

Communications Act 2003

CHAPTER 21

COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2003

PART 1

FUNCTIONS OF OFCOM

Transferred and assigned functions

- 1 Functions and general powers of OFCOM
- 2 Transfer of functions of pre-commencement regulators

General duties in carrying out functions

- 3 General duties of OFCOM
- 4 Duties for the purpose of fulfilling Community obligations
- 5 Directions in respect of networks and spectrum functions
- 6 Duties to review regulatory burdens
- 7 Duty to carry out impact assessments
- 8 Duty to publish and meet promptness standards
- 9 Secretary of State's powers in relation to promptness standards

Accessible domestic communications apparatus

10 Duty to encourage availability of easily usable apparatus

Media literacy

11 Duty to promote media literacy

OFCOM's Content Board

- 12 Duty to establish and maintain Content Board
- 13 Functions of the Content Board

Functions for the protection of consumers

- 14 Consumer research
- 15 Duty to publish and take account of research
- 16 Consumer consultation
- 17 Membership etc. of the Consumer Panel
- 18 Committees and other procedure of the Consumer Panel
- 19 Power to amend remit of Consumer Panel

Advisory committees

- 20 Advisory committees for different parts of the United Kingdom
- 21 Advisory committee on elderly and disabled persons

International matters

- 22 Representation on international and other bodies
- 23 Directions for international purposes in respect of broadcasting functions

General information functions

- 24 Provision of information to the Secretary of State
- 25 Community requirement to provide information
- 26 Publication of information and advice for consumers etc.

Employment in broadcasting

27 Training and equality of opportunity

Charging

28 General power to charge for services

Guarantees

29 Secretary of State guarantees for OFCOM borrowing

Provisions supplemental to transfer of functions

- 30 Transfers of property etc. from pre-commencement regulators
- Transitional functions and abolition of pre-commencement regulators

PART 2

NETWORKS, SERVICES AND THE RADIO SPECTRUM

CHAPTER 1

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

Preliminary

32 Meaning of electronic communications networks and services

Notification by providers

- 33 Advance notification to OFCOM
- 34 Designations and requirements for the purposes of s. 33

- 35 Notification of contraventions of s. 33
- 36 Enforcement notification for contravention of s. 33
- 37 Penalties for contravention of s. 33

Administrative charges imposed on providers

- 38 Fixing of charges
- 39 Supplemental provision about fixing charges
- 40 Notification of non-payment of charges
- 41 Penalties for non-payment of charges
- 42 Suspending service provision for non-payment
- 43 Enforcement of directions under s. 42

Register of providers required to notify or to pay charges

44 Duty of OFCOM to keep publicly accessible register

Conditions of entitlement to provide network or service etc.

- 45 Power of OFCOM to set conditions
- 46 Persons to whom conditions may apply
- 47 Test for setting or modifying conditions
- 48 Procedure for setting, modifying and revoking conditions
- 49 Directions and approvals for the purposes of a s. 45 condition
- 50 Delivery of copies of notifications etc.

General conditions: subject-matter

51 Matters to which general conditions may relate

General conditions: customer interests

- 52 Conditions relating to customer interests
- 53 Approval of codes of practice for the purposes of s. 52
- 54 Approval of dispute procedures for the purposes of s. 52
- 55 Orders by OFCOM in the absence of conditions under s. 52

General conditions: telephone numbers

- 56 The National Telephone Numbering Plan
- 57 Conditions to secure access to telephone numbers
- 58 Conditions about allocation and adoption of numbers
- 59 Telephone numbering conditions binding non-providers
- 60 Modification of documents referred to in numbering conditions
- 61 Withdrawal of telephone number allocations
- 62 Numbering reorganisations
- 63 General duty as to telephone numbering functions

General conditions: must-carry obligations

64 Must-carry obligations

Universal service conditions

- 65 Obligations to be secured by universal service conditions
- 66 Designation of universal service providers
- 67 Subject-matter of universal service conditions

- 68 Tariffs etc. for universal services
- 69 Directories and directory enquiry facilities
- 70 Review of compliance costs
- 71 Sharing of burden of universal service obligations
- 72 Report on sharing mechanism

Access-related conditions

- 73 Permitted subject-matter of access-related conditions
- 74 Specific types of access-related conditions
- 75 Conditional access systems and access to digital services
- 76 Modification and revocation of conditions imposed under s. 75

Privileged supplier conditions

77 Imposition of privileged supplier conditions

SMP conditions: procedure

- 78 Circumstances required for the setting of SMP conditions
- 79 Market power determinations
- 80 Proposals for identifying markets and for market power determinations
- 81 Delivery of copies of notifications under ss. 79 and 80
- 82 European Commission's powers in respect of proposals
- 83 Special rules for transnational markets
- 84 Review of services market identifications and determinations
- 85 Review of apparatus market identifications and determinations
- 86 Cases where review required

SMP services conditions: subject-matter

- 87 Conditions about network access etc.
- 88 Conditions about network access pricing etc.
- 89 Conditions about network access in exceptional cases
- 90 Conditions about carrier selection and pre-selection
- 91 Conditions about regulation of services etc. for end-users
- 92 Conditions about leased lines

SMP apparatus conditions: subject-matter

93 Conditions about apparatus supply

Enforcement of conditions

- 94 Notification of contravention of conditions
- 95 Enforcement notification for contravention of conditions
- 96 Penalties for contravention of conditions
- 97 Amount of penalty under s. 96
- 98 Power to deal with urgent cases
- 99 Confirmation of directions under s. 98
- 100 Suspending service provision for contraventions of conditions
- 101 Suspending apparatus supply for contraventions of conditions
- 102 Procedure for directions under ss. 100 and 101
- 103 Enforcement of directions under ss. 98, 100 and 101
- 104 Civil liability for breach of conditions or enforcement notification

