

PART VIII.—PRIVATE TELEPHONE-LINES NOT ERECTED OR MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

134. Private telephone-lines as heretofore defined may be used in the following respects :—

- (a.) For communication with a toll station.
- (b.) As an extension of a telephone-exchange subscriber's line.
- (c.) For communication between premises not connected with the Department's telephone system.

135. Private telephone-lines shall not be erected otherwise than pursuant to a license issued by the Department in accordance with the form in the schedule hereto.

136. Private telephone-lines shall not be used by any person or persons for hire or profit, or for any purpose which might be construed as an attempt to deprive the Department of revenue.

**Private Telephone-lines connected with Toll Stations.**

137. The party or parties desiring the connection of a private telephone-line with a toll station shall be represented by a duly appointed agent, who shall be responsible to the Department for the due observance of the provisions of the next succeeding regulation.

138. The conditions on which a private telephone-line may be connected with a toll station are as follows :—

- (a.) The line must be led into the toll station by or under the supervision of a duly authorized departmental officer.
- (b.) The apparatus required at the toll station shall be provided free of cost by the Department, but all other costs incidental to the installation shall be a charge against the owner of or the agent for the private telephone-line.
- (c.) For each private telephone-line connected with a toll station there shall be charged a maintenance fee of 10s. per annum to cover the cost of maintaining the apparatus at the toll station. Such fee shall cover routine maintenance carried out during the periodical visits of a departmental officer. If a special visit is requested, the travelling time and expenses of the departmental officer shall be charged to the agent making the request.

139. A private telephone-line shall not be connected with more than one toll station, except under special circumstances and by the written authority of the Secretary or Chief Telegraph Engineer.

140. (1.) When a private telephone-line is connected with a toll station in charge of a permanent officer a switching fee, payable in advance, of £1 10s. per annum for each telephone connecting therewith shall be charged for switching a private telephone-line to other private telephone-lines. The service of switching a private telephone-line to a toll line shall be performed free of charge.

(2.) Where a one-party private telephone-line is connected with a toll station in charge of a non-permanent telephonist a minimum fee of £2 per annum shall be chargeable for switching the line to another private telephone-line or to a departmental line, or *vice versa*. Where there is more than one party connected with a private telephone-line the minimum fee shall be £1 per annum per party for the like service. All such fees shall be paid by the owner of the private telephone-line to the telephonist.

(3.) The service of transmitting and receiving telegrams on any private telephone-line shall be performed free of charge, but telegrams and toll communications must be paid for at schedule rates; the toll station with which the private telephone-line is connected being regarded as the originating station for toll communications.

141. If the owner of a private telephone-line connected with a toll station transfers his telephone connection to another person, the transferee shall in every case sign an application on the proper form before making use of the line. In all cases the transfer shall be subject to the approval of the Department, and of the telephonist in the case of a non-permanent office.

142. The Department shall, where practicable, repair telephones used for communication over a private telephone-line connected with a toll station upon application being made and upon payment of the expenses incurred, including the cost of any material used.

**Private Telephone-lines connected with Departmental Exchange Lines.**

143. Upon the establishment of a telephone exchange at a toll station all private telephone-lines connected therewith shall be converted to telephone-exchange connections or be discontinued.

144. Where a telephone exchange has been established, private telephone-lines may, as indicated in Regulation 134 (b), be connected with the exchange upon the owners signing the prescribed form of application and paying the service-connection fee and the charges prescribed for telephone-exchange connections. (See Regulations 42-44.)

145. When a private telephone-line is erected for the purpose of connecting with a departmental telephone-exchange line the Department shall decide at what point the private telephone-line may be connected with the Department's exchange lines.

146. When a telephone-exchange circuit composed partly of a private telephone-line becomes faulty, the Department may require that the owner of the private telephone-line shall first examine his section of the line and give an assurance that no fault exists thereon before the Department's portion of the circuit is examined.

147. If after receiving the assurance mentioned in the last preceding regulation the fault is found to be on the privately owned section of the line, the Department may charge the cost of examining its section to the owner of the private telephone-line.

148. By arrangement with the Department, a departmental lineman may be detailed to examine the privately owned section of an exchange line in order to remove a fault, provided that the services of the lineman can be spared, and that the owner of the private telephone-line undertakes to pay the whole cost of the work, including labour, travelling time and expenses.