

## APPOINTMENTS TO THE BRITISH COAL CORPORATION

THE President of the Board of Trade and Industry and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has reappointed Dr David Atterton CBE, Mr David Walker, Mr Johan Erbé and Mr Antony Hichens as part-time Members of the British Coal Corporation from 1st June 1995 to 30th June 1995.

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The President of the Board of Trade and Industry and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has appointed Mr Albert Wheeler CBE and Mr Kevan Hunt as part-time Members of the British Coal Corporation from 1st April 1995 to 30th June 1995.

(34)

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS OF THE  
CONDITIONS OF THE LICENCE OF  
BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLC ("BT")

1. THE Director General of Telecommunications (the "Director") in accordance with section 12(2) of the Telecommunications Act 1984 (the "Act") hereby gives notice that he proposes to make modifications to the licence granted to British Telecommunications on 22nd June 1984 (the "BT Licence"). The modifications which the Director proposes to make are set out in the following Schedule.
2. The Director proposes to make the modifications for the following reasons:-
  - (a) the availability of number portability - the ability of a customer to keep a telephone number if he changes from one provider of telecommunications services to another - has been shown to be a significant factor in promoting competition in the supply of such services;
  - (b) although the BT Licence makes provision for the introduction of number portability in certain circumstances, the important question of allocation of the costs of introducing such a service is excluded from the Director's powers of determination under those provisions;
  - (c) in the absence of such a power, progress in introducing number portability is being significantly impeded. In the Director's opinion, number portability needs to be introduced into the UK as quickly as possible and with a cost-distribution which fairly reflects the distribution of benefits to telecommunications customers as a whole.
  - (d) in addition, developments in the provision of telecommunications services since the BT Licence was modified to cater for the provision of number portability have indicated a need for portability to be provided in accordance with an industry-wide specification and to widen the scope of number portability beyond simple exchange-line portability.
3. The Director is required by section 12(2) of the Act to consider any representations or objections which are duly made and not withdrawn.
4. Representations or objections to the proposed modifications may be made to: Alex Blowers, OFTEL, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JJ (telephone 0171 634 8798) no later than 22nd March 1995. Copies of the proposed modifications may be obtained from Peter Hammond at the above address (telephone: 0171 634 8830). All responses will be publicly available, on receipt, in the OFTEL library, unless clearly marked "Confidential".

## SCHEDULE

PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO CONDITION 34B OF THE  
BT LICENCE

The existing condition 34B of BT's licence allows, at paragraphs 34B 11-15, for the introduction in a geographical area of number portability (defined as being enabled to retain a telephone number at an address if a person arranges for an exchange line to be provided by an operator other than BT, and vice versa), following the completion of a cost-benefit analysis which shows a net benefit from its introduction outweighing the likely costs. Such an analysis has been carried out and provided the requisite indication. Paragraph 34B.15 of the condition allows for BT to recover from other operators the "reasonable costs" incurred in providing, *inter alia*, number portability. But it does not specify how these costs are to be measured or allocated. On this point, the proposed modification would introduce a power for the Director to determine the charges levied by BT on other operators to provide number portability. Any such determination would not permit BT to recover from other operators the costs of establishing the basic ability to provide portability of numbers (the "set up costs"), nor could BT wholly recover from one other operator the costs of routing a ported call within the BT system which are over and above those which are incurred in routing an ordinary call (the "additional conveyance costs").

The modification also expands the definition of number portability to encompass mobility of the customer to another address either at the time the telephone number is ported to another operator, or subsequently, and obliges BT to provide number portability in accordance with an industry-agreed functional specification.

The modification also allows for the introduction of number portability in respect of "non-geographic numbers" - numbers which are associated with a particular service, such as freephone and personal numbers. Other operators would be able to ask BT to port a number of this kind which was of a category specified in a list by the Director, where a customer wished to take a non-geographic service from that other operator rather than BT.

In addition, the modification allows for a simplification of the procedure for introducing number portability. This will no longer require a direction to the parties involved by the Director, but will be at the request of the other operator, subject to that operator being willing to enter a reciprocal agreement to provide number portability to BT, and to the technical feasibility of the request.

(39)

## DEPARTMENT FOR NATIONAL SAVINGS

## INDEX-LINKED NATIONAL SAVINGS

MOVEMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GENERAL  
INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES

FOR the purposes of revaluing on repayment Index-linked National Savings Certificates (Retirement Issue, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Index-linked Issues) and contributions under Save As You Earn savings contracts (Third Issue) and for revising the annual rate of interest for Indexed-Income Bonds, the Index figure issued by the Central Statistical Office in the month of February and applicable to the month of March is 146.0. This figure is based on the revised reference base of 100 adopted in January 1987. In accordance with the relevant prospectuses a notional Index figure of 576.0 has been calculated and will apply to Index-linked Savings Certificates and Indexed-Income Bonds purchased in March 1987 or earlier and SAYE contributions which were due for payment and made in February 1987 or earlier.

(35)