

Notification under section 49(4) of the Communications Act 2003

Decision by Sheffield City 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 June 2019 ('the Direction').

1. On 5 July 2019, Sheffield City 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, Sheffield City Council invited representations about the draft decision by midnight on 9 September 2019.
4. Sheffield City Council has considered every representation about the draft decision duly made to it and Ofcom has not notified Sheffield City 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 Sheffield City Council reasons for making, the decision is set out in the Schedule to this Notification.
7. Sheffield City Council consider that the decision complies with the requirements of sections 45 to 50 of the Act, as appropriate and relevant to the proposal.
8. In making the decision, Sheffield City 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.

E. Mignall

A person authorised by Sheffield City Council to sign this Notification

12 September 2019

Schedule

Draft decision by Sheffield City 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 June 2019 (“the Direction”)

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Additional Notes to Schedule:

In addition to the site notice on the payphone box posted by British Telecommunications plc, Sheffield City Council informed local community groups, individuals, councillors, and parish councils where applicable, via the social media of the Local Area Partnership and the consultation was also advertised on the Council’s Consultation Hub.

In response to the initial BT and local authority consultation, 29 consultation comments were received. The consultation comments received that relate to the individual public call boxes have been summarised in the table below. In addition to these Sheffield City Council also received 8 generic comments. Some of these related to general objections to the removal of all public call boxes as they need to be kept for emergencies (including personal safety reasons) given that mobile phone networks are poor and issues of mobile phone affordability. The potential to reuse public call boxes as local book swaps with donations going back into the local community or using them to accommodate defibrillators were other comments made, alongside a comment made on a public call box not part of this consultation. It is noted that if a Local Planning Authority receives consultation comments vetoing the removal of all payphones in the area it cannot object to the proposals on that basis.

In response to the First Notification, 2 comments were received which related to 4 of the payphones and supported the reasons given for the Council’s draft decision to object to their removal.

Sheffield City Council have objected to the removal of 24 payphones and have not objected to the removal of 7 payphones. This is the same as the First Notification. This schedule includes reasons, including in relation to the consultation on the First Notification. It is noted that if a Local Planning Authority receives consultation comments vetoing the removal of all payphones in the area it cannot object to the proposals on that basis.

	Telephone number	Location	Number of calls in last 12 months	Decision (Object/Consent)	Reason(s)
1	01142302699	JCN CARSICK HILL ROAD PCO1 SANDYGATE ROAD SHEFFIELD	0	Do Not Object	No usage in last year. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. No other reasons to object. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this

		S10 5UA			payphone.
2	01142321429	O/S 149 CHAUCER ROAD PCO1 CHAUCER ROAD SHEFFIELD S5 9QN	232	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. It is located within a local centre and within an area of widespread council housing estates that would suggest likelihood of low incomes. On request, BT have informed us that 3 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. <u>1 consultation comment was received from a ward councillor regarding the First Notification</u> – it supports the Council’s draft objection on the grounds that this is a low income area where usage remains high.
3	01142345710	NR SPORTSMAN O/S 139-41 PCO1 WORRALL ROAD SHEFFIELD S6 4BB	3	Object	Minimal usage in last year. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 1 emergency call has been made from this payphone.
4	01142348813	JCN LIBERTY HILL PCO1 STANNINGTON ROAD SHEFFIELD S6 5QN	370	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 1 emergency call has been made from this payphone.
5	01142360032	NEAR JCN HIGH ST/DORE ROAD PCO1 CAUSEWAY HEAD ROAD SHEFFIELD S17 3DT	14	Object	Minimal usage in last year. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. There is no alternative phone box within 800m. It meets all three of BT’s “reasonable needs” criteria. It has more than 12 calls within the last 12 months, over 500 households within 1km and

