

## **AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES CODES OF PRACTICE**

**Including our Code of Practice on Complaint Handling and Dispute Resolution and our Code of Practice for Premium Rate Services and NTS calls**

### **Part 1 - AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES**

#### **Code of Practice on Complaint Handling and Dispute Resolution for Domestic and Small Business Customers.**

##### **Introduction to our company and services**

AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES is an independent company that delivers communications services to domestic and business customers. While we may not provide all the component parts of our services ourselves, we do take responsibility for the services delivered to you. So we will liaise with our suppliers to ensure that any problems with their services are resolved promptly.

##### **Purpose of this Code of Practice**

This code informs you about our products, services, and customer-care policies. Our code of practice on complaint handling and dispute resolution has been approved by Ofcom, the independent regulator for the UK communications industries for the purposes of section 52 of the Communications Act 2003. This Code of Practice is published on our website at [www.axisforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.axisforbusiness.co.uk). Additional copies are available on request and free of charge to any domestic and small business customer. It is also available in larger print.

##### **How to contact us**

Please contact our Customer Service Team 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday - Friday

**By phone:** 0844 875 1950

**By email:** [info@axisforbusiness.co.uk](mailto:info@axisforbusiness.co.uk)

**By fax:** 0844 875 1939

**Website:** [www.axisforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.axisforbusiness.co.uk)

**By letter:** AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES, Utility House, Prospect Street, Hull, HU2 8PX

##### **Our commitment to you**

We are committed to giving you the highest quality of customer service. When we purchase our services from wholesale providers, we choose those providers carefully to ensure that you get a high-quality service. We make every reasonable effort to supply services that satisfy your requirements. We work to all relevant laws and regulations.

##### **Our products and services**

- Landline telephones
- Landline calls
- CPS - Carrier Pre-Selection
- WLR - Wholesale Line Rental
- ISDN - digital telephone lines
- Broadband access
- VoIP & IP telephony services
- Non-geographic numbers
- Intelligent Call Routing
- Internet
- Directory enquiries
- Mobile telephone and data services

For more details on any of our products and services, or to place an order immediately, please contact our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950.

You may also purchase our services from local dealers and retailers around the UK. For more information, please contact the Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950 or see our website [www.axisforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.axisforbusiness.co.uk).

## **Marketing**

We work to the principles in the British Code of Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing, which are set out on the website [www.cap.org.uk](http://www.cap.org.uk).

## **Terms and conditions**

When you subscribe to a service from AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES, we will send you our Standard Terms and Conditions and ask you to sign a contract, if applicable. If you have any questions, please phone our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950. We may carry out a credit check as part of our assessment procedures.

Where applicable, the minimum contract term for our services is twelve months. We aim to provide services within ten working days of your original request, subject to the availability and installation of any equipment and, where appropriate, lines to your premises. If we need to carry out a survey of your premises or lay additional cabling, we will inform you of the revised timescales as soon as we can.

## **Cancellation**

If you decide to cancel your order or agreement before we have provided the services, you may do anytime until the services are transferred across at no costs to you. If you wish to terminate your contract within the minimum term we will charge you a fee as set out in your contract. After the minimum term you can cancel any service by calling our Customer Service Helpdesk on 0844 875 1950, giving us one months' notice.

## **Faults and repairs**

Please call our Fault Service Team on 0844 875 1940 if you experience a fault with any of our services. We aim to have this investigated within 3 working days.

## **Compensation and refund policy**

Our policy is to assess each claim on a case by case basis. We aim to investigate any claims and respond within 28 working days. Any refunds that are due will be credited to the next month's invoice.

## **Price lists**

Our pricing structure is available from our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950 and via our website [www.axisforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.axisforbusiness.co.uk) We will write to you in advance if we change the pricing structure on your products and services.

## **Billing**

We will bill you monthly.

You can choose to pay us via a range of options including credit card, cheque and direct debit. These are agreed at the start of your contract. If you wish to change your method of payment at any time, please call our Customer Service Team 0844 875 1950.

We provide itemised bills for call made over 40p as part of our service free of charge fully itemized billed are available at your request.

If you have difficulty paying your bill, please contact us on 0844 875 1950 and we will try to arrange a different method of payment. We will do all we can to help our residential and small business customers to manage their bills and avoid disconnection.

## **If you are moving home or office**

Please call our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950 no later than 28 days before your move date. We will amend your account and billing requirements as necessary. We will endeavour to offer you the same telephone number to minimise disruption but please note that for geographic numbers this is not always possible.

## **Number porting**

AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES recognise that keeping your existing telephone numbers may be important to you. If you move your business to us and wish to keep the number that you have with your old provider, we will arrange it if you ask us. We will work with you to ensure that the services are switched over at a convenient and appropriate time. For more information, please call our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950.

### **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 want your details included, please contact our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950.

### **Complaints**

We make every effort to ensure that our customers are happy with the level of service, and the products and service they receive from us. However, despite our best efforts, things can go wrong. We take customer complaints very seriously and aim to resolve them quickly and efficiently.

If you have a complaint about any part of our service, please contact our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950. Our advisors will ask you about your complaint and seek to resolve the problem while you are on the line. During any discussions we will protect the privacy of the information that we hold on you. To do this we may have to ask you questions to confirm that we are speaking to the right person.

