paper on the creation of a Unified Carrier Licence (“UCL”) an annual fee of \$3 per subscriber number for numbering blocks allocated to the operators, regardless of whether or not the numbers have been assigned to end customers. Such a fee should encourage more efficient use of numbers and the lifetime of the current 8-digit Numbering Plan can hence be further extended.

Experiences of other places

4. The TA has studied the practices/measures adopted by some foreign administrations for improving the use of numbering resource. Such measures include (a) financial incentives (or disincentives) and (b) administrative measures. The two different (but complementary) approaches are summarised as follows:

(1) Financial incentives (or disincentives)

5. According to a survey conducted by the International Telecommunication Union (“ITU”)³ in 2004, number fee is not uncommon, particularly in Europe. Of the 99 countries that are covered by the survey, 41 countries have applied a number fee and these include Denmark, Germany, Norway, Spain and Australia.

6. In addition to the ITU survey, OFTA has conducted further research about the practices that have been adopted in Australia, Thailand⁴, and Denmark. The study also covers Taiwan, which is likely to introduce number fees in the near future.

7. In Australia, the Australia Communications and Media Authority (“ACMA”) has collected a set amount of revenue each year through the annual numbering charges imposed on operators. An annual number fee is applied to special service numbers (e.g. 180x, 1300, 13) and mobile numbers. The fee is collected from operators. Geographic numbers such as 8-digit home phone numbers, however, do not incur annual numbering charges. ACMA calculates these charges based on the length of the number, with the charge increasing as numbers get shorter in length⁵. Operators can recover these charges from customers provided that the charge is not more than the amount of charge per number as determined by ACMA. The base number fee of a 10-digit number⁶ for 2007 is AUD\$0.86153264 (\approx HKD\$6)⁷.

8. In Thailand, the shortage of telecommunications numbers has hindered the growth of local mobile telephone service⁸. To relieve the

³ The replies concerning numbering issues, received by ITU/BDT in response to the questionnaire, Telecommunication Regulatory Survey, 2004, Reference DM-135, sent by the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) to all Administrations on 22 April 2004. The relevant information may be found at <http://www.itu.int/oth/T0207000004/en>.

⁴ Thailand did not appear to have responded to the 2004 ITU survey.

⁵ The number fees for Australian telecommunications numbers are published at ACMA’s website at http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_2467

⁶ Digital mobile numbers in Australia are 10 digits long and begin with the prefix 04. The unit size of digital mobile numbers is 100,000. Service providers can request the allocation of numbers greater or less than the unit size in accordance with ACMA’s application guidelines.

⁷ Currency exchange rate for Australian Dollar (AUD) to Hong Kong Dollar (HKD) is assumed to be AUD\$1 \approx HK\$6.89.

⁸ The press published in NTC website titled “Shortage of new numbers slows growth”. http://eng.ntc.or.th/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=501&Itemid=0

problem of number shortage among operators, the National Telecommunications Commission (“NTC”) has extended the mobile numbering from 9 digits to 10 digits on 1 September 2006⁹. The annual number charge of a mobile telephone number is Baht 12 (around HKD\$ 3)¹⁰ for new operators and Baht 24 (around HKD\$ 6) for existing operators. If the allocated mobile telephone numbers are not used for a total period of one hundred and twenty days during the past one year, the operator will be charged Baht 120 (around HKD\$ 30) per each unused mobile telephone number. The charge for fixed telephone number is Baht 12 (around HKD\$ 3) per year for all operators¹¹.

9. In Denmark, the National IT and Telecom Agency (“NITA”) administers the numbering plan and collects number charges from the operators. The number charge of an 8-digit number in 2007 is DKK 1.77 (around HKD\$ 2.69)¹². NITA also imposes a charge for network and other special codes such as DNIC in “Other Numbering Plan¹³”.

10. Other than those administrations which have already introduced a number fee, some economies have also commenced studies and consultations on the feasibility of the introduction of a number fee. The Taiwan administration recognises that telephone numbers are finite public resource. In 2005, The Directorate General of Telecommunications (“DGT”)¹⁴ released a public consultation paper¹⁵ entitled “The Mechanism

⁹ NTC published the notification titled “Additional Temporary Criteria for Telecommunication Numbering Allocation (No. 2) and Alteration in Telecommunication Numbers for Mobile Telephone Service from 9 Digits to 10 Digits” on 29 August 2006 at the link http://www.ntc.or.th/uploadfiles/NotificationOfNTC/NTC_Notifications_On_Telecommunication_Business_Operation/NTC_Notification_Regarding_Additional_Temporary_Criteria_for_Telecommunication_Numbering_Allocation_No2.pdf.