OFCOM's duty to intervene on network access issues

105	Consideration and determination of network access questions
	Electronic communications code
106	Application of the electronic communications code
107	Procedure for directions applying code
108	Register of persons in whose case code applies
109	Restrictions and conditions subject to which code applies
110	Enforcement of restrictions and conditions
111	Enforcement notification for contravention of code restrictions
112	Penalties for contravention of code restrictions
113	Suspension of application of code
114	Procedure for directions under s. 113
115	Modification and revocation of application of code
116	Notification of cessation by person to whom code applies
117	Transitional schemes on cessation of application of code
118	Compulsory acquisition of land etc.
119	Power to give assistance in relation to certain proceedings
	Regulation of premium rate services
120	Conditions regulating premium rate services
121	Approval of code for premium rate services
122	Orders by OFCOM in the absence of a code under s. 121
123	Enforcement of s. 120 conditions
124	Suspending service provision for contraventions of s. 120 conditions
	Offences relating to networks and services
125	Dishonestly obtaining electronic communications services
126	Possession or supply of apparatus etc. for contravening s. 125
127	Improper use of public electronic communications network
	Persistent misuse of network or service
128	Notification of misuse of networks and services
129	Enforcement notifications for stopping persistent misuse
130	Penalties for persistent misuse
131	Statement of policy on persistent misuse
	Powers to deal with emergencies
132	Powers to require suspension or restriction of a provider's entitlement
133	Enforcement of directions under s. 132
	Restrictions in leases and licences
134	Restrictions in leases and licences

Information provisions

- Information required for purposes of Chapter 1 functions Information required for related purposes Restrictions on imposing information requirements 135
- 136
- 137
- Notification of contravention of information requirements 138

139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146	Penalties for contravention of information requirements Suspending service provision for information contraventions Suspending apparatus supply for information contraventions Procedure for directions under ss. 140 and 141 Enforcement of directions under ss. 140 and 141 Offences in connection with information requirements Statement of policy on information gathering Provision of information by OFCOM
	Abolition of telecommunications licensing etc.
147	Repeal of provisions of Telecommunications Act 1984
	Local authority powers in relation to networks and services
148	Powers of local authorities in connection with networks
	Grants for networks and services in Northern Ireland
149 150	Grants by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment Grants by district councils
	Interpretation of Chapter 1
151	Interpretation of Chapter 1
	CHAPTER 2
	SPECTRUM USE
	General functions relating to spectrum use
152 153 154 155 156 157	General functions of OFCOM in relation to radio spectrum United Kingdom Plan for Frequency Authorisation Duties of OFCOM when carrying out spectrum functions Advisory service in relation to interference Directions with respect to the radio spectrum Procedure for directions under s. 156
	Reservation of spectrum for multiplex use
158	Special duty in relation to television multiplexes
	Recognised spectrum access
159 160 161 162	Grant of recognised spectrum access Effect of grant of recognised spectrum access Charges in respect of grants of recognised spectrum access Conversion into and from wireless telegraphy licences
	Crown use of the radio spectrum
163	Payments for use of radio spectrum by the Crown
	Limitations and exemptions applied to spectrum use
164	Limitations on authorised spectrum use

165 166	Terms etc. of wireless telegraphy licences Exemption from need for wireless telegraphy licence
	Award and transfer of licences
167 168	Bidding for wireless telegraphy licences Spectrum trading
	Variation and revocation of licences
169	Variation and revocation of wireless telegraphy licences
	Wireless telegraphy register
170	Wireless telegraphy register
	Information requirements
171	Information requirements in relation to wireless telegraphy licences
	Criminal proceedings etc.
172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182	Contraventions of conditions for use of wireless telegraphy Meaning of "repeated contravention" in s. 172 Procedure for prosecutions of wireless telegraphy offences Special procedure for contraventions by multiplex licence holders Amount of penalty under s. 175 "Relevant amount of gross revenue" for the purposes of s. 176 Proceedings for an offence relating to apparatus use Modification of penalties for certain wireless telegraphy offences Fixed penalties for certain wireless telegraphy offences Power of arrest Forfeiture etc. of restricted apparatus **Construction of 1949 Act** Modification of definition of "undue interference" Modification of definition of "wireless telegraphy" **CHAPTER 3*
	DISPUTES AND APPEALS
	Disputes
185 186 187 188 189 190 191	Reference of disputes to OFCOM Action by OFCOM on dispute reference Legal proceedings about referred disputes Procedure for resolving disputes Disputes involving other member States Resolution of referred disputes OFCOM's power to require information in connection with dispute
	Appeals
192 193	Appeals against decisions by OFCOM, the Secretary of State etc. Reference of price control matters to the Competition Commission

194 195 196	Composition of Competition Commission for price control references Decisions of the Tribunal Appeals from the Tribunal
	Interpretation of Chapter 3
197	Interpretation of Chapter 3
	PART 3
	Television and Radio Services
	CHAPTER 1
T	THE BBC, C4C THE WELSH AUTHORITY AND THE GAELIC MEDIA SERVICE
	The BBC
198	Functions of OFCOM in relation to the BBC
	C4C
199 200 201 202	Functions of C4C Removal of members of C4C Deficits and surpluses of C4C Borrowing limit for C4C
	The Welsh Authority
203 204 205 206 207	Function of OFCOM in relation to the Welsh Authority Welsh Authority's function of providing S4C and S4C Digital Powers to provide other services Other activities of Welsh Authority Welsh Authority finances
	The Gaelic Media Service
208 209 210	The Gaelic Media Service Membership of the Service Supplementary provisions about the Service
	CHAPTER 2
	REGULATORY STRUCTURE FOR INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICES
	Preliminary
211 212 213	Regulation of independent television services Abolition of function of assigning television frequencies Abolition of licensing for local cable systems
	Channels 3 and 5
214 215 216 217	Digital Channel 3 and Channel 5 licences Replacement of existing Channel 3 and Channel 5 licences Renewal of Channel 3 and 5 licences Financial terms of licence renewed under s. 216

