



070 numbers used for Hospital bedside phones

Further to a PA story being circulated with an embargo of 0001 on Tuesday 2 May 2017, we offer the following comments from the **fair telecoms campaign**. Please get in touch for more.

ft “The lack of transparency in the costs of calling 070 numbers is a disgrace. On 1 July 2015 Ofcom enforced greater transparency on 084 and 087 numbers, resulting in a reduction in their use.

“Hospedia and others continue to exploit the greater freedom to rip people off which remains with 070 numbers”.

ft “Many telephone service providers also exploit the lack of transparency in pricing of calls to 070 numbers.

“Whilst the amount passed on to Hospedia is constant for each number, providers are free to charge whatever they wish, so that they too can profit from this scam without being seen to do so.”

ft “The very least that Hospedia could do is to move on to using 084, 087 or 09 numbers, if they can justify imposing a Service Charge on these calls.

“That way, at least the charge (both by them and the caller’s telephone company) would be transparent.”

#####

ft “We advise all those in hospital to take, or be given, a mobile phone so that they can keep in touch with friends and relatives.”

ft “We have suggested to the Association of Leagues of Hospital Friends that their Leagues could organise schemes whereby supports could donate pre-used mobile phones. These could be fitted with free PAYG SIMs and lent out to patients who have no other way of keeping in touch with friends and family. A small top-up would enable the patient to receive unlimited incoming calls at standard rate.”

#####

ft “The ‘Hospedia’ project was shown to be a failure many years ago, due to disastrous financial planning. It is highly regrettable that the legacy of this continues in a ‘NHS’ that is fast becoming nothing more than a collection of loosely connected local enterprises with little central control and management.”