

PRESS RELEASE



The Independent Committee for the Supervision of
Standards of Telephone Information Services

Clove Building, 4 Maguire Street, London SE1 2NQ

Tel: 020 7940 7474 Fax: 020 7940 7456

Press Office: 020 7940 7408

E-mail: secretariat@icstis.org.uk

Web: www.icstis.org.uk

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NICK ELMER PROHIBITED FROM RUNNING PREMIUM RATE SERVICES FOR 18 MONTHS

Premium rate services regulator ICSTIS has prohibited Nick Elmer, of Milton Keynes, from running or being associated with any person or company operating premium rate services for a period of 18 months, effective from 5 October 2006.

Mr Elmer has been prohibited following an earlier adjudication against The Broadband Phone Company Ltd and a lengthy, detailed investigation into his involvement with various other service providers operating under numerous names, all of whom were involved in operating 'prize claim line' services that seriously breached the ICSTIS Code of Practice. Full details of the adjudication can be found at: <http://www.icstis.org.uk/consumers/adjudications/default.asp?node=&id=573>

ICSTIS has acted under paragraph 7.7.2f of its Code, which allows it to: "inform any relevant network operator(s) that the service provider and/or any associated individual found to have been involved knowingly in a serious breach of the Code by the service provider is prohibited from providing, or contracting for the provision of, any premium rate services, or a particular type or category of service, for a defined period".

Service providers are reminded that they must not engage or permit the involvement of prohibited individuals. ICSTIS would also urge all phone networks to remain vigilant to ensure that such individuals do not attempt to start up services while they are subject to prohibition.

– ends –

For further information, please contact the ICSTIS Press Office:

Kate Belson: 020 7940 7464

NOTES

- ICSTIS is the industry-funded regulatory body for all premium rate charged telecommunications services.
- ICSTIS regulates premium rate service providers – defined under its Code of Practice as “...any person engaged in the provision of premium rate services who contracts with, or enters into arrangements with, a network operator for facilities enabling the provision of premium rate services...”.
- ICSTIS regulates the content, promotion and overall operation of services through its Code of Practice. It investigates complaints, and has the power to fine companies and bar access to services if the Code is breached. It can also bar the individual(s) behind a company from running any other premium rate services under any company name on any telephone network for a defined period.
- Most services are advertised on ‘09’ dialling codes. Many mobile services are advertised on four- or five-digit ‘short code’ numbers. Directory enquiry services begin with ‘118’. In some instances, such as interactive TV where viewers make ‘calls’ using their remote controls, the premium rate number may not be shown.
- Services offer some form of information and entertainment that is charged to your phone bill. You can access services in a number of ways – on your landline or mobile, by fax, on interactive TV and on your PC. Many mobile services work on a subscription-only basis.
- Services generally vary in cost between 10 pence per call and £1.50 per minute or message. The money paid by users for services is shared between the telephone company carrying the service and the organisation providing the content. Approximately 45,000 services are in operation at any one time, generating forecast revenue of £1.6 billion in 2006.

