DIRECTION

I direct that the operation of a commercial multi-user gateway for the purpose of voice calls over a publicly available telephone service or SMS shall not be exempted by Ofcom from the requirement for a licence to be granted under section 8(1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006. Ofcom shall not issue a licence for such purposes unless the provider of the commercial multi-user gateway can demonstrate that the calling line identification will pass through the telecommunications network such that:

a) It is possible to obtain, from the telecommunications operator with whom a device or account is registered, accurate communications data to the same level as can currently be obtained without the use of a commercial multi-user gateway. This includes data that identifies the sender and end-recipient of a communication or the time or duration of a communication, in the same timescales. This data must be provided to the same level of integrity and in the same format as if the communications had been made without the use of a commercial multi-user gateway and without the need to approach the commercial multi-user gateway provider to gain this information;

b) The relevant telecommunications operator with whom a device or account is registered is able to uniquely identify relevant communications, without having to seek additional information from the provider of the commercial multi-user gateway, such that the telecommunications operator can comply with an interception warrant issued by the Secretary of State.

Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP
Minister of State for Security

Date 25/09/2017