You may also send your complaint to us in writing: AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES Utility House, Prospect Street, Hull, HU2 8PX.

We will try to resolve your complaint quickly and efficiently, and to keep you informed at all times. If your complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, you can take it further within our company, and ultimately to the Managing Director at the above address. If we cannot resolve the problem, we will write to you to say so.

If your complaint has not been resolved within 8 weeks, or you have received a letter from us saying that your complaint has reached “deadlock”, then you may ask for help from The Office of the Telecommunications Ombudsman (Ombudsman Services Communications): PO Box 730, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6WU Tel: 01925 430870 or 0845 050 1614, Website: [www.ombudsman-services.org](http://www.ombudsman-services.org)

Ombudsman Services Communications is an independent organisation which is approved by Ofcom to provide an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) service. Ofcom-approved ADR services sort out disputes between communications providers and their consumer and small business customers. Their job is to investigate complaints fairly by listening to both sides of the story. They look at the facts given to them before recommending any action that may be needed to put things right. Please note, this service is at no cost to you.

### **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 Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950 to report the incident and for information on how to deal with it.

We encourage parents to register the mobile phones of their children, and take responsibility for all customer care enquiries.

### **Services for people with special needs**

We are committed to helping all our customers to communicate easily. We offer the following additional services on request for customers who are older or who may have a disability, including:

- Priority access to the Customer Service Team 0844 875 1950
- Priority fault repair and assistance
- Additional help and support if you have difficulty paying your bill
- A free Directory Enquiries service for people who are unable to use the printed phone book

Copies of this Code are available in larger print and other formats on request.

Access the text relay service, rebates for text relay calls for people who have a hearing impairment. Third party bill management for people with cognitive impairments or those in hospital long term.

### **Data protection**

We comply fully with our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

## Part 2 - AXIS BUSINESS SERVICES

### Code of Practice for Premium Rate Services and NTS Calls

#### Purpose of this Code of Practice

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". Typical services include TV votelines, mobile ringtone downloads, technical helplines, charity fund-raising and adult entertainment.

Charges for these services are added to your telephone bill. Calling a PRS number generally costs between 10 pence and £1.50 per minute, per call or per text (incl. vat). Calling 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 shown in our price list, which is available on request from our Customer Services Team 0844 875 1950 and via our website [www.axisforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.axisforbusiness.co.uk)

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. Please call our Customer Service Team on 0844 875 1950 for advice on this. We can give you a factsheet on PRS.

You can also ask for help from PhonepayPlus (formerly ICSTIS), which is the industry-funded regulatory body for Premium Rate Services. PhonepayPlus operates a code of practice that sets out standards for the operation of PRS. You can use the PhonepayPlus website at [www.phonepayplus.org.uk](http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk) to check PRS numbers direct or to download a complaint form. PhonepayPlus 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. For other ways to contact PhonepayPlus, see the "Useful addresses" section below.

#### Number translation services

Number translation services (NTS) are based on numbers that are normally pre-fixed "08". For example, 0800 and 0808 are used to provide freephone services (some freephone services are also provided on 0500 numbers). 0844 and 0845 numbers are used for dial-up pay-as-you-go Internet access and customer service helplines. 0870 and 0871 numbers are used for information services, technical helplines and telephone banking. They 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 and prices range from free up to 10p per minute or per call (incl. vat). Calling 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 shown in our price list, which is available on request from our Customer Services Team 0844 875 1950 and via our website [www.axisforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.axisforbusiness.co.uk) We can also give you a factsheet on NTS.

If you are unhappy with the help you have received from us on a problem with PRS or NTS, please contact Barry Jefferson Tel 0844 875 1950 or email [info@axisforbusiness.co.uk](mailto:info@axisforbusiness.co.uk), who has responsibility for compliance with our code of practice for PRS and NTS. You may also complain using the complaints procedure set out in this code including, ultimately, referring your complaint to Ombudsman Services Communications.

#### Internet diallers

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. Software is available to detect this activity and we can help you to access this - please contact our Customer Services Team 0844 875 1950 for details. PhonepayPlus has been given responsibility for policing this type of activity and you can contact them via [www.phonepayplus.org.uk](http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk) to ask for help or to report examples of this type of abuse. For other ways to contact PhonepayPlus, see the "Useful addresses" section below. 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](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) or by telephoning 0845 070 0707.

### **Useful addresses**

#### **Ombudsman Services Communications**

PO Box 730, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6WU.

Tel: 01925 430870 or 0845 050 1614

Website: [www.ombudsman-services.org.uk](http://www.ombudsman-services.org.uk)

#### **Ofcom**

Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA.

Tel: 020 7981 3040 or 0300 123 3333

Email: [contact@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:contact@ofcom.org.uk)

Website: [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

#### **PhonepayPlus** (formerly ICSTIS)

Clove Building, 4 Maguire Street, London, SE1 2NQ.

Tel: 0800 500212 or 020 7940 7474

Website: [www.phonepayplus.org.uk](http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk)

#### **Telephone Preference Service**

DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS

Tel: 0845 070 0707

Website: [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://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](mailto:fcs@fcs.org.uk)

Website: [www.fcs.org.uk](http://www.fcs.org.uk)