



Talk Telecom Ltd Code of Practice for Premium Rate Services and NTS calls

This code informs you about our policies on providing information about Premium Rate Services (PRS) and on our call charging policy for call to NTS and PRS numbers.

PREMIUM RATE SERVICES

Premium rate services (PRS) are telephone numbers that offer some form of information or entertainment that is charged to your phone bill. UK-based PRS numbers are normally prefixed by “**09**”. **0871** is now also designated as a Premium rate number and subject to PRS regulation. Typical services include TV vote-lines, mobile ring-tone downloads, technical help-lines, charity fund-raising and adult entertainment.

Charges for these services are added to your telephone bill. Calling a PRS number generally costs between 10 pence and **£1.50** per minute, per call or per text. Calling these services from, for example, mobile phones, cable networks or public payphones will generally cost more than the advertised rate but communication providers must publish calls to **0870** numbers where these are higher than calls to geographic numbers.

If you have a problem with PRS, we can help. We can provide advice on checking the telephone number of any PRS charges that appear on your bill and will try to help you identify the premium rate service provider. We can use call barring to restrict access to “**09**” numbers. Please call our Customer Service Team on Customer service: **03330 240 6660** for advice on this.

You can also ask for help from PhoneyPayPlus (formerly ICSTIS) which is the industry-funded regulatory body for Premium Rate Services. PhoneyPayPlus operates a code of practice that sets out standards for the operation of PRS. You can use the PhoneyPayPlus website at www.phoneypayplus.org.uk to check PRS numbers direct or to download a complaint form. PhoneyPayPlus has legal powers to require a provider of PRS to amend its service or promotional material (or both) and can also impose penalties on content service providers. For other ways to contact PhoneyPayPlus, see the “Useful addresses” section below.

PREMIUM RATE SERVICES

Number translation services (NTS) are based on numbers that are normally pre-fixed “**08**”. For example, **0800** and **0808** are used to provide freephone services (some freephone services are also provided on **0500** numbers). 0844 and 0845 numbers are used for dial-up pay-as-you-go Internet access and customer service helplines. **0870** and **0871** numbers are used for information services, technical helplines and telephone banking. They are also used by organisations to help them provide call-management features such as intelligent call routing and fax-to-email services.



Charges for calling services on NTS numbers are added to your telephone bill and prices range from free up to 10p per minute or per call. Calling these services from, for example, mobile phones, cable networks or public payphones will generally cost more than the advertised rate.

INTERNET DIALLERS

If you use the internet, it is possible for software to be placed on your computer without you knowing using the same methods as for computer viruses. This type of software (known as internet or rogue diallers) can then make calls to PRS and NTS numbers without your knowledge. PhonepayPlus has been given responsibility for policing this type of activity and you can contact them via www.phonepayplus.org.uk to ask for help or to report examples of this type of abuse. For other ways to contact PhonepayPlus, see the "Useful addresses" section below. We can also help by barring calls to **09** numbers.

THE TELEPHONE PREFERENCE SERVICE

If you don't want to get sales and marketing calls you have not requested, you can add your details to a list run by the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). If your number is on the list, it is illegal for a company to call you for marketing purposes. You can contact the Telephone Preference Service via www.tpsonline.co.uk or by telephoning **0845 0700707**.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

osenquiries@os-communications.org -

Website: www.ombudsman-services.org/sectors/communications

contact@ofcom.org.uk - Website: www.ofcom.org.uk

www.phonepayplus.org.uk

www.tpsonline.org.uk

fcs@fcs.org.uk - Website: www.fcs.org.uk