					no alternative phone box within 800m. Therefore it should not have been included in the statutory BT consultation.
6	01142372307	OUTSIDE SHOPS PCO1 LOWEDGES ROAD SHEFFIELD S8 7JB	136	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 11 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
7	01142375217	JCN OF ORMOND WAY PCO1 HAZLEBARROW ROAD SHEFFIELD S8 7JB	279	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 4 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
8	01142377152	NEAR JCT RENEY CRESCENT PCO1 RENEY AVENUE SHEFFIELD S8 7FP	21	Object	Minimal usage in last year. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 1 emergency call has been made from this payphone.
9	01142396041	PCO PCO1 BLACKSTOCK ROAD SHEFFIELD S14 1FX	483	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 17 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
10	01142396076	JCN OVEREND WAY PCO1 BLACKSTOCK ROAD SHEFFIELD S14 1JB	0	Do Not Object	No usage in last year. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. No other reasons to object.
11	01142398393	O/S SHOPS NR. JCN NORTHERN AV PCO1	568	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria.

		CAWDOR ROAD SHEFFIELD S2 2EL			There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 6 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
12	01142398513	PCO PCO1 FLEURY ROAD SHEFFIELD S14 1QW	392	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 20 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
13	01142425348	NEAR JCT MARGATE DRIVE PCO1 WHITEWAYS DRIVE SHEFFIELD S4 8ET	158	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. The housing in the area has the potential to include low income households. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 39 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
14	01142430361	OUTSIDE SPECIALISED MOVERS PCO1 PETRE STREET SHEFFIELD S4 8LU	104	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 7 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
15	01142433239	OPP JUNCTION WITH SCOTT RD PCO1 ELLESMERE ROAD NORTH SHEFFIELD S4 7DQ	461	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 22 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
16	01142435271	PCO PCO1 LONGLEY AVENUE WEST SHEFFIELD S5 8WA	492	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 15

					emergency calls have been made from this payphone. <u>1 consultation comment was received from a ward councillor with regard to the First Notification.</u> This supported the Council's draft objection to the loss of this payphone, serving residents in both Southey and Burngreave wards, due to its high usage and the low income area within which it is situated.
17	01142441417	JCN BOWDENWOOD CRESCENT PCO1 PRINCE OF WALES ROAD SHEFFIELD S9 4ER	0	Do Not Object	No usage in last year. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. No other reasons to object.
18	01142460886	JCN WHITE LN O/S NORFOLK ARM PCO1 WARREN LANE CHAPELTOWN SHEFFIELD S35 2YB	0	Object	No usage in last year. There is no alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
19	01142485284	OPP JCN KNOWLE TOP PCO1 HALFWAY DRIVE HALFWAY SHEFFIELD S20 4TH	7	Do Not Object	Minimal usage in last year. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. No other reasons to object.
20	01142487911	JCN ROTHERHAM RD NTH PCO1 STATION ROAD MOSBOROUGH SHEFFIELD S20 5AD	27	Object	Minimal use in the last year but as we are consenting to removal of the one at Halfway Drive, we are objecting to the loss of this one to ensure some provision in the area. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
21	01142550599	NR JNCT TODWICK	0	Do Not Object	No usage in last year. There is an alternative

		ROAD PCO1 WOODSEATS ROAD SHEFFIELD S8 0PL			phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. No other reasons to object.
22	01142571542	O/S SHOPPING CENTRE PCO1 HIGH STREET ECCLESFIELD SHEFFIELD S35 9UA	112	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 3 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
23	01142692437	NR 51 PCO1 ATHELSTAN ROAD SHEFFIELD S13 8JB	0	Do Not Object	No usage in last year. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. No other reasons to object.
24	01142695523	JCN RETFORD RD PCO1 COALBROOK ROAD SHEFFIELD S13 9XU	0	Do Not Object	No usage in last year. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. No other reasons to object.
25	01142746671	PCO PCO1 MEADOW HEAD SHEFFIELD S8 7UB [<i>BT has confirmed that this is kiosk at junction of Hunstone Ave & Meadow Head, S7 7UP</i>]	248	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. Please note that this phone box is actually located at S8 7UP (near Hunstone Avenue , not at S8 7UB as originally indicated on BT's consultation letter to Sheffield City Council). On request, BT have informed us that 5 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
26	01142848536	PCO PCO1 COTTAM ROAD HIGH GREEN SHEFFIELD S35 4GN	174	Object	High usage last year would suggest at least some social need for payphone, despite BT criteria. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. <u>1 Consultation comment was received in the</u>

