



IT Systems  
IT Support  
IT Solutions  
Cloud/hosted solutions  
Telephony and Communications

## Telecoms Basic Code of Practice

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Author: SNC Ltd

[www.stranet.com](http://www.stranet.com)

# Strategic Network Consulting Ltd Code of Practice

Including our Basic Code of Practice and our Code of Practice for Premium Rate Services and calls.

## **Part 1 - Strategic Network Consulting Ltd Basic Code of Practice for Small Business Customers**

### *Introduction to our company and services*

Strategic Network Consulting Ltd is an independent company that delivers communications services to 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, customer-care policies and where to find information about our charges and terms and conditions. This Code of Practice is published on our website at ([www.stranet.com/legal](http://www.stranet.com/legal)). Additional copies are available on request and free of charge to any domestic and small business customer. It is also available in alternative formats, e.g. large print.

### *How to contact us*

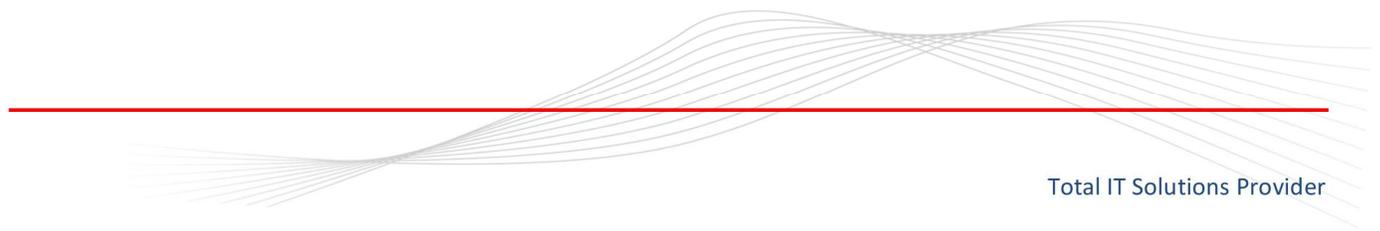
Please contact our Customer Service Team,

**By phone** from 9am until 6pm Monday-Friday on 0845 521 6111

**By fax:** 0845 521 6222

**By email:** [comms\\_support@stranet.com](mailto:comms_support@stranet.com)

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Total IT Solutions Provider

**By letter:**

Strategic Network Consulting Ltd  
180 Piccadilly  
London  
W1J 9HF;

**Website:**

[www.stranet.com](http://www.stranet.com)

or

[www.phonesystemsforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.phonesystemsforbusiness.co.uk)

***Our commitment to you***

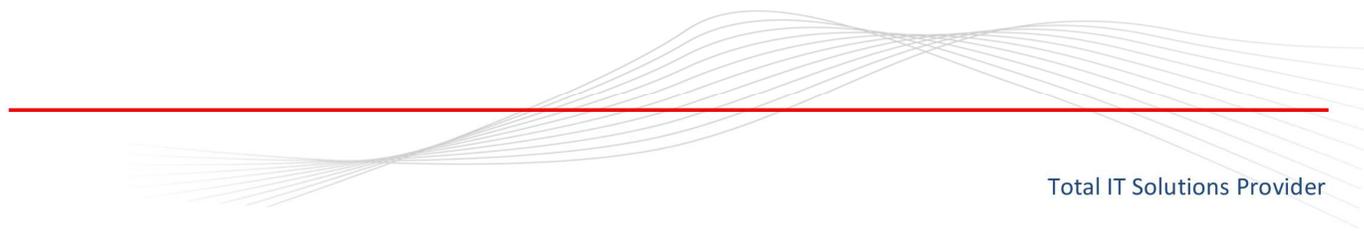
We are committed to giving you the highest quality of customer service. When we purchase our services from wholesale providers, we choose those providers carefully to ensure that you get a high-quality service. We make every reasonable effort to supply services that satisfy your requirements. We work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

***Our products and services***

- Landline telephones
- Landline calls
- CPS – Carrier Pre-Selection
- IDA – Indirect Access
- 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
- Equipment and maintenance service

For more details on any of our products and services, or to place an order immediately, please contact our Customer Service Team on 0845 521 6111, or see our website [www.stranet.com](http://www.stranet.com) or [www.phonesystemsforbusiness.co.uk](http://www.phonesystemsforbusiness.co.uk)

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### **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 Strategic Network Consulting Ltd, 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 0845 521 61111. We may carry out a credit check as part of our assessment procedures.

Where applicable, the minimum contract term for our services is 24 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 so without charge within ten working days after your order is placed. After (ten) working days we will charge you an administration fee as set out in your contract. If you wish to terminate your contract within the minimum term of 24 months, please call our Customer service Helpdesk on 0845 521 6111 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 0845 521 6111, giving us three months' notice.

