



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

January 13, 2009

DECISION NOTICE 2008 – 5

Re: Digicel Turks and Caicos – Application for Short Codes

BACKGROUND

On November 8, 2007, the Commission received an application from Digicel TCI Ltd. for approval to use five Short Codes which were to be used in support of a Caribbean consortium which is helping to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region.

In response, the Commission praised the objectives of the initiative, but asked the company to consult with the other operators in Turks and Caicos to develop a scheme for managing short codes, particularly as Digicel had expressed the hope that the other operators would embrace the notion of handling calls to the short code numbers at no charge. In a letter to the company dated July 10, 2008, the Commission reiterated the concern regarding coordination with the other operators and also expressed concern over the use of 5 codes for what appeared to be a single purpose.

As there was no further progress on the file, the Commission issued Public Notice 2008 – 5 with a formal call for comments on the application. No comments were received and no further communication was received on the matter from Digicel.

COMMISSION DECISION

While the initiative remains an admirable one, there seems to be no progress on the request that the effort be coordinated with the other operators in Turks and Caicos, and in light of this, the Commission is not prepared to approve the application at this time. It would be prepared to consider the matter if there is any consensus amongst the operators as to how to manage short codes.