

Media Contact:

Will Wiquist
will.wiquist@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release**FCC & U.K. OFCOM TO PARTNER IN GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST
SCAM CALLS AND TEXT MESSAGES*****Framework for Cooperation Was Signed in London by the Agencies' Leaders***

WASHINGTON, March 4, 2024—The Federal Communications Commission and the United Kingdom Office of Communications (Ofcom) today announced a new framework for cooperation to combat illegal robocalls and robotexts. These regulatory agencies agree to cooperate and share information to further their shared interests in protecting consumers and ensuring the integrity of communications networks.

Illegal robocalls and robotexts are an international problem. They are used to defraud and cause harm to consumers in countries around the world. Likewise, effective investigations into these unlawful communications, and the enforcement work to combat them, often requires cross-border cooperation. To that end, the United States and the United Kingdom have a shared interest in working together to investigate those who undermine confidence in our communications networks, stop them from abusing the integrity of those networks through the use of unlawful calls and texts, and deter others from engaging in similar conduct.

“Junk calls and texts are a threat to everyone with a phone. These scammers cross borders to trick, irritate, and defraud consumers,” **said FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel**. “That’s why the FCC has taken critical steps to cut off illegal international robocall traffic, and step up our cooperation with our international partners. This new partnership is another breakthrough in this vital work.”

Ofcom’s Chief Executive Dame Melanie Dawes said: “Ofcom has been stepping up its work in the UK to combat criminals who try to cheat people out of their life savings over the phone and online. This is a complex problem that doesn’t respect borders and needs coordinated action from regulators, governments, police and companies around the world. Our close partnership with the FCC will help us crack down on scammers wherever they are.”

In an increasingly interconnected world, fraudsters and scammers who use communications networks and technologies to target and defraud consumers do not recognize international borders. Strategic partnerships with international counterparts such as Ofcom will allow the FCC to maximize our enforcement resources and better protect networks and consumers from harm.

To reduce illegal international robocalls and robotexts, the FCC has bolstered its requirements on gateway providers – which serve as the on-ramps for international traffic onto U.S. networks – to actively combat illegal robocall traffic handed off to them from international networks. Gateway providers must now take reasonable and effective steps to prevent their networks from transmitting illegal traffic could ultimately result in an order by the FCC directing downstream providers to block and cease accepting all of the gateway provider’s traffic. Recently

implemented rules now place similar obligations on originating providers. The FCC's [rules](#) also address foreign robocallers' access of U.S. phone numbers. These initiatives build on the agency's work through its Robocall Response Team, as well as its Privacy and Data Protection Task Force, which Chairwoman Rosenworcel established in 2023 to coordinate across the FCC on the rulemaking, enforcement, and public awareness needs in the privacy and consumer protection sector.

The FCC has also put a premium on international partnerships to develop and coordinate a global approach to addressing unlawful robocalls or robotexts, and the unlawful use of inaccurate caller ID information or "spoofing." Chairwoman Rosenworcel has signed international partnerships that involve cooperation in combatting robocalls with counterparts in [Australia](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [Romania](#), [Singapore](#), and the [European Union](#).

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Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*