

This point covers a number of questions as it relates to 0845 charges from mobiles.

The proposal to cap the 0845 charges is fully agreed with subject to the provision that within a package it should NOT exceed the price for local calls in the same package(unless and only to the extent justified by some incremental expense to the service provider)

AND there should be a general price gouging provision, effectively enabling

1) the regulator to demand justification and change of a price structure which allows generic marketing statements like 'calls to landlines and other networks free' when special numbers are not charged at penal rates

2) a general provision allowing the regulator to stop abuse of charging excessively for numbers which are widely accepted to be in the nature of local or non premium rates