

fair telecoms campaign

briefing



Cinema and other ticket booking and enquiry numbers

The cinema chains listed below all use telephone numbers with a premium charge for telephone bookings and enquiries. We also list the numbers used by the booking agencies, which cover a very high proportion of all event and entertainment bookings, often indirectly.

The cost of calling these numbers is made up of the "Service Charge" (given against each number) plus the "Access Charge" set by the caller's own telephone company (both include VAT).

The typical Access Charge for a landline is 11p per minute, for a mobile 50p per minute. (A list of all current Access Charge rates is found at this link.)

For a 10 minute call, the cost and revenue breakdown is as follows, for each of the listed rates:

40		Landline - 11ppm Access charge			Mobile - 50ppm Access charge		
10 minute call	To ticket company	To phone	VAT to	Cost to	To phone	VAT to	Cost to
Rate	Company	company	exchequer	caller	company	exchequer	caller
7p per minute	£0.59	£0.92	£0.29	£1.80	£4.17	£0.94	£5.70
12p per minute	£1.00	£0.92	£0.38	£2.30	£4.17	£1.03	£6.20
13p per minute	£1.09	£0.92	£0.39	£2.40	£4.17	£1.04	£6.30

This cost and revenue table shows how the proportions of the cost incurred by the caller flow as revenue. (These proportions are the same, regardless of the call duration.)

The benefit to the ticket seller (in this table) varies from 10.4% to 45.4% of the cost to the caller. This demonstrate the enormous overhead cost which those who choose to use 084/087 numbers impose on their callers. In 2 of these six cases the revenue to the exchequer in VAT is greater than the benefit to the ticket seller.

Whilst it is a breach of the terms of consumer legislation (see <u>this link</u>) for such numbers to be offered for contact after a consumer has entered into a contract, the **fair telecoms campaign** invites consideration of the figures given above to show that it is "insanity" to use them at all.

<u>Cinemas</u>						
	Empire Cinemas	0871 471 4714	13p per minute			
	Everyman Cinemas	0871 906 9060	13p per minute			
	Odeon	0871 2244007	13p per minute			
	Picturehouse Cinemas	0871 902 5747	13p per minute			
	Showcase Cinemas	0871 220 1000	13p per minute			
	Vue Cinemas	08712 240 240	13p per minute			
	Cineworld	0871 200 2000	12p per minute			
<u>Ticket Agencies</u>						
	SEE tickets	0871 220 0260	13p per minute			
	ATG Tickets	0844 871 7615	7p per minute			
	AXS	0844 824 4824	7p per minute			
	Eventim	0844 249 1000	7p per minute			
	Gigs and Tours	0844 811 0051	7p per minute			
	Quay Tickets	0843 208 0500	7p per minute			
	The Ticket Factory	0844 338 8000	7p per minute			
	Ticketline	0844 888 4410	7p per minute			
	Ticketsellers	0844 870 0000	7p per minute			