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	The public teletext service
218 219 220 221 222 223	Duty to secure the provision of a public teletext service Licensing of the public teletext service Delegation of provision of public teletext service Replacement of existing public teletext provider's licence Renewal of public teletext licence Financial terms of licence renewed under s. 222
	Meaning of initial expiry date
224	Meaning of "initial expiry date"
	Reviews relating to licensing of Channels 3 & 5 and teletext
225 226	Application for review of financial terms of replacement licences Application for review of financial terms in consequence of new obligations
227 228 229 230	Reviews under ss. 225 and 226 Giving effect to reviews under ss. 225 and 226 Report in anticipation of new licensing round Orders suspending rights of renewal
	Replacement of Channel 4 licence
231	Replacement of Channel 4 licence
	Television licensable content services
232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240	Meaning of "television licensable content service" Services that are not television licensable content services Modification of ss. 232 and 233 Licensing of television licensable content services Direction to licensee to take remedial action Penalties for contravention of licence condition or direction Revocation of television licensable content service licence Action against licence holders who incite crime or disorder Abolition of separate licences for certain television services
	Television multiplex services
241 242 243	Television multiplex services Composition of services in television multiplexes Powers where frequencies reserved for qualifying services
	Local digital television services
244	Local digital television services

CHAPTER 3

REGULATORY STRUCTURE FOR INDEPENDENT RADIO SERVICES

Preliminary

- 245
- Regulation of independent radio services Abolition of function of assigning radio frequencies 246

	Radio licensable content services
247	Meaning of "radio licensable content services"
248	Services that are not radio licensable content services
249	Modification of ss. 247 and 248
250 251	Licensing of radio licensable content services Abolition of separate licences for certain sound services
231	Atomition of separate flechees for certain sound services
	Licence periods etc.
252	Extension of licence periods
253	Extension and modification of existing licences
254255	Renewal of local licences Extension of special application procedure for local licences
233	Extension of special application procedure for local ficences
	Provision of simulcast radio services
256	Definition of simulcast radio services
257	Promotion of simulcast radio services
	Multiplexes broadcasting sound programmes
258	Radio multiplex services
259	Composition of services in radio multiplexes
260 261	Digital sound services for inclusion in non-radio multiplexes
201	Renewal of radio multiplex licences
	Community radio
262	Community radio
	CHAPTER 4
	REGULATORY PROVISIONS
	Application of regulatory regimes
263	Application of regulatory regimes
	The public service remit for television
264	OFCOM reports on the fulfilment of the public service remit
265	Public service remits of licensed providers
266 267	Statements of programme policy Changes of programme policy
268	Statements of service policy by the public teletext provider
269	Changes of service policy
270	Enforcement of public service remits
271	Power to amend public service remits
	Must-offer obligations etc. affecting public service television
272	
272273	Must-offer obligations in relation to networks Must-offer obligations in relation to satellite services
273 274	Must-offer obligations in relation to networks
273	Must-offer obligations in relation to networks Must-offer obligations in relation to satellite services

 $\textbf{\textit{Status:}} \ \ \textit{This is the original version (as it was originally enacted)}.$

Programming quotas for public service television

277 278	Programming quotas for independent productions Programming quotas for original productions
	News provision etc. on public service television
279 280 281 282 283 284	News and current affairs programmes Appointed news providers for Channel 3 Disqualification from appointment as news provider Power to repeal or modify Channel 3 news provider provisions News providers for Channel 5 News provision on the public teletext service
Indep	endent and regional productions and programmes for public service television
285 286 287 288 289	Code relating to programme commissioning Regional programme-making for Channels 3 and 5 Regional programmes on Channel 3 Regional programme-making for Channel 4 Regional matters in the public teletext service
	Networking arrangements for Channel 3
290 291 292 293 294	Proposals for arrangements Obligation as to making and continuance of approved arrangements OFCOM's power to impose arrangements Review of approved networking arrangements etc. Supplemental provision about networking arrangements
	Special obligations for Channel 4
295 296 297	Involvement of C4 Corporation in programme-making Schools programmes on Channel 4 Channel 4 contribution towards national television archive
	Special obligation for the public teletext provider
298	Conditions prohibiting interference with other services
	Sporting and other events of national interest
299 300 301 302	Categorisation of listed events Effects of categorisation of listed events Code relating to listed events Regulations about coverage of listed events
	Television services for the deaf and visually impaired
303 304 305 306 307 308	Code relating to provision for the deaf and visually impaired Procedure for issuing and revising code under s. 303 Meaning of "relevant date" in s. 303 Power to modify targets in s. 303 Observance of code under s. 303 Assistance for the visually impaired with the public teletext service

336

	Programming quotas for digital television programme services
309	Quotas for independent programmes
	Regulation of electronic programme guides
310 311	Code of practice for electronic programme guides Conditions to comply with code under s. 310
	Character and coverage of radio services
312 313 314 315	Character and coverage of sound broadcasting services Consultation about change of character of local services Local content and character of local sound broadcasting services Variations of radio multiplex licences affecting service characteristics
	Competition between licensed providers etc.
316 317 318	Conditions relating to competition matters Exercise of Broadcasting Act powers for a competition purpose Review of powers exercised for competition purposes
	Programme and fairness standards for television and radio
319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328	OFCOM's standards code Special impartiality requirements Objectives for advertisements and sponsorship Supplementary powers relating to advertising Modification of matters to be taken into account under s. 319 Setting and publication of standards Observance of standards code Duty to observe fairness code Standards with respect to fairness Duty to publicise OFCOM's functions in relation to complaints
	Power to proscribe unacceptable foreign television and radio services
329 330 331 332	Proscription orders Effect of proscription order Notification for enforcing proscription Penalties for contravention of notification under s. 331
	Party political broadcasts on television and radio
333	Party political broadcasts
	Monitoring of programmes
334	Retention and production of recordings
	International obligations
335	Conditions securing compliance with international obligations
	Government requirements for licensed services

Government requirements for licensed services

	Equal opportunities and training
337	Promotion of equal opportunities and training
	Corresponding rules for the BBC and Welsh Authority
338	Corresponding rules for the BBC and the Welsh Authority
	Enforcement against the Welsh Authority
339 340 341 342 343	Review of fulfilment by Welsh Authority of public service remits Directions to Welsh Authority to take remedial action Imposition of penalties on the Welsh Authority Contraventions recorded in Welsh Authority's annual report Provision of information by Welsh Authority
	Enforcement of licence conditions
344 345 346	Transmission of statement of findings Financial penalties imposable on licence holders Recovery of fees and penalties
	Broadcasting Act licence fees
347	Statement of charging principles
	CHAPTER 5
	MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL
	Restrictions on licence holders
348 349 350	Modification of disqualification provisions Licence holding by local authorities Relaxation of licence-holding restrictions
	Changes of control
351 352	Changes of control of Channel 3 services Action following review under s. 351

