



Greg Knight MP uses a premium rate telephone number for his constituency office

Famed rock-star and impassioned Brexiteer, Rt Hon Sir Greg Knight MP uses **0845 090 0203** for his constituency office – see <https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/sir-greg-knight/1200>.



Greg Knight drumming with his band MP4 on 'Unspun with Matt Forde'

Calls to this number cost constituents between 14p and 56p per minute, so that he can benefit from the **Service Charge** of 1p per minute (including VAT).

Most of the revenue from calls to 084 numbers is the **Access Charge** to the benefit of the telephone company, which each company sets at a single rate for all premium rate numbers.

This varies between 11.75p per minute (Virgin Media) and 55p per minute (O2 and Vodafone).

These charges include VAT, so Sir Greg will be benefitting at the rate of 0.833p per minute, whilst his constituents pay up to 56p per minute.

This is why we describe those who use these numbers as both "greedy and foolish", see - [The 'insanity' of using 084 or 087 numbers - even when it is permitted.](#)

In this case the revenue earned by HMRC, in VAT, is always greater than that earned by Sir Greg. He is therefore not only supporting the telephone companies, his greed is also exceeded by the additional tax he is requiring his constituents to pay!

All other numbers given by MPs are either standard rate landlines or mobiles. The overwhelming majority of telephone users call these at no cost, because they are covered by inclusive packages or bundles. There is one case in which a freephone number is offered.

The Cabinet Office has issued Guidance on Customer Service Telephone lines, prohibiting use of 084/087 numbers by Central Government departments and advising against it for the public sector in general: [HMG Guidance - Customer Service Telephone Lines - Use of Number Prefixes.](#)

Previously errant departments (e.g. DWP and HMRC) have now all complied. We highlight disregard by some local authorities – [Rip-off surcharge on local authority payment lines.](#)

This case highlights the FOOLISHNESS of using 084 numbers, even when the GREED is minimal.

