



### The end of premium charges for calls to mobiles?

Ofcom has today issued a draft version of a statement on further controls on the price paid by telephone companies when placing calls to mobile phones (the "Mobile Termination Rate").

See [Mobile call termination market review 2015-18: Draft decision](#)

Because the EU places restrictions on how far the UK can limit free competition, the case for this control has to be strongly argued and submitted to the Commission before it can be implemented.

Notwithstanding the way in which the case for this regulation has to be argued, the underlying objective is to remove the distinction between the cost of calling landlines and that of calling mobiles.

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The **fair telecoms campaign** wholly supports this objective, as it will lead to a further simplification of the way in which we pay for telephone services.

- Already, we do not pay call charges for the vast majority of calls to ordinary numbers. Proper selection of the appropriate calling plan or bundle ensures that we only rarely pay the (now very high) "penalty charges" incurred when making calls to ordinary numbers outside the terms of our chosen package.
- From 1 July this year, charges for calls to 08, 09 and 118 numbers will be simplified. All calls to 080 numbers will become free; the split of the charge between the telephone company and the organisation called (on 084/087, 09 and 118 numbers) will be made apparent.
- Work to simplify the arrangements for other ranges (e.g. 070, 076, 055) will follow.
- We are calling for the component parts of the way in which we pay for mobile services to be "unbundled", i.e. handset, network availability, calls and data transfer.

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We look forward to the day when calls to ordinary mobile numbers are treated in the same way as calls to ordinary fixed line numbers - included in a package of calls they we select to meet our needs.

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Please get in touch for further information and comment on these points.