

Southern Communications Ltd - Code of Practice

INTRODUCTION TO OUR COMPANY AND SERVICES

Southern Communications are an independent telecommunications company that delivers communications services to business customers throughout the UK. We are committed to giving you the highest quality of customer service and in order to do this we may choose to purchase services from wholesale providers.

When we do, we choose those providers carefully to ensure that they meet with our expectations of high quality product and service. We make every reasonable effort to supply services that satisfy your requirements. We work to all relevant laws and regulations.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

This code sets out a statement of how we conduct our business and provides information about our relationship with you. This code of practice may be obtained in hard copy by writing to us at the address below.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

We provide the following products and services:

- Fixed Line Voice Calls & Lines
- SIP Services
- On-Premise and Hosted Telephone Systems
- System Maintenance & Training
- Managed Services
- Data Connectivity
- Mobile Voice Calls & Lines
- Non-Geographic Numbers

For more details on any of our products and services, or to place an order, please contact our Internal Sales Team on 01256 391189

CONTACTING US

Southern Communications always put the customer first and our Customer Experience Team are dedicated to providing prompt and effective support to customers experiencing difficulties in any way.

They are available Monday to Friday between the hours of 08.00 and 18.00 by:

Telephone: 01256 391046

Email: customerexperience@southern-comms.co.uk

by post to: Southern Communications Ltd, Glebe Farm, Down Street, Dummer, Hampshire, RG25 2AD

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Details of the specific terms and conditions relating to your contract are available on our website www.southern-comms.co.uk and are referenced on the documentation provided when you first subscribe to our services.

You should note that these terms and conditions are specific to the service being supplied and, for example, those for lines and calls may vary from those for mobile. If you are unsure about which terms and conditions apply to your contract, please contact us using one of the methods below.

Additionally, contract lengths may vary according to the minimum term you agreed to at the beginning of your service provision. Our standard contract lengths are either 12, 24, 36 or 60 months. If you are unsure about your contract, please contact our Customer Relations Team on 01256 391046.

CANCELLATION

In the unlikely event that you should wish to cancel the service we provide, you should write or email us at the address above telling us what you wish to cancel and when you wish it to be effective. There may be a charge for early termination of your contract and this will be explained to you. Early termination charges are also set down as per the terms and conditions of the services signed for which are available on our web site.

PRICES AND TARIFFS

Because there are so many different rates that often depend on separately negotiated criteria, and the changes in tariffs are being updated constantly, it is not possible to publish a standard set of rates that would apply to all customers.

Your own particular tariff, if you have not kept the one sent originally, can be obtained from our Customer Experience Team, (see 'Contacting Us' Section above) on request.

NUMBER PORTING

Southern Communications Ltd recognise that keeping existing telephone numbers may be important to you. We will work with you to ensure that services are switched over at a convenient and appropriate time. For more information, please call our Customer Experience Team on 01256 391046.

DIRECTORY ENTRIES

You are entitled to a Directory Enquiry listing (including an entry in the Phone Book) for both your fixed and mobile telephone numbers. If you do wish to amend your listing, please contact our Services Delivery Team on 01256 396007

NUISANCE CALLS

We take the problem of nuisance calls and malicious communications very seriously. We tackle it by working closely with the police and others in the communications industry. If you have been a victim of this activity, please call the Service Assurance Team on 01256 391000 to report the incident and for information on how to deal with it.

FAULTS AND REPAIRS

Please call our Service Assurance Team on 01256 391000 if you experience a fault with any of our services. We aim to have this investigated and repaired within the parameters set to us by OPENREACH or other service providers, or as agreed in your maintenance contract. This time frame will vary dependant on severity of fault, type of service and level of care in place on the line.

FRAUD PROTECTION

At Southern Communications we take fraud protection very seriously and apply international call barring and premium rate barring as requested at no cost. For further peace of mind we also supply for participating customers our fraud protection service Voice Safe (terms and conditions apply as per our website).

BILLING

Our bills are usually sent on a monthly basis, but we may send you a bill at any time. Terms of payment will be detailed in our terms and conditions. Payment will be collected either by direct debit, cheque or BACS. If you wish to change your method of payment at any time, please contact our Customer Experience team on 01256 391046.

If you have difficulty paying your bill, please contact our Accounts Department on 01256 391054 or by email at payments@southern-comms.co.uk and we will try to arrange a different method of payment. We will do all we can to help our customers to manage their bills and avoid disconnection.