¹⁰ Currency exchange rate for Thailand Baht to Hong Kong Dollar (HKD) is assumed to be Baht 1 = HK\$0.25

¹¹ NTC published the notification titled “Temporary Criteria for Telecommunication Numbering Allocation” on 2 August 2005 at the link http://www.ntc.or.th/uploadfiles/NotificationOfNTC/NTC_Notifications_On_Telecommunication_Business_Operation/NTC_Notification_Regarding_Temporary_Criteria_for_Telecommunication_Numbering_Allocation.pdf

¹² Currency exchange rate for Danish Crown Danish Krone (DKK) to Hong Kong Dollar (HKD) is assumed to be DKK\$1 = HK\$1.517

¹³ Other Numbering Plan defined by NITA includes Data Network Identification Code (DNIC), Administration Management Domain (ADMD), International Signalling Point Code (ISPC), National Signalling Point Code (NSPC), Mobile Network Code (MNC), OPERator IDentity (OPID), Issuer Identification Number (IIN) and other names and addresses for internal identification.

¹⁴ The DGT was transferred to The National Communications Commission (NCC) in 2006.

¹⁵ Related press release can be found at http://www.ncc.gov.tw/chinese/news_detail.aspx?site_content_sn=8&sn_f=1891.

for Collecting Telecommunications Numbers Usage Fees"¹⁶ on 5 February 2005 to solicit views from the public. According to the estimates of the operators, the average annual fee for each number assigned to subscribers will be approximately NT\$5 (\approx HKD\$1.2), if imposed. However, the proposal has yet to be implemented.

11. A summary on the method of numbers allocation and charging number fees adopted/being considered by these five foreign administrations is given in Annex 1.

(2) Administrative measures

12. We have also carried out research into the numbers allocation mechanism in other administrations. The findings show that some foreign administrations have introduced administrative measures to improve the utilisation efficiency of telephone numbers. These measures include:

(a) To allocate numbers in smaller blocks

13. In Singapore, the subscriber numbers for fixed telephone, mobile communications and VoIP are with the length of 8 digits and the numbers are allocated to operators in blocks of 10,000 while in Hong Kong, the current practice is to allocate numbers in a block of 50,000 and 100,000 for fixed and mobile service operators respectively. We may consider allocation of new numbers in smaller blocks.

(b) To Use area codes

14. In Australia, ACMA has introduced a two-digit area code to its geographic numbers¹⁷ so as to remedy the running out of numbers in some rapidly growing areas. Therefore, their geographic numbers now all have an eight-digit number with a two-digit area code. This measure however effectively lengthens the numbering plan and is therefore out of question in the local context.

¹⁶ Taiwan DGT published the 「電信號碼使用費收費機制諮詢文件」 on 5 February 2005.

¹⁷ ACMA introduced two digit area code to its geographic numbers
http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_2466

Conclusion

15. In the light of our study, it should be clear that financial measure in the form of number fee has been widely used by many administrations in order to improve the efficient utilisation of numbers. In fact, number fee is not a new policy in Hong Kong. The number fee is already a variable fee component under the Service-Based Operator (“SBO”) licence, which has been introduced by the TA in January 2006. The number fee for the SBO licence is set at \$7¹⁸ per subscriber number. The fee applies to all subscriber numbers held by the SBO licensee, irrespective of whether the numbers are assigned to end customers or not, in order to encourage efficient use of numbers.

16. Beginning December 2006, we have tightened our administrative measure by raising the threshold number utilisation rate for a fixed operator/licensee to apply for additional number from 50% to 60%. Coupled with the proposed number fee, we hope to improve the utilisation of our telecommunications number and looking ahead, we will put continuous effort and work closely with operators, end users and other interested parties to explore other options to prolong the lifetime of the current 8-digit Numbering Plan.

