Claims

1. A method (200) for identifying one or more unauthorised routes used for the termination of application-to-person (A2P) short message service (SMS) messages to a mobile telecommunications network, the method comprising: providing a collection point (320) arranged to receive SMS messages terminated to the network; stimulating (210) an application service (32) to send an SMS message to the collection point; after receiving (220) the SMS message at the collection point, processing (230) the message to obtain an identifier identifying a source of the SMS message; and determining (240) whether the identifier corresponds to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

2. The method (200) of claim 1 further comprising, if the identifier does not identify an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network, determining (250) that the identifier identifies an unauthorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

3. The method (200) of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein stimulating (210) the application service (32) to send an SMS message comprises the steps of: authenticating to the application service; entering a functional element within the application service that requires delivery of an SMS message to an end user; identifying the collection point to the application service; and executing a service function associated with the functional element.

4. The method (200) of any preceding claim, wherein processing (230) the message to obtain an identifier identifying a source of the SMS message comprises determining a unique network address associated with a network element used to route the message to the mobile telecommunications network.

5. The method (200) of claim 4, wherein determining the unique address comprises extracting a global title for the source network element from the SMS message.

6. The method (200) of any preceding claim, comprising identifying the source network used to route the message to the mobile telecommunications network.

7. The method (200) of any preceding claim, further comprising providing a list of authorised sources of A2P SMS messages.

8. The method (200) of claim 7, wherein determining (240) whether the identifier corresponds to an authorised source of A2P SMS messages comprises determining whether the identifier corresponds to any of the sources included in the list.

9. The method (200) of any preceding claim further comprising a step of, if the identifier does not correspond to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the telecommunications network, preventing A2P SMS messages from the identified source from terminating to the telecommunications network.

10. A system for use in a method of identifying one or more unauthorised sources of application-to-person (A2P) short message service (SMS) messages terminating to a mobile telecommunications network, the system comprising: a collection point (320) arranged to receive SMS messages terminated to the network; a stimulus generator (310) configured to stimulate an application service (32) to send an SMS message to the collection point; means for processing the message to obtain an identifier identifying a source of the SMS message; and computing means (330) arranged to determine whether the identifier corresponds to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the computing means (330) is further arranged, if the identifier does not correspond to an authorised source of A2P SMS traffic, to designate the source as an unauthorised source of A2P SMS traffic to the network.

12. The system of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the stimulus generator (310) is configured to authenticate to the application service (32); enter a functional element within the service that requires the delivery of an SMS message to an end user; identify the collection point to the service; and execute the service function.

13. The system of any of claims 10 to 12, wherein the collection point (320) comprises GSM-enabled hardware attached to the mobile telecommunications network.

14. The system of any of claims 10 to 13, wherein the stimulus generator (310) is configured to stimulate a plurality of application services to send respective SMS messages to the collection point.

15. The system of any of claims 10 to 14, comprising a plurality of collection points each arranged to receive SMS messages terminated to a respective mobile telecommunications network, wherein the stimulus generator is configured to stimulate one or more application services to send an SMS message to each collection point.