

fair telecoms campaign

4 Mar 13 - BBC Radio Berkshire - GPs and others using 084 numbers in Berkshire (excerpts)



This transcript picks out significant attributed comments from the broadcast.

The times given are as in the recorded extracts.

3:01	David Hickson - Fair Telecoms Campaign	If you have a 03 number, you pay for the extra facilities on the line, your callers do not have to pay a premium. With 084 numbers, 0845 / 0844, a part of what the caller pays to connect with that number is passed on as a subsidy to help the person using the number pay for it. Obviously that cost is passed back on to them, as a premium over the cost of calling an ordinary number. The 03 range is there for those who need the advanced facilities of non-geographic numbers, but don't feel it is right to charge their callers for them to have these facilities.
5:23	Jo in Bracknell	The Ringmead Medical Centre in Bracknell charges you by using a 084 number. My brother who has disabilities needs to make a lot of appointments at the moment. It is costing an average of 50p each time he calls; he can't afford this. I've emailed my MP to look at this; I haven't heard anything back yet.
6:20	Various	Reading Football Club The Royal Berkshire Hospital Burnham Health Centre
9:19	Dr George Kassianos - Ringmead Medical Practice	We signed a contract 6 years ago, for 7 years, and at the time we asked the Primary Care Trust whether this is the right thing to do; and they said "please go ahead". There is another year to run. We hate it, we don't like it, but to come out you have to pay a fine of about £10,000. There is a solution. We are just about to introduce a 01344 number in parallel with the 0844, so people have a choice.
	Andrew Peach (presenter)	Some other practices have done this and it does not come through to the same phone, you can't be in the queuing system
	Dr Kasianos	Exactly!
12:20	Phil in Earley	Most government departments Tax Office Social Services Jobcentre
13:21	Sue in Calcutt	Most car insurance companies
1:18	David Hickson	In a few months time, new announcements are going to be made by Ofcom, about new regulations. This will mean that the "Service Charge" which is levied when you call a 08 number will have to be declared. I believe that the banks, other institutions, supermarkets will have to think again and, with luck, we'll get them all to change.



Tuesday, 5 March 2013