

## PREFACE ITEM

APPLICATION NO. PE/14/0459

APPLICANT(S) NAME: BT Payphones

PROPOSAL: Remove public payphone

LOCATION: Gwerthonor Place Gilfach CF82 8JQ

The Council has been consulted in respect of the above matter in accordance with Part 2 of the Schedule to a Direction published by Ofcom on 14 March 2006 ('the Direction'). The public call box (PCB) at this location has been damaged beyond economic repair and as it is not used on a regular basis it is proposed to remove the facility.

The final decision as to whether or not the PCB should be removed rests with central government but as the Relevant Public Body (as defined in the legislation) this Council has to provide a First Notification setting out its draft decision on the matter. As the Relevant Public Body (as defined in the legislation) the Council is charged with assessing whether the removal of the PCB is acceptable having regard for the following factors.

### Housing type in the area

The area surrounding the PCB is characterised by mainly owner occupied dwellings where there is likely to be a high level of ownership of mobile and fixed telephones. As such it is not felt that the removal of the PCB would have an undue impact on the residents of the area.

### Number of households in the area

Gilfach is a relatively densely populated area and as such there is likely to be access to alternative provision in the area as discussed above. It should also be noted that there is an alternative PCB some 660m to the north of the site.

### PCB revenue

British Telecom have confirmed that the PCB has been used for 189 chargeable calls, 78 free calls and 2 emergency calls in the last two years. This is an average of 0.37 calls per day, which is considered to be a very low level of usage. In that regard it is not felt that retention of the PCB is justified in terms of this factor.

### Emergency calls

As stated above, there has been a very low level of emergency calls over the last two years and as such it is not felt that retention is justified on this ground.

Mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage in this area is considered to be very good across all networks.

In conclusion it is considered that having regard for the factors listed above no objection should be raised to the removal of the PCB and a First Notification be issued accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION: That BT Payphones are advised that no objections are raised to the removal of this telephone box

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