					<p><u>initial consultation</u>: objecting to the removal as it will deprive an area of relative deprivation of a phone link, where the take up of private land lines is low in this area and the mobile phone signal is notoriously weak. It is also stated that the area also faces digital exclusion. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.</p>
27	01142851211	WAYLEAVE PP346 PCO1 STACEY BANK LOXLEY SHEFFIELD S6 6SJ	3	Object	<p>Although there's very little usage, it is evident that the telephone box is located within the Lakeland Project and local people have reported poor mobile network coverage.</p> <p><u>9 consultation comments were received in the initial consultation</u>: (this includes Jared O'Mara MP, Bradfield Parish Council, and an individual who represents the Sheffield Walking Forum). 8 of these are objections that relate to poor network coverage; the health and safety issues of having no provision for emergencies; poor reliability of public transport and there is no other means to contact others to be collected or inform them of being late; the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape project which encourages vulnerable people to access the great outdoors using public transport needing to be supported by adequate phone coverage; and Loxley being a major access route so needing adequate provision. 1 consultation comment was from an individual enquiring about potentially acquiring the kiosk. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.</p> <p><u>2 consultation comments were received on the</u></p>

					<p><u>First Notification</u> (this includes an individual representing Loxley Protection Society and a councillor) – they agreed with the reasons for the Council’s draft objection, due to the poor mobile reception at this location close to the Sheffield Lakeland district and close to the boundary of the Peak District National Park.</p>
28	01142851320	PCO PCO1 WOODFALL LANE BRADFIELD SHEFFIELD S6 6LA	42	Object	<p>Minimal usage would suggest little social need however, the site falls with Bradfield village where mobile signals are poor and the village is isolated. There is an alternative phone box within 800m.</p> <p><u>18 Consultation comments were received in the initial consultation</u> (this includes Jared O'Mara MP, Bradfield Parish Council, The Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, and an individual who represents the Sheffield Walking Forum). These objections relate to poor network coverage and how this kiosk is accessible and reliable; the health and safety issues of having no provision for emergencies; the poor reliability of public transport and there is no other means due to poor network to contact others either to be collected or inform them of being late/ safe; Loxley is a major access route so needs adequate provision; and that the closure would undermine the lottery funded Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Area Connecting Steps project that encourages vulnerable groups to visit the outdoors which includes the confidence to be independent in getting there by public transport - kiosks are important when there is no/ poor mobile network and provide reassurance to</p>

					groups and their leaders that the trip is possible. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone. <u>2 consultation comments were received on the First Notification</u> (this includes an individual representing Loxley Protection Society and a councillor) agreed with the reasons for the Council's draft objection, with regard to the poor mobile reception at this location within the Peak District National Park Authority.
29	01142882285	NR JCT ARMITAGE ROAD PCO1 LEE AVENUE DEEPCAR SHEFFIELD S36 2QW	26	Object	Minimal usage would suggest little social need. There is an alternative phone box within 800m. <u>However, 1 consultation comment received in the initial consultation</u> by a councillor indicates poor mobile reception in the area. On request, BT have informed us that 2 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
30	01142882366	JCT MANCHESTER ROAD PCO1 UNSLIVEN ROAD STOCKSBRIDGE SHEFFIELD S36 1FT	6	Object	Minimal usage would suggest little social need. However, the western end of Stocksbridge is quite isolated and the mobile network is poor. On request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.
31	01142885310	NEAR JNCT VAUGHTON HILL PCO1 MANCHESTER ROAD DEEPCAR SHEFFIELD S36 2QX	21	Object	Minimal usage would suggest little social need. However, the telephone box is located at a busy road junction where the mobile network is poor. This telephone box is likely to be useful in emergency situations. However on request, BT have informed us that 0 emergency calls have been made from this payphone.

