



# The use of Telephone Numbers in Film, TV, and Radio programmes

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When using telephones in films the question often arises that an actual number has to be used on screen that does not correspond to a real-world number. From watching many films and TV shows from the US we all know about the 555 series of numbers they use for this purpose, but people tend to assume that there is no UK equivalent.

But this is not the case. The lack of visibility is simply that the UK versions do not all have a single ubiquitous number sequence in the middle, but look just like real telephone codes and numbers. This is because a number of years ago, Ofcom (formerly Oftel) took the initiative to allocate a series of numbers from the normal UK numbering sequence for specific use in drama productions, whether radio, film, or television.

Ofcom states that the numbers in the following table will not be allocated to any geographic region “in the foreseeable future” as they have been specifically reserved for drama use. So if you need to give out a telephone number in your film or other dramatic production then use one of these.

Geographic Area	Prefix	Telephone Number Range
Leeds	0113	496 0000 to 496 0999
Sheffield	0114	496 0000 to 496 0999
Nottingham	0115	496 0000 to 496 0999
Leicester	0116	496 0000 to 496 0999
Bristol	0117	496 0000 to 496 0999
Reading	0118	496 0000 to 496 0999
Birmingham	0121	496 0000 to 496 0999
Edinburgh	0131	496 0000 to 496 0999
Glasgow	0141	496 0000 to 496 0999
Liverpool	0151	496 0000 to 496 0999
Manchester	0161	496 0000 to 496 0999
London	020	7946 0000 to 7946 0999
Tyneside/Durham/Sunderland	0191	498 0000 to 498 0999
Northern Ireland	028	9018 0000 to 9018 0999
Cardiff	029	2018 0000 to 2018 0999
No area / area not shown above	01632	960000 to 960999
Mobile	N/A	07700 900000 to 900999
Freephone	N/A	08081 570000 to 570999
Premium Rate Services	N/A	0909 8790000 to 8790999
UK Wide	N/A	03069 990000 to 990999

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