### **Faults and repairs**

Please call our Customer Service Team on 0845 521 6111 if you experience a fault with any of our services. We aim to have this investigated and repaired within 5 working days or the SLAs that are provided by our Suppliers.

### ***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 20 working days. Our service provision is dependent on major networks (e.g. BT Openreach), so if you apply for compensation we will apply to claim compensation on your behalf in line with the service level agreements offered. Any service credits or 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 0845 521 6111

As rates vary depending on factors use as usage and other criteria which are frequently updated it is not possible for us to publish a standard set of rates which would apply to all customers. As such if you require a copy of your billing tariff please contact our customer service team on 0845 521 6111.

### ***Billing***

We will bill you monthly.

You can choose to pay us via BACS or direct debit. This 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.

We provide itemised bills as part of our service to you on request and for a fee of £5.00 per month.

If you have difficulty paying your bill, please contact us on 0845 521 6111 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 0845 521 6111 no later than 40 working 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***

Strategic Network Consulting Ltd 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 do our best to arrange this for you, if you request it. We will work with you to ensure that the services are switched over at a convenient and appropriate time. Please note that the porting of numbers is dependent on Strategic Network Consulting have relevant porting agreements in place with the gaining provider, and therefore may not always be possible. For more information, please call our Customer Service Team on 0845 521 6111.

### ***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 0845 521 6111.

### ***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.

Our Code of Practice on Complaint Handling and Dispute Resolution explains how customers can complain. The code also provides information on how we deal with complaints and your right to take unresolved complaints to Alternative Dispute Resolution. You can find a copy of our Complaints Code on our website at [www.stranet.com/Legal](http://www.stranet.com/Legal). Alternatively, copies are available free of charge and on request from our Customer Service Team on 0845 521 6111.

### ***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 0845 521 6111 to report the incident and for information on how to deal with it.

### *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:

- Copies of bills in large print, on computer disc for customers who have difficulty reading their bill

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

### *Data protection*

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

## Part 2 - Strategic Network Consulting Ltd

### 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". 0871 is now also designated as a Premium rate number and subject to PRS regulation. 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 8.51 pence and £1.2766 per minute, per call or per text (excl. vat), but may be higher. 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 and via our website.

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 0845 521 6111 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 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 standard prices range from free up to 4.2p per minute or per call (excl. vat). 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 0870 numbers where these are higher than for calls to geographic numbers. Our charges for calling these services are shown in our price list, which is available on request from our Customer Services Team and via our website. 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 Matthew Sullivan (tel 0845 521 6111 or email [prs\\_support@stranet.com](mailto:prs_support@stranet.com)), 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 our complaints code including, ultimately, referring your complaint to Otelco.

### **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 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*

**The Ombudsman Services - Communications (formerly Otelo)** – PO Box 730, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6WU. Tel: 01925 430870 or 0845 050 1614 email: [enquiries@otelo.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@otelo.org.uk) Website: [www.otelo.org.uk](http://www.otelo.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 500 212 or 020 7940 7474 Website: [www.phonepayplus.org.uk](http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk) email [info@phonepayplus.org.uk](mailto:info@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)

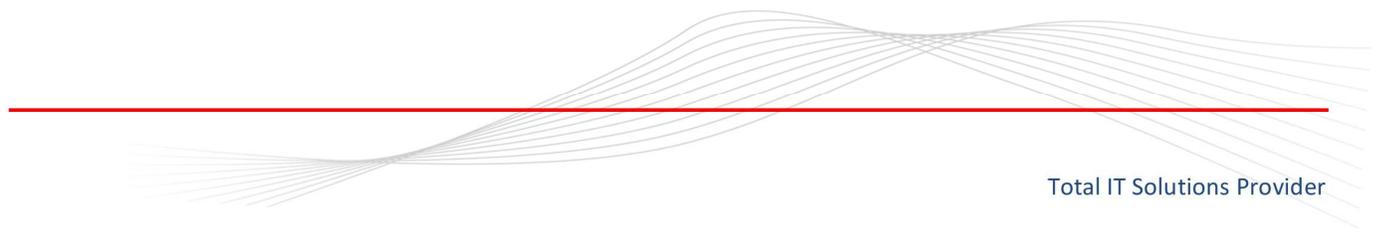
**Federation of Communication Services (FCS)** - Burnhill Business Centre, Provident House, Burrell Row, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AT. Tel: 020 8249 6363 email: [fcs@fcs.org.uk](mailto:fcs@fcs.org.uk) Website: [www.fcs.org.uk](http://www.fcs.org.uk)

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