Meaning of control

Variation of local licence following change of control

357 Meaning of "control"

353

354 355

356

CHAPTER 6

OTHER PROVISIONS ABOUT TELEVISION AND RADIO SERVICES

Annual report on television and radio

358 Annual factual and statistical report

Changes of control of Channel 5 Action following review under s. 353

Action following review under s. 355

	Community radio and local digital television
359	Grants to providers
	Supplemental provisions of Part 3
360 361 362	Amendments of the 1990 and 1996 Acts Meaning of "available for reception by members of the public" Interpretation of Part 3
	PART 4
	LICENSING OF TV RECEPTION
363 364 365 366 367	Licence required for use of TV receiver TV licences TV licence fees Powers to enforce TV licensing Interpretation of provisions about dealer notification
368	Meanings of "television receiver" and "use"
	PART 5
	COMPETITION IN COMMUNICATIONS MARKETS
	CHAPTER 1
	FUNCTIONS OF OFCOM UNDER COMPETITION LEGISLATION
369 370 371 372	Matters in relation to which OFCOM have competition functions OFCOM's functions under Part 4 of the Enterprise Act 2002 OFCOM's functions under the Competition Act 1998 Application of the Competition Act 1998 to news provision
	CHAPTER 2
	Media mergers
	Introductory
373 374	Repeal of existing newspaper merger regime Repeal of exclusion for newspaper mergers from general merger controls
	Adaptation for media mergers of main merger regime
375 376 377	Media public interest considerations Adaptation of role of OFT in initial investigations and reports Additional investigation and report by OFCOM
	Extension of special public interest regime
378 379 380	Extension of special public interest regime for certain media mergers Adaptation of role of OFT in special public interest regime Additional investigation and report by OFCOM: special public interest

cases

New general	<i>functions</i>	in	relation	to	media	mergers

	The first argument and the second are seen as
381 382 383 384 385 386	Public consultation in relation to media mergers General information duties in relation to media mergers Advice and information in relation to media mergers General advisory functions of OFCOM in relation to media mergers Other general functions of OFCOM in relation to media mergers Monitoring role for OFT in relation to media mergers
	Supplemental provisions of Chapter 2
387 388 389	Enforcement powers in relation to newspaper and other media mergers Alterations concerning newspaper panel of Competition Commission Further provision in connection with media mergers
	PART 6
	MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL
	Annual report
390	Annual report on the Secretary of State's functions
	Review of media ownership
391	Review of media ownership
	Guidelines as to penalties
392	Penalties imposed by OFCOM
372	•
	Disclosure of information
393	General restrictions on disclosure of information
	Notifications etc. and electronic working
394 395 396	Service of notifications and other documents Notifications and documents in electronic form Timing and location of things done electronically
	Other miscellaneous provisions
397 398	Purchase of Duchy of Lancaster land Repeal of certain provisions of the Telecommunications Act 1984
	Supplemental
399 400 401 402 403 404 405	Expenses Destination of licence fees and penalties Power of OFCOM to retain costs of carrying out spectrum functions Power of Secretary of State to make orders and regulations Regulations and orders made by OFCOM Criminal liability of company directors etc. General interpretation
406 407	Minor and consequential amendments, transitionals and repeals Pre-consolidation amendments
408	Transitional provision for anticipatory carrying out of functions

- 409 Modifications consequential on regulations implementing Directives
- 410 Application of enactments to territorial sea and other waters
- 411 Short title, commencement and extent

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Functions transferred to OFCOM

- 1 Wireless telegraphy functions
- 2 (1) The functions of the Secretary of State under section...
- 3 Functions in relation to the licensing etc. of television services
- 4 Functions in relation to C4C
- 5 Functions in relation to the licensing of radio services
- 6 Functions in relation to the proscription of foreign satellite services
- 7 Functions in relation to Gaelic broadcasting
- 8 Functions in relation to the national television archive
- 9 Warrants to enter and search premises to enforce broadcasting licences provisions
- Variation of existing Channel 3 and Channel 5 licences
- 11 Reports for the purposes of the review of digital broadcasting
- 12 Functions in relation to reservation of digital capacity to the BBC
- 13 Functions in relation to listed events
- 14 Functions relating to fairness and privacy in broadcasting

SCHEDULE 2 — Transfer schemes

- 1 Contents of transfer scheme
- 2 Effect of transfer scheme
- 3 Retrospective modification of a transfer scheme
- 4 Compensation
- 5 Stamp duty
- 6 Interpretation of Schedule

SCHEDULE 3 — Amendments of Schedule 2 to the Telecommunications Act 1984

- 1 Introductory
- 2 Meaning of conduit system and electronic communications apparatus, network or service
- 3 Meaning of operator and operator's system
- 4 Provision of a conduit system
- 5 General amendments
- 6 Power to fly lines
- 7 Power to require alteration of apparatus
- 8 Undertaker's works
- 9 Notices under the code
- 10 Application of code to the Crown
- 11 Effect of agreements concerning sharing of apparatus

SCHEDULE 4 — Compulsory purchase and entry for exploratory purposes

- 1 Interpretation
- 2 General duties with respect to powers under Schedule
- 3 Compulsory purchase of land: England and Wales
- 4 Compulsory purchase of land: Scotland
- 5 Compulsory purchase of land: Northern Ireland
- 6 Entry on land for exploratory purposes: England and Wales

- 7 Entry on land for exploratory purposes: Scotland
- 8 Entry on land for exploratory purposes: Northern Ireland
- 9 Acquisition of land by agreement

SCHEDULE 5 — Procedure for grants of recognised spectrum access

- 1 General procedure for applications
- 2 Information to be provided in connection with applications
- 3 Notice of proposed refusal of application
- 4 Duration of grant
- 5 Revocation or modification
- 6 Notice of proposed revocation or modification
- 7 Restriction on powers of revocation and modification
- 8 Interpretation

