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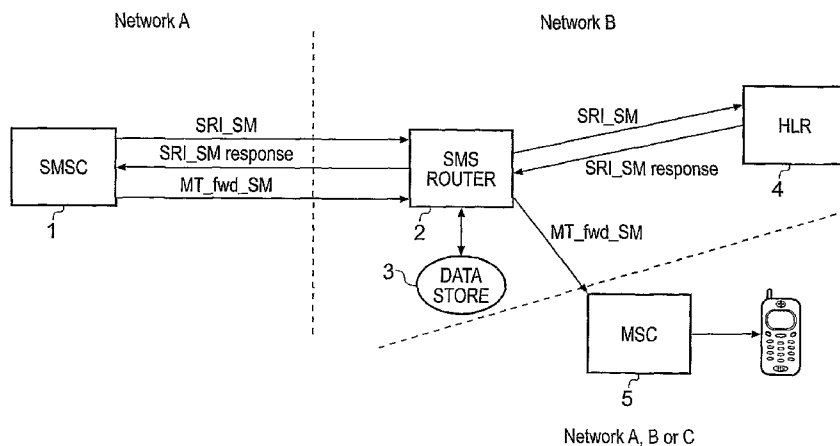
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(54) Title: TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES APPARATUS AND METHODS



(57) **Abstract:** A telecommunications services apparatus, in a mobile telecommunications network, comprises means (2) for receiving a MAP Send Routing Information for Short Message (SRI_SM message) originating from another network and operate to forward the SRI_SM message to a home location register (4), means for receiving a response from the home location register (4) to the SRI_SM message, means for temporarily storing information relating to the SRI_SM response and operable to pass said response on to a network address identified as the originating address, and means for receiving a MAP Mobile Terminated Forward Short Message (MT_Fwd_SM message) from the other network and operable to correlate the MT_Fwd_SM message with a previously-sent SRI_SM response using stored information. The apparatus is operable to detect and selectively reject MT_Fwd_SM messages for which there is at least insufficient correlation between the MT_Fwd_SM message and the previously-sent SRI_SM response, and to pass other MT_Fwd_SM messages on to their respective destinations. The apparatus may include means for modifying IMSI information in the SRI_SM response, which may be operable to store information relating to the modified SRI_SM response and operable to pass the modified response on to the originating address network. In that case, the correlation determination may be made between the MT_Fwd_SM message and a previously-sent modified SRI_SM response.

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