**Office of the Telecommunications Authority
March 2008**

¹⁸ The number fee of \$7 for the SBO licence is much higher than the \$3 proposed for the UCL. The reason is that a SBO licensee does not establish a physical connection to the customer and there is no customer connection fee component for the SBO licence. A higher number fee is therefore necessary to recover the administrative costs of OFTA.

**Annex 1 – Summary of findings of
Number Allocation and Number Charges**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Do operators have to pay number fees?</i>	<i>Numbers Allocation</i>	<i>Numbers Charges</i>
Denmark	Yes	<p>(1) The Danish numbering plan consists of (i) the national numbering plan for telephony, ISDN and mobile communications (the “national numbering plan”) and (ii) a variety of other numbering plans¹³ for internal numbering and data communication with codes etc. for exchanging traffic between the networks.</p> <p>(2) Most of the numbers in the national numbering plan are 8-digit, but there are also short codes with 3, 4 or 5 digits. Short codes are placed in the number series beginning with digits 0-1, while the 8-digit numbers are placed in number series</p>	<p>(1) NITA collects number charges from the providers of electronic communications networks and services who have been allocated or are being allocated numbers, number series, or addresses by NITA. The size of the fee is every year amounted on the finance bill, on competitive conditions and consumer interest in the telecommunications market.</p> <p>(2) The amounts of charge for 2007 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vi) DKK 1.77¹² for an eight-digit number; (vii) DKK 1770 for a five-digit number; (viii) DKK 17,700 for a four-digit number; (ix) DKK 177,000 for a three-digit number; (x) DKK 17,700 for a DNIC; (xi) DKK 1,770 for a 1/10 DNIC; (xii) DKK 17,700 for an MNC and an

<i>Country</i>	<i>Do operators have to pay number fees?</i>	<i>Numbers Allocation</i>	<i>Numbers Charges</i>
		<p>beginning with digits 2-9.</p> <p>(3) Numbers are allocated to providers of electronic communications networks or services according to following rules:</p> <p>(i) 8-digit numbers within the national numbering plan are basically allocated in series of 10,000 or 100,000 numbers;</p> <p>(ii) Series of 1,000 numbers are allocated in number series 2599 and 6988 for providers with a minimal requirement;</p> <p>(iii) 8-digit subscriber numbers with special charging are allocated in series of 100 or 1,000 numbers;</p> <p>(iv) 70-numbers are also allocated in series of 1,000 in view of the special use of 70-numbers;</p> <p>(v) Other numbers or</p>	<p>INN;</p> <p>(xiii) DKK 1,770 for an ADMD;</p> <p>(xiv) DKK 17,700 for an OPID;</p> <p>(xv) DKK 177,000 for an ISPC;</p> <p>(xvi) DKK 177 for a NSPC.</p> <p>(3) In the case of re-assignment (e.g. via porting), it will still be the original provider who has formally been allocated the numbering resource by the NITA to pay the number charge.</p>

<i>Country</i>	<i>Do operators have to pay number fees?</i>	<i>Numbers Allocation</i>	<i>Numbers Charges</i>
		addresses (e.g. short codes, DNICs or ADMD addresses) are assigned individually to the providers.	
Australia	Yes	(1) ACMA allocates number blocks, usually in 1,000 for geographic numbers and 100,000 for mobile numbers.	<p>(1) ACMA administers an annual numbering charge which is applied to special service numbers (e.g. 180x, 1300, 13) and mobile numbers and is collected from carriage operators who hold the numbers. Geographic numbers such as 8-digit home phone numbers do not incur annual numbering charges.</p> <p>(2) ACMA calculates these charges based on the length of the number, with the charge increasing as numbers get shorter in length.</p> <p>(3) A standard charge is set for a 10-digit number and this amount is increased (or decreased) by a factor of ten for each digit reduction (or increase) in a number's length.</p> <p>(4) The amounts of charge for incoming only</p>

