



## **Notification under section 49 of the Communications Act 2003**

Decision by the Forest of Dean District Council in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Schedule to a Direction published by Ofcom on 14 March 2006 ('the Direction').

1. On 24th August 2020, Forest of Dean District Council in accordance with section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), issued a notification setting out its draft decision in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Direction ('the First Notification').

2. A copy of the First Notification was sent to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 50(1)(b) of the Act.

3. In the First Notification, the Forest of Dean District Council invited representations about the draft decision by 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

4. The Forest of Dean District Council has considered every representation about the draft decision duly made to it and Ofcom has not notified the Forest of Dean District Council of any international obligation of the United Kingdom for this purpose.

5. The decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.

6. The effect of, and the Forest of Dean District Council reasons for making, the decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.

7. The Forest of Dean District Council consider that the decision complies with the requirements of sections 45 to 50 of the Act, as appropriate and relevant to the proposals.

8. In making the decision, The Forest of Dean District Council has considered and acted in accordance with the six community requirements in section 4 of the Act.

9. A copy of this Notification has been sent to the Secretary of State in accordance with section 50(1)(b) of the Act.

10. The Schedule to this Notification shall form part of this Notification.

**Decision by Forest of Dean District Council in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call box pursuant to Part 2 of the Schedule to a Direction published by Ofcom on 14 March 2006 ('the Direction').**

	Telephone Number	Address	Postcode	Average calls per month	Posting Completed Date	Agree Adopt Object	Reason for objection - based on need for telephony only not the kiosk
1	01594530275	PCO PCO1 THE FENCE ST. BRIAVELS LYDNEY	GL15 6QG	1	01/07/2020	Object	Well used by walkers - mobile phone reception very poor
2	01594530323	PCO PCO1 HIGH STREET ST. BRIAVELS LYDNEY	GL15 6TA	1	01/07/2020	Object	Well used by visitors and residents. Lack of mobile phone coverage in this area.
3	01594833586	PCO PCO1 TUFTHORN CLOSE COLEFORD	GL16 8PU	6	01/07/2020	Object	Coleford Town Council wish the telephone to remain due to the proximity of social housing, and elderly residents in the area, with evidence of regularly use.
4	01594842120	JCN TEMPLEWAY WEST/HIGH ST PCO1 CROSS HANDS LYDNEY	GL15 4LH	11	01/07/2020	Object	Lydney Town Council would like to see this kiosk retained (1) the amount of calls are almost twice as high as the next callbox proposed for removal (2) the callbox is fairly close to the town centre. There should be 1 phonebox that accepts coins in lydney, a phonebox is useless unless it takes coins. Not everyone can afford a phone contract. Phoneboxes are cheaper than payasyougo phones. The telephone box at the junction of Templeway West meets all of the "reasonable needs" criteria by virtue of the fact that it exceeds the minimum number of calls criteria specified by BT; is the only one within 800 metres; there are at least 500 households within 1 kilometre and should therefore not be removed.

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5	01600712173	PCO PCO1 REDBROOK MONMOUTH	NP25 4LZ	1	01/07/2020	Object	There is no mobile signal in the village or surrounding area • The village is within the Wye Valley AONB and as such attracts a huge number of tourists • Tourists walk the Offa's Dyke path which is pretty remote in places • There is regular canoeing activity on the River Wye, with its inherent risks • The area is popular for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme – they are not permitted mobile phones, and are required to check in with 'base' from time to time. • The area has a very poor response time record from the emergency services; there often being confusion about whether English or Welsh services will respond. • Removal of this public service will present a real increased risk to those passing through.
6	01594860275	PCO PCO1 FORGE ROW LYDBROOK	GL17 9NP	1	01/07/2020	Object	Located in an area of no mobile phone signal and in close proximity to the River, it is used by canoeists who may need assistance and even if a signal is available they may not have phones as on the water. This is a very well used tourist spot where it is considered vital that a call box is available.
7	01594542264	PCO PCO1 PLUMP HILL MITCHELDEAN	GL17 0ES	0	01/07/2020	Object	In severe weather it is vital for motorists stranded to have access to a landline. The buses also regularly break down and often in layby. Passengers need access to landline payphone to contact friends/relatives. Not everyone has a mobile phone, a charged mobile phone or a charged mobile phone with credit in an

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							emergency, and Plump Hill often blocked with snow in hard Winter.
8	01594822280	PCO PCO1 ST. WHITES ROAD CINDERFORD	GL14 3EP	1	01/07/2020	Object  This has been removed from the consultation. See email from BT dated 01/09/20	The TCB on St Whites Road has been removed. It has been confused with the kiosk on Ruspidge Road which has never been on the list for removals. The Ruspidge telephone box number is the same as the one on the list under St. White's Road. Also the wrong postcode is listed if it refers to the Ruspidge box, the post code stated is for St. White's Road. There is no dependable mobile service/network signal in the village, hence no reliable mobile coverage. There is no other public phone box in the vicinity. The box has been used to make calls within the last year. Removal of this kiosk would be detrimental to the village.
9	01594823040	PCO PCO1 UPPER SOUDLEY CINDERFORD	GL14 2TY	2	01/07/2020	Object	There is no dependable mobile service/network signal in the village, hence no reliable mobile coverage. There is no other public phone box in the vicinity. The box has been used to make calls within the last year. Removal of this kiosk would be detrimental to the village. The phone signal is low, BTs point about the provision for making emergency calls even in the absence of a working network is totally invalid if an individual does not have a mobile

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							phone. Many people in parts of the forest without useable phone coverage will tend not to have a mobile phone. Until mobile phone coverage is established the phone box should remain, it remains impossible to make a call or even send or receive a text. A short distance from the phone box is a defibrillator mounted on the outside of the White Horse Pub and in order to get access to the defibrillator in an emergency it is necessary to dial 999. Located on a country road which is a known accident black spot, a low population and poor mobile signal. Consider if when road accident occurs it would be difficult to contact emergency services
10	01594823162	PCO PCO1 BROAD STREET LITTLEDEAN CINDERFORD	GL14 3NH	5	01/07/2020	Agree	The Parish Council agree with the removal of the box and have no wish to adopt this kiosk.
11	01452830334	PCO PCO1 BLAISDON LANE BLAISDON LONGHOPE	GL17 0AL	0	01/07/2020	Object	<p>1. The Telephone Box is located within the Conservation area and its removal would have a detrimental impact to the surrounding environment and is a focal part of the 'street furniture'</p> <p>2. It plays an important part in the northerly approach to Blaisdon. The telephone box, the view of the war memorial and the gate house forms a very "British" feel and as it is so visually important it should be conserved as part of the village's history.</p> <p>3. Mobile phone signals are almost non-existent in this area and the kiosk is a useful alternative in the case of emergency. Whilst a de fib is located at the Village Hall, the possibility of</p>

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							poor signal would be a hinderance and access to a public land line is still an important back-up.
12	01594860301	PCO PCO1 CANNOP COLEFORD	GL16 7EH	0	01/07/2020	Object	The Payphone lies in a remote area with poor mobile phone connectivity, and also close to a dangerous road junction where emergencies may occur, Parish Council must insist that the payphone remains there in working order.