

Dear Sir,

I have no views on maintaining the regional area codes or local area dialling as they have minimal impact on overall call costs.

I do have 3 points of consideration;-

1. I am against the replacement of individual call charges with any sort of monthly call package/bundle. This would be disproportionately expensive (per call) for those who have a phone for emergency assistance or an occasional outgoing call, when most of their contact is incoming calls from friends/relatives/carers.

2. I am against the current practice of bundling basic PAYG phone service with some package (to incorporate data etc). Providing just the simple PAYG with auto-rollover of unused calls/minutes, should be made a very clear option by all phone companies. The keep-active frequency with a single call should be a fixed standard of 180days (6 months). There should be an automatic minimum call charge (without subscriber action) at the end of that period, to extend the active status for another time period. When the subscriber account funds run out, and another top-up is needed, the phone number account should be held available for a further 12 months, after which time it would be clear the phone SIM is lost.

3. Thirdly, to alleviate weak signal areas (or weather effects, or mast station failure) of the mobile networks, all wired broadband services to residential properties should be issued with a mobile "signal router" to capture and divert mobile calls via the wired broadband connection, then out onto the cell network at a suitable node. ie a WIFI feature of the broadband router/modem.

These actions above would circumvent the issues from dropping landline phones from the UK network.

Yours

Mr Ian Scott