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Your ref:
Our ref: Various



Telecommunications Team
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 4DF

16 April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal: Payphone Kiosk Removal
At: Various Locations within County Durham
For: British Telecommunications PLC

Draft Decision by Durham County Council in response to proposals by BT for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Telephony universal service conditions dated 17 March 2023.

Durham County Council, in accordance with section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), hereby make a draft decision in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Section 3.2.

Section 50(1)(b) of the Act requires Durham County Council to send to the Secretary of State a copy of every notification published under section 49(4) of the Act. A copy of the first notice is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Kelleher".

Michael Kelleher
Head of Planning and Housing

Main Telephone: 03000 262 830

NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 49(4)

COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2003

Application Numbers:

**PRE90/25/00405, PRE90/25/00406, PRE90/25/00407, PRE90/25/00408
PRE90/25/00412, PRE90/25/00413, PRE90/25/00414,
PRE90/25/00415, PRE90/25/00416, PRE90/25/00423,
PRE90/25/00425,**

Draft Decision by Durham County Council in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Telephony universal service conditions dated 17 March 2023.

1. Durham County Council, in accordance with section 46(4) of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), hereby make the following draft decision in response to a proposal by BT for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Telephony universal service conditions dated 17 March 2023.
2. The draft decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
3. The effect of, and Durham County Council reasons for making the draft decision is set out in the schedule to this Notification.
4. Durham County Council considers that the draft decision complies with the requirements of sections 45 to 50 of the Act, as appropriate and relevant to the proposal.
5. In making the draft decision, Durham County Council has considered and acted in accordance with the six community requirements in section 4 of the Act.
6. Representations may be made to Durham County Council about the draft decision by 12 noon on 16th May 2025.
7. 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.

SIGNATURE

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Kelleher', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Date:

16 April 2025

Michael Kelleher
Head of Planning and Housing

SCHEDULE

Draft decision by Durham County Council in response to a proposal by BT for the removal of public call boxes or telephony within pursuant to Section 3.2 of the Telephony universal service conditions dated 17 March 2023.

See Attached

Please return in this format to ensure that the telephone number of the kiosk is clearly shown							
	Telephone Number	Address	Postcode	Average calls per month	Removal Proposal Sent	Agree Adopt Object	Reason for objection - based on need for telephony only Summary of comments received
1	01207560312	PCO PCO1 O/S POST OFFICE FRONT STREET EBCHESTER CONSETT	DH8 0PJ	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	
2	01388746253	OPP 15&16 PCO1 ROCKINGHAM ROAD SUNNYBROW CROOK	DL15 0NN	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	
3	01429838411	JCN DODDS TERRACE PCO1 SALTERS LANE WINGATE	TS28 5BN	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	No objections – the box has been vandalised and not been working for some time
4	01833627243	PCO K27243 O/S WALKER HOUSE PCO OVINGTON RICHMOND	DL11 7BP	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	Parish Council may wish to explore option of adoption.
5	01833650211	PCO PCO1 NR IVY HOLME COTTAGE ROMALDKIRK BARNARD CASTLE	DL12 9DZ	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	Parish Council no objection but comment they will separately be exploring option of possible adoption. Comments from local resident re loss - concerns outlined below
6	01913700245	PCO O/S 2 CORONATION TERRACE, GRANGE VILLA, CHESTER-LE-STREET	DH2 3LH	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	
7	01913865399	PCO PCO1 O/S 2 PROSPECT TERRACE SHINCLIFFE DURHAM	DH1 2NR	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	The Parish objects and states that payphone has been displaying faults for some time and the measured number of calls in last 12 month are meaningless, and the number of calls does not reflect demand. Shincliffe is a poplar Village and could be crucial phone link from a major outage. If removed, we wish to adopt.

8	01913882540	PCO PCO1 THE AVENUE CHESTER LE STREET	DH2 2DD	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	No objection from the Parish Council- the box has not been functioning for a long time and has been vandalised Objection raised from Cllr who wishes to adopt for dual purposes
9	01913882590	PELTON FELL RD OPP SURGERY 1 FELL ROAD PELTON FELL CHESTER LE STREET	DH2 2NR	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	Cllr objection received who wishes to adopt the existing box for dual purposes.
10	01915864242	OPP NO 19 PCO1 BLACKHILLS ROAD HORDEN PETERLEE	SR8 4DW	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	No comments received
11	01915864260	PCO PCO1 O/S BELL HOTEL SUNDERLAND ROAD HORDEN PETERLEE	SR8 4PF	County Durham	26/02/2025	Agree	No comments received

Comments received –

Ref 5 01833650211PCO PCO1 NR IVY HOLME COTTAGE ROMALDKIRK BARNARD CASTLE DL12 9DZ

I was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting when the request from BT to remove the telephony in the listed BT Box was discussed. My concern about removing the phone, there could be a problem during power cuts and storms. The transmitter on Bail Hill goes down frequently therefore no mobile phones or wi-fi, whilst the line to the box is still analogue it will always work in case of an emergency and could be the only one in the village as people go towards fibre or only have mobile. Could they keep it as is until the full move to fibre?