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## PREMIUM LINES FOR FINES FURY

By Thea Jacobs

**GREEDY councils are forcing drivers to call premium rate phone lines to pay parking fines.**

Punters are charged up to 62p per minute to dial 084 numbers when paying with debit or credit cards.

Figures obtained via the Fair Telecoms Campaign show 50 councils, including Nottingham, Milton Keynes and Mid Suffolk, operate the lines.

The campaign's David Hickson said they were in breach of Cabinet Office guidance which bans the use of expensive numbers for "customer contact".

The Local Government Association said councils offer a free online service among payment methods. ■

See original as inset on [this webpage](#)

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[Rip-off surcharge on local authority payment lines](#)