<i>Country</i>	<i>Do operators have to pay number fees?</i>	<i>Numbers Allocation</i>	<i>Numbers Charges</i>
			<p>international numbers¹⁹, internal network numbers²⁰ and testing numbers for 2007 were:</p> <p>(ii) AUD\$0.00000086153264⁷ for 15-digit numbers;</p> <p>(iii) AUD\$0.00000086153264 for 14-digit numbers;</p> <p>(iv) AUD\$0.0000086153264 for 13-digit numbers;</p> <p>(v) AUD\$0.000086153264 for 12-digit numbers;</p> <p>(vi) AUD\$0.00086153264 for 11-digit numbers;</p> <p>(vii) AUD\$0.0086153264 for 10-digit numbers;</p> <p>(viii) AUD\$0.086153264 for 9-digit numbers;</p> <p>(ix) AUD\$0.86153264 for 8-digit numbers;</p> <p>(x) AUD\$8.6153264 for 7-digit numbers;</p> <p>(xi) AUD\$86.153264 for 6-digit numbers;</p> <p>(xii) AUD\$861.53264 for 5-digit numbers;</p> <p>(xiii) AUD\$8615.3264 for 4-digit numbers;</p>

¹⁹ Incoming only international service means a carriage service by which incoming calls from outside Australia are routed to an Australian carriage service provider; and for which access is not available for calls originating in Australia.

²⁰ Internal network service means a carriage service having numbers: none of which is accessible by, or to, an end-user; or any of which, if used, is translated to a different number as a way of applying certain features or facilities to the call.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Do operators have to pay number fees?</i>	<i>Numbers Allocation</i>	<i>Numbers Charges</i>
			<p>(xiv) AUD\$86153.264 for 3-digit numbers;</p> <p>(5) The amounts of charge for other numbers for 2007 were:</p> <p>(i) AUD\$0.0086153264 for 12-digit numbers;</p> <p>(ii) AUD\$0.086153264 for 11-digit numbers;</p> <p>(iii) AUD\$0.86153264 for 10-digit numbers;</p> <p>(iv) AUD\$8.6153264 for 9-digit numbers;</p> <p>(v) AUD\$86.153264 for 8-digit numbers;</p> <p>(vi) AUD\$861.53264 for 7-digit numbers;</p> <p>(vii) AUD\$8615.3264 for 6-digit numbers;</p> <p>(viii) AUD\$86153.264 for 5-digit numbers;</p> <p>(ix) AUD\$100 000 for 4-digit numbers;</p> <p>(x) AUD\$100 000 for 3-digit numbers;</p>
Thailand	Yes	<p>(1) The numbers for the fixed telephone have length of 9 digits and 10 digits for mobile telephone.</p> <p>(2) The numbers are allocated on a necessity basis. NTC allocates numbers in blocks</p>	<p>(1) NTC collects number charges from operators. The amount of charge in 2006 were:</p> <p>(i) Baht 12 (~HK\$3) for fixed telephone numbers;</p> <p>(ii) Baht 1,000,000 for 3-digit number;</p> <p>(iii) Baht 100,000 for 4-digit number;</p>

Country	Do operators have to pay number fees?	Numbers Allocation	Numbers Charges
		of 1,000 for fixed telephone service and 10,000 numbers for mobile telephone service.	(iv) Baht 12 for mobile telephone numbers of a new operator; (v) Baht 24 for mobile telephone numbers of an existing operator; (vi) Baht 120 for unused mobile telephone numbers.
Taiwan	Study stage	(1) NCC evaluates and allocates the telecommunications numbers to operators based on following information: (i) Telecommunications numbers utilisation plan (including subscribers' growth prediction data, network structure connection map, and system capacity construction data); and (ii) Data on number of subscribers (including detailed list of allocated subscribers, telephone	(1) Article 11 of the Regulation governing telecommunications numbers prescribed that Operator shall render the telecommunications numbers usage fees in accordance with the criteria set by the Directorate-General of Telecommunications ("DGT"). ".....In order to reflect the administrative cost, utility rate and potential values of different numbers, the DGT may establish the criteria on collection of telecommunications numbers usage fees respectively for different telecommunications services, different numbers and telecommunications numbers resources with different utility rate....."

<i>Country</i>	<i>Do operators have to pay number fees?</i>	<i>Numbers Allocation</i>	<i>Numbers Charges</i>
		traffic data, or documents which can be provided for checking the number of subscribers).	(2) A report in the NCC Watch ²¹ said that NCC proposed to set the telecommunications numbers usage fees at NT\$5 for each telecommunications number assigned to the telecommunications operators for fixed telephone, 2G, 3G, PHS, VoIP services.

²¹ NCC Watch reported the news regarding the telecommunications numbers usage fee on 25 May 2007 at the link <http://www.nccwatch.org.tw/news/20070525/1608>