SCHEDULE 6 — Fixed penalties for wireless telegraphy offences

- 1 Offences to which this Schedule applies
- 2 Fixed penalties and fixed penalty notices
- 3 Issuing of fixed penalty notice
- 4 Content of fixed penalty notice
- 5 Withdrawal of fixed penalty notice
- 6 Notification to person to whom payment is to be made
- 7 Effect of fixed penalty notice
- 8 Payment of fixed penalty
- 9 Effect of payment
- 10 Service of statement and proof of service
- 11 Certificate about payment
- 12 Regulations
- 13 Interpretation

SCHEDULE 7 — Seizure and forfeiture of apparatus

- 1 Application of Schedule
- 2 Notice of seizure
- 3 Notice of claim
- 4 (1) A notice of claim must be given within one...
- 5 Condemnation
- 6 (1) Where a notice of claim in respect of the...
- 7 Where the restricted apparatus is condemned or taken to have...
- 8 Proceedings for condemnation by court
- Proceedings for the condemnation of restricted apparatus instituted in a...
- 10 (1) In proceedings for condemnation that are instituted in England...
- 11 (1) In the case of proceedings for condemnation instituted in...
- Where an appeal has been made (whether by case stated...
- 13 Disposal of unclaimed property
- 14 Provisions as to proof
- 15 In any proceedings, the condemnation by a court of restricted...
- 16 Special provisions as to certain claimants
- 17 Saving for owner's rights

SCHEDULE 8 — Decisions not subject to appeal

- 1 Prosecutions and civil proceedings
- 2 A decision (other than one under section 119) to take...
- 3 This Act

- 4 A decision required to be published in a notification under...
- 5 A decision given effect to by an order under section...
- 6 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 66....
- 7 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 71....
- A decision required to be published in a notification under...
- 9 A decision given effect to by an order under section...
- 10 A decision relating to the making or revision of a...
- 11 A decision given effect to by an order under section...
- 12 A decision relating to the making or revision of a...
- 13 A decision relating to the publication of the United Kingdom...
- 14 A decision in exercise of the functions conferred on OFCOM...
- 15 A decision under section 155.
- 16 A decision under section 158.
- 17 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 159....
- 18 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 162....
- 19 A decision given effect to by an order under section...
- 20 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 168....
- A decision given effect to by regulations under section 170...
- A decision to impose a penalty under section 175(1).
- 23 A decision relating to the making or revision of a...
- 24 A decision given effect to by regulations under paragraph 1...
- 25 A decision under any provision of Schedule 6.
- 26 A decision under any provision of Schedule 7.
- 27 Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949
- 28 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 1D(3)...
- 29 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 3...
- 30 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 10...
- 31 A decision relating to the making or revision of a...
- 32 A decision for the purposes of section 15 of that...
- 33 Wireless Telegraphy Act 1998
- 34 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 3...
- 35 A decision given effect to by regulations under section 3A...
- 36 A decision relating to the recovery of a sum payable...

SCHEDULE 9 — Arrangements about carrying on of C4C's activities

- 1 Notification of requirement to submit proposals
- 2 Submission of proposed arrangements
- 3 Consideration and approval of proposals
- 4 Duration of approval and modification of arrangements
- 5 Publication of approved arrangements
- 6 Duty of C4C to act in accordance with the approved arrangements
- 7 nforcement of duties
- 8 Penalty for contravention of the arrangements
- 9 OFCOM's duty to take account of need to support C4C's primary functions
- 10 Interpretation of Schedule

SCHEDULE 10 — Licensing the public teletext service

Part 1 — APPLICATIONS FOR AND AWARD OF LICENCE

- 1 Notice of proposal to grant licence
- 2 Guidance as to applications
- 3 Applications for the licence
- 4 Notice inviting public representations

- 5 Determination of applications
- 6 Revocation of award
 - Part 2 CONDITIONS AND ENFORCEMENT OF LICENCE
- 7 Payments to be made in respect of the public teletext service
- 8 Corrections and statements of findings by the public teletext provider
- 9 Enforcement of the licence for the public teletext service
- 10 Power to shorten licence period
- 11 Revocation for contravention of condition or direction
- 12 Penalty on revocation
- 13 Power to modify penalties in paragraph 12

Part 3 — INTERPRETATION OF SCHEDULE

- 14 In this Schedule "licence period", in relation to a licence,...
- 15 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule the qualifying revenue...

SCHEDULE 11 — Approval, imposition and modification of networking arrangements

- 1 Application of Schedule
- 2 Approval required for modifications
- 3 Procedure for giving approval
- 4 Decision of OFCOM whether or not to approve arrangements or modifications
- Notification of decisions on imposition of arrangements
- 6 Competition tests applying to OFCOM's decisions
- 7 Other matters to be taken into account
- 8 Duty to refuse approval in certain cases
- 9 Appeals against decisions relating to competition test
- 10 Decisions on an appeal
- 11 Appeals against decisions of the Tribunal
- 12 Information for OFCOM
- 13 Enforcement of information provisions
- 14 Confidentiality and defamation
- 15 Interpretation of Schedule

SCHEDULE 12 — Corresponding obligations of the BBC and Welsh Authority Part 1 — THE BBC

- Quotas for independent productions
- 2 Duty to publicise complaints procedures etc.
 - ty to publicise complaints procedures etc

Part 2 — THE WELSH AUTHORITY

- 3 Public service remits of the Welsh Authority services
- 4 Statements of programme policy
- 5 Must-offer obligations in relation to networks and satellite services
- 6 Supply of services by satellite in certain areas
- 7 Programming quotas for independent productions
- 8 Programme quotas for original productions
- 9 News and current affairs programmes
- 10 Code relating to programme commissioning
- 11 Co-operation with the public teletext provider
- 12 Programme standards
- 13 It shall be the duty of the Welsh Authority to...
- 14 (1) It shall be the duty of the Welsh Authority...
- 15 (1) This paragraph applies if OFCOM are satisfied—
- 16 Directions with respect to advertising
- 17 Fairness standards

- 18 Party political broadcasts
- 19 Duty to publicise complaints procedures etc.
- 20 Monitoring of programmes
- 21 Compliance with international obligations
- 22 Services for the deaf and visually impaired
- 23 Equality of opportunity
- 24 Meaning of Welsh Authority's public services

