

**TCI Telecommunications Commission
Business Solutions Complex
Leeward Highway, Provo
Turks and Caicos Islands**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Telecommunications Commission Announces Public Consultation on Number Portability

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos- (July 10, 2019) - The Telecommunications Commission is seeking the counsel of the public on the subject of number portability for the Turks and Caicos. Number portability is the ability to retain your number when changing providers. This facility is regulated by the Commission but carried out by local telecommunications carriers. If enacted it essentially means that customers will be able to use their current number on any carrier of their choice. No longer would we be able to identify a persons phone company by the beginning digits of their number. There will be no distinction between postpaid and prepaid, also fixed line service can be transferred from one carrier to the next. Number portability is available in many countries across the world including countries in Africa, Europe, the United States, and the United Kingdom to name a few. Mobile portability is spreading to the Caribbean as well, in countries such as St Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The consultation process for number portability in the Turks and Caicos began in 2016 with discussions between carriers concerning its appropriateness and feasibility. The Telecommunications Commission will conduct a public consultation to understand the customers perspective on allowing number portability in the Turks and Caicos. “To ensure that the implementation of Number portability is the desire of the consumers, we hired Outside the Box Advertising to conduct a Number Portability Survey throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands,” says Kenva Williams- Director General for the Telecommunications Commission.

The Commission believes that the local telecommunications market could benefit from the introduction of number portability across both mobile and fixed platforms, as it can bring value to the consumers, by enabling them to move their number to a provider of their choice that best meets their needs. “It’s important to us to know if this is something that the public wants. Therefore, we are seeking the assistance of the public to provide feedback on the development, implementation, and introduction of mobile and fixed Number Portability services within the Turks and Caicos Islands, says Mr. Williams.

The surveys will be conducted across all islands. Survey interviewers will make contact with private citizens and business persons. Copies of the survey will be available online through a link

which can be found on The Commissions Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/tcitelecommision/>). Results from the public consultation will be provided on The Commissions website at a later date.

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