COMPENSATION AND REFUNDS

Our service provision to you is dependent upon the continued operation of the major networks (Openreach for example). We will confirm to you whether the case can be dealt with internally or will need to be presented to our suppliers. Any refunds that are due will be credited to you, if dealt with internally, on the next invoice, or, if external influences are involved, following reimbursement to us.

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS CODE

For details of Southern Communications' customer complaints code [click here](#)

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

To view our Company Privacy Notice please [click here](#).

Southern Communications - Code of Practice for Premium Rate Services and NTS Calls

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CODE

This code informs you about our policies on providing information about Premium Rate Service (PRS) calls and on our charging policy for calls to NTS and PRS numbers.

PREMIUM RATE SERVICES

Premium rate services (PRS) are telephone numbers that offer some form of information or entertainment that is charged to your phone bill. UK-based PRS numbers are normally prefixed by "09". The prefix 0871 is now also designated as a Premium rate number and subject to PRS Regulation.

The typical service for these types of numbers include TV vote lines, mobile ringtone downloads, technical helplines, charity fund-raising and adult entertainment where the charges are added to your telephone bill.

It is also typical for calls to these services from, for example, mobile phones, cable networks or public payphones will generally cost more than the advertised rate. Our charges for calling these services are available on request from our Customer Relations Team.

If you have a problem with PRS, we can help. We can provide advice on checking the telephone number of any PRS charges that appear on your bill and will try to help you identify the premium rate service provider. We can use call barring to restrict access to "09" numbers and please call our Service Assurance Team on 01256 391000 for advice in this area.

You can also ask for help from Phone Pay Plus, which is the industry-funded regulatory body for Premium Rate Services. Phone Pay Plus operates a code of practice that sets out standards for the operation of PRS.

You can use the Phone Pay Plus website at www.phonepayplus.org.uk to check PRS numbers direct or to download a complaint form. Phone Pay Plus has legal powers to require a provider of PRS to amend its service or promotional material (or both) and can also impose penalties on content service providers

NUMBER TRANSLATION SERVICES

Number translation services (NTS) are based on numbers that are normally pre-fixed either "03" or "08". For example, 0800 and 0808 are used to provide freephone services.

03, 0844, 0845 and 0870 numbers are used for many purposes including dial-up pay-as-you-go Internet access, sales/customer service lines, information services, technical helplines and telephone banking. These types of numbers are also used by organisations to help them provide call-management features such as intelligent call routing and fax-to-email services.

Charges for calling services on NTS numbers are added to your telephone bill. Calling these services from, for example, mobile phones, cable networks or public payphones will generally cost more than the advertised rate but communications providers must publish prices for calls to these types of numbers where these are higher than for calls to geographic numbers.

Our charges for calling these services are available on request from our Customer Relations Team on 01256 391046. If you are unhappy with the help you have received from us on a problem with PRS or NTS, please contact our Service Assurance Team on 01256 391000 or by email at service@southern-comms.co.uk who have the responsibility for compliance with our code of practice for PRS and NTS. You may also complain using the complaints procedure set out in our complaints code.

INTERNET DIALERS

If you use the Internet, it is possible for software to be placed on your computer without you knowing using the same methods as for computer viruses. This type of software (known as Internet or rogue diallers) can then make calls to PRS and NTS numbers without your knowledge.

Phone Pay Plus has been given responsibility for policing this type of activity and you can contact them via www.phonepayplus.org.uk to ask for help or to report examples of this type of abuse. We can also help by barring calls to 09 numbers.

THE TELEPHONE PREFERENCE SERVICE

If you don't want to get sales and marketing calls you have not requested, you can add your details to a list run by the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). If your number is on the list, it is illegal for a company to call you for marketing purposes. You can contact the Telephone Preference Service via www.tpsonline.org.uk or by telephoning 0345 0700707.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Ofcom - Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA. Tel: 020 7981 3040 or 0300 123 3333 email: contact@ofcom.org.uk Website: www.ofcom.org.uk

PhonepayPlus (formerly Icstis)- Clove Building, 4 Maguire Street, London, SE1 2NQ. Tel: 0300 3030 020 or 020 7940 7474 Website: www.phonepayplus.org.uk email info@phonepayplus.org.uk

Telephone Preference Service - DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS Tel: 0345 070 0707 Website: www.tpsonline.org.uk

Federation of Communication Services (FCS) - Burnhill Business Centre, Provident House, Burrell Row, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AT. Tel: 020 8249 6363 email: fcs@fcs.org.uk Website: www.fcs.org.uk