SCHEDULE 13 — Financial penalties under the Broadcasting Acts

Part 1 — BROADCASTING ACT 1990

- 1 Preliminary
- 2 Revocation of television services licence
- 3 Licences for Channel 3 services and for Channels 4 and 5
- 4 Restricted services licences
- 5 Additional television services licences
- 6 Revocation of national sound broadcasting licence
- 7 Licences for analogue sound services
- 8 Additional radio services licences
- 9 Power to amend penalties under the 1990 Act

Part 2 — BROADCASTING ACT 1996

- 10 Preliminary
- 11 Revocation of television multiplex licences
- 12 Attribution of television multiplex revenue
- 13 Multiplex licences
- 14 Digital television programme licences
- 15 Digital additional television services licences
- 16 Power to amend digital television penalties
- 17 Revocation of radio multiplex licences
- 18 Attribution of radio multiplex revenue
- 19 Contraventions of conditions of radio multiplex licences
- 20 Digital sound programme licences
- 21 Licences for digital additional sound services
- 22 Power to amend digital television penalties

SCHEDULE 14 — Media ownership rules

Part 1 — CHANNEL 3 SERVICES

- 1 Ban on newspaper proprietors holding Channel 3 licences
- 2 Restrictions on participation
- 3 National and local newspapers and their respective national and local market shares
- 4 Construction of references to running a newspaper
- 5 Coverage area for a Channel 3 service
- 6 Power to amend Part 1 of Schedule

Part 2 — RADIO MULTIPLEX SERVICES

- 7 Restriction on holding of national radio multiplex licences
- 8 Restriction on holding of local radio multiplex licences
- 9 Connected persons rules etc.
- 10 Power to amend Part 2 of Schedule

Part 3 — LOCAL SOUND PROGRAMME SERVICES

- 11 Restriction on holding of local sound broadcasting licences
- 12 Restriction applying to local digital sound programme services
- 13 Powers supplemental to powers under paragraphs 11 and 12
- 14 Transitional provision for orders under paragraphs 11 and 12

Part 4 — RELIGIOUS BODIES ETC.

- 15 Approval required for religious bodies etc. to hold licences
- 16 Power to amend Part 4 of Schedule

Part 5 — SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS OF SCHEDULE

- 17 Procedure for orders
- 18 Interpretation of Schedule

SCHEDULE 15 — Amendments of Broadcasting Acts

Part 1 — AMENDMENTS OF THE 1990 ACT

- 1 Licences under Part 1
- 2 General licence conditions
- 3 Restrictions on licence holding
- 4 Repeal of previous regulatory regime
- 5 Prohibition on providing television services without a licence
- 6 Television broadcasting on Channel 3
- 7 Applications for Channel 3 licences
- 8 Procedure on consideration of applications for Channel 3 licences
- 9 Television broadcasting on Channel 3
- 10 Financial conditions of licence and failures to begin a service
- 11 Changes of control in period after award of licence
- 12 Temporary provision of Channel 3 service for an additional area
- 13 Appointment of members of C4 Corporation
- 14 Channel 4 licence
- 15 Channel 5
- 16 Application to Channel 5 of Channel 3 provisions
- 17 Announcement of programme Schedules
- 18 Enforcement of conditions of Channel 3, Channel 4 and Channel 5 licences
- 19 Restricted services
- 20 Additional television services
- 21 Licensing of additional television services
- 22 Applications for additional services licences
- 23 Procedure on application etc. for additional television services licences
- 24 Additional payments in respect of additional television services licences
- 25 Duration of additional television services licences
- 26 Additional television services not to interfere with other transmissions
- 27 Enforcement of additional television services licences
- 28 The Welsh Authority
- 29 Distribution of licensed public service channels
- 30 Enforcement of licences held by BBC companies
- 31 Interpretation of Part 1
- 32 Licensing functions of OFCOM
- 33 Licences under Part 3 of the 1990 Act
- 34 General licence conditions
- 35 Restrictions on holding licences
- 36 Disqualification of persons convicted of transmission offences
- 37 Offence of providing regulated radio services
- 38 Applications for national licences
- 39 Consideration of applications for a national licence
- 40 Award of national licences
- 41 Failure to begin providing licensed service
- 42 Additional payments in respect of national licences
- 43 Restrictions affecting change in control of holder of national licence

- 44 Renewal of national licences
- 45 Applications for local licences
- 46 Renewal of local licences
- 47 Special procedure for applications for local licences
- 48 Special requirements relating to grant of local licences
- 49 Requirements as to character and coverage of services
- 50 Enforcement of licences
- 51 Power to suspend licences to provide radio licensable content services from a satellite
- 52 Additional radio services
- 53 Licensing of additional radio services
- 54 Applications for additional radio services licences
- 55 Procedure for awarding additional radio services licences
- Additional payments in respect of additional radio services licences
- 57 Additional radio services not to interfere with other transmissions
- 58 Enforcement of additional radio services licences
- 59 Interpretation
- 60 Duty to provide advance information about programmes
- 61 Proscription of foreign satellite services
- 62 Financing of Gaelic Broadcasting
- 63 Gaelic Broadcasting in Scotland
- 64 Maintenance of the national television archive
- 65 Modification of networking arrangements
- 66 Search warrants
- 67 Notices
- 68 Interpretation
- 69 Disqualified persons
- 70 C4C
- 71 The Welsh Authority
- 72 Computation of qualifying revenue
- 73 The Gaelic Television Committee
 - Part 2 AMENDMENTS OF THE 1996 ACT
- 74 Multiplex services and digital programme services
- 75 Meaning of qualifying service
- 76 Licences under Part 1
- 77 Licence conditions
- 78 Restrictions on digital licence holding
- 79 Multiplex licences
- 80 Award of multiplex licences
- Power to require two or more multiplex licences to be granted to one person
- 82 Award of multiplex licences subject to conditions
- 83 Failure to provide licensed service and revocation
- 84 Conditions attached to multiplex licences
- 85 Additional payments in respect of multiplex licences
- 86 Multiplex revenue
- 87 Attribution of multiplex revenue to multiplex providers
- 88 Duration of multiplex licences
- 89 Enforcement of multiplex licences
- 90 Licensing of digital programme services
- 91 Conditions of licences for digital programme services
- 92 Duration and enforcement of multiplex licenses
- 93 Digital additional services

- 94 Licensing of digital additional services
- 95 Conditions of digital additional services licence
- 96 Enforcement of digital additional television services licences
- 97 Digital broadcasting of Gaelic programmes
- 98 Review of digital television broadcasting
- 99 Enforcement of licences held by BBC companies
- 100 Interpretation of Part 1
- 101 Radio multiplex services
- 102 Licences under Part 2 of the 1996 Act
- 103 General licence conditions
- 104 Restrictions on holding licences
- 105 National radio multiplex licences
- 106 Award of national radio multiplex licences
- 107 Reservation of capacity for independent national broadcasters
- 108 Reservation of digital capacity for BBC
- 109 Local radio multiplex licences
- 110 Award of local multiplex licences
- Power to require two or more local radio multiplex licences to be granted to one person
- 112 Failure to begin to provide licensed service
- 113 Conditions which may be attached to radio multiplex licences
- 114 Additional payments to be made in respect of national radio multiplex licences
- 115 Multiplex revenue
- 116 Attribution of radio multiplex revenue
- 117 Duration and renewal of radio multiplex licences
- 118 Enforcement of radio multiplex licences
- 119 Digital sound programme licensing
- 120 Conditions of digital sound programme licences
- 121 Enforcement of digital sound programme licences
- 122 Digital additional sound services
- 123 Conditions of digital additional sound service
- 124 Enforcement of digital additional sound services licences
- 125 Review of digital radio broadcasting
- 126 Interpretation
- 127 Listed events
- 128 In sections 101, 101B, 102 and 103 of the 1996...
- 129 (1) Section 104 of the 1996 Act (code of guidance)...
- 130 In section 104A of the 1996 Act (provision of information...
- 131 In section 105(1) of the 1996 Act (interpretation of Part...
- 132 Broadcasting standards
- 133 In section 107(5)(b) of the 1996 Act (code relating to...
- 134 In section 115 of the 1996 Act (consideration of fairness...
- 135 In section 117 of the 1996 Act (duty of broadcasting...
- 136 (1) For subsections (1) and (2) of section 119 of...
- 137 In section 130(1) of the 1996 Act (interpretation of Part...
- 138 Disqualification on grounds related to political objects
- 139 Offence of providing false information
- 140 Disqualification for supplying false information
- 141 Interpretation
- 142 Computation of qualifying revenue

- 1 Competition Act 1980 (c. 21)
- 2 Gas Act 1986 (c. 44)
- 3 Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29)
- 4 Railways Act 1993 (c. 43)
- 5 Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (c. 8)
- 6 Postal Services Act 2000 (c. 26)
- 7 Transport Act 2000 (c. 38)
- 8 Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40)
- 9 In section 45(1)(b) of that Act (circumstances in which the...
- 10 After section 50(2) of that Act (reports on references in...
- 11 In section 57(2) of that Act (duty to bring representations...
- 12 In section 58(4)(b) of that Act (retrospective effect of orders...
- 13 In section 60(4)(a) of that Act (final determination of matters...
- 14 In section 62(1)(b) of that Act (circumstances in which the...
- 15 After section 65(2) of that Act (reports on references in...
- 16 In section 67(1)(b) of that Act (intervention to protect legitimate...
- 17 In section 68(2)(c) of that Act (scheme for protecting legitimate...
- 18 (1) Section 107 of that Act (further publicity requirements) shall...
- 19 In section 108 of that Act (defamation) after the words...
- 20 (1) Section 117 of that Act (false or misleading information)...
- 21 In section 118(1) of that Act (excisions from reports) before...
- 22 In section 120(1) of that Act (review of decisions under...
- 23 (1) Section 121 of that Act (fees) shall be amended...
- 24 (1) Section 124 of that Act (orders and regulations under...
- 25 (1) Section 130 of that Act (index of defined expressions)...
- 26 In section 180(2) of that Act (application of section 117...

SCHEDULE 17 — Minor and Consequential Amendments

- 1 Interpretation
- 2 Official Secrets Act 1911
- 3 Law of Property Act 1925
- 4 Public Health Act 1925
- 5 London Overground Wires, etc Act 1933
- 6 Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949
- 7 In section 1C of that Act (prohibition on Acts facilitating...
- 8 (1) Section 1D of that Act (procedure for grant of...
- 9 (1) Section 3 of that Act (regulations as to wireless...
- 10 No appeal shall be brought to the tribunal established under...
- 11 (1) Section 10 of that Act (regulations as to radiation...
- 12 (1) Section 11 of that Act (enforcement of regulations as...
- 13 (1) Section 12 of that Act (enforcement of regulations as...
- 14 (1) Section 14 of that Act (penalties and legal proceedings)...
- 15 (1) Section 15 of that Act (powers of entry) shall...
- 16 (1) Section 16 of that Act (regulations and orders) shall...
- 17 In section 19 of that Act (interpretation), after subsection (2)...
- 18 In Schedule 1 to that Act (procedures in relation to...
- 19 Coast Protection Act 1949
- 20 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
- 21 London County Council (General Powers) Act 1949
- 22 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953
- 23 Army Act 1955
- 24 Air Force Act 1955

- 25 Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Drainage and Navigation Act (Northern Ireland) 1955
- 26 Naval Discipline Act 1957
- 27 Opencast Coal Act 1958
- 28 Pipe-lines Act 1962
- 29 London County Council (General Powers) Act 1963
- 30 Harbours Act 1964
- 31 New Towns Act (Northern Ireland) 1965
- 32 Marine, &c., Broadcasting (Offences) Act 1967
- 33 (1) Section 5 of that Act shall be further amended...
- 34 In section 6(5) of that Act (restrictions on prosecutions), after...
- 35 (1) Section 7A of that Act (powers of enforcement in...
- 36 In section 9(1) of that Act (interpretation), after the definition...
- 37 Wireless Telegraphy Act 1967
- 38 (1) Section 8 of that Act (provisions for securing enforcement...
- 39 In section 13(1) of that Act (regulations and order to...
- 40 Countryside Act 1968
- 41 Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1969
- 42 Harbours Act (Northern Ireland) 1970
- 43 Thames Barrier and Flood Prevention Act 1972
- 44 Fair Trading Act 1973
- 45 Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973
- 46 Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1973
- 47 Consumer Credit Act 1974
- 48 House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975
- 49 Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975
- 50 Welsh Development Agency Act 1975
- 51 Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1979
- 52 Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980
- 53 Highways Act 1980
- 54 In section 115D of that Act (limits on powers to...
- In section 142(5) of that Act (protection of telecommunications apparatus...
- 56 (1) This paragraph applies to the following provisions of that...
- 57 New Towns Act 1981
- 58 Acquisition of Land Act 1981
- 59 Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
- 60 Civil Aviation Act 1982
- 61 Representation of the People Act 1983
- 62 (1) Section 93 of that Act (broadcasting of local items...
- 63 Telecommunications Act 1984
- 64 In sections 79, 83, 85 and 86 of that Act...
- 65 In section 79(6)(b) of that Act (seizure of apparatus etc.),...
- 66 (1) Section 83 of that Act (disposal of seized apparatus...
- 67 (1) Section 84 of that Act (approval of wireless telegraphy...
- 68 Section 90 of that Act (funding of wireless interference service...
- 69 (1) Section 91 of that Act (construction of references to...
- 70 (1) Section 94 of that Act (directions in the interests...
- 71 (1) Section 98 of that Act (use of conduits for...
- 72 (1) Section 101 of that Act (general restrictions on disclosure...
- 73 In section 104 of that Act (orders and schemes), after...
- 74 In section 106(1) of that Act (general interpretation), after the...
- 75 In paragraph 18(2) of Schedule 2 to that Act (notices...

- 76 Cinemas Act 1985
- 77 Surrogacy Arrangements Act 1985
- 78 Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985
- 79 Housing Act 1985
- 80 Airports Act 1986
- 81 Gas Act 1986
- 82 Insolvency Act 1986
- 83 Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986
- 84 Channel Tunnel Act 1987
- 85 In paragraph 3(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to that Act (supplementary...
- 86 (1) Part 10 of Schedule 7 to that Act (protection...
- 87 Consumer Protection (Northern Ireland) Order 1987
- 88 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988
- 89 Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988
- 90 Malicious Communications Act 1988
- 91 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
- 92 (1) Section 73 of that Act (no breach of copyright...
- 93 (1) Paragraph 17 of Schedule 2 to that Act (no...
- 94 Housing Act 1988
- 95 Road Traffic Act 1988
- 96 Water Act 1989
- 97 Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989
- 98 Electricity Act 1989
- 99 (1) Schedule 4 to that Act (other powers etc. of...
- 100 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- 101 Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989
- 102 Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- 103 (1) This paragraph applies to the following provisions of that...
- 104 In section 280 of that Act (measures of compensation)—
- 105 In paragraph 1(a) of Schedule 13 to that Act (blighted...
- 106 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- 107 London Local Authorities (No. 2) Act 1990
- 108 New Roads and Street Works Act 1991
- 109 Coal Mining Subsidence Act 1991
- 110 Water Industry Act 1991
- 111 (1) Schedule 13 to that Act (protective provisions in respect...
- 112 (1) Schedule 15 to that Act (disclosure of information) shall...
- 113 Water Resources Act 1991
- 114 (1) Schedule 22 to that Act (general provisions protecting undertakings)...
- 115 (1) Schedule 24 to that Act (disclosure of information) shall...
- 116 Land Drainage Act 1991
- 117 Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991
- 118 Charities Act 1992
- 119 Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1992
- 120 Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992
- 121 In Article 61 (restrictions on disclosure of information)—
- 122 (1) Schedule 4 (other powers etc. of licence holders) shall...
- 123 Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993
- 124 Cardiff Bay Barrage Act 1993
- In paragraph 3(2)(c) of Schedule 4 to that Act (exception...
- 126 In paragraph 21 of Schedule 7 to that Act (powers...
- 127 Railways Act 1993

- 128 Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993
- 129 Value Added Tax Act 1994
- 130 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- 131 Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994
- 132 Merchant Shipping Act 1995
- 133 Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995
- 134 British Waterways Act 1995
- 135 Street Works (Northern Ireland) Order 1995
- 136 Housing Act 1996
- Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996
- 138 Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996
- 139 (1) Part 4 of Schedule 15 to that Act (protection...
- 140 Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996
- 141 In Article 44 (restrictions on disclosure of information)—
- 142 (1) Schedule 3 (other powers etc. of licence holders) shall...
- 143 Construction Contracts (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- 144 Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- 145 Wireless Telegraphy Act 1998
- 146 In section 1 of that Act (charges for wireless telegraphy...
- For section 2 of that Act there shall be substituted—...
- 148 (1) Section 4 of that Act (restriction on revocation or...
- 149 (1) After section 4 of that Act there shall be...
- For section 6 of that Act there shall be substituted—...
- 151 (1) Section 8 of that Act (interpretation) shall be amended...
- 152 Finance Act 1998
- 153 Competition Act 1998
- 154 In paragraph 1 of Schedule 7A to that Act (procedural...
- 155 Regional Development Agencies Act 1998
- 156 Finance Act 1999
- 157 Greater London Authority Act 1999
- 158 Electronic Communications Act 2000
- 159 Television Licences (Disclosure of Information) Act 2000
- 160 Finance Act 2000M
- 161 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- 162 Postal Services Act 2000
- 163 Utilities Act 2000
- 164 Freedom of Information Act 2000
- 165 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- 166 Transport Act 2000
- 167 Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000
- 168 Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001
- 169 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
- 170 Electronic Communications Act (Northern Ireland) 2001
- 171 Office of Communications Act 2002
- 172 (1) The Schedule to that Act shall be amended as...
- 173 Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002
- 174 Enterprise Act 2002
- 175 Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003

SCHEDULE 18 — Transitional Provisions

- 1 General
- 2 Steps taken in anticipation of passing or coming into force of Act

- 3 Savings for agreements referring to the termination of a 1984 Act licence
- 4 Saving for agreements with special provision for 1984 Act licence holders
- 5 General saving for agreements conditional on certain Broadcasting Act licences
- 6 Orders under Part 2 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994
- 7 Pre-commencement proposals relating to universal service matters
- 8 Local loop notifications
- 9 Conditions relating to premium rate services and conditions corresponding to SMP or access-related conditions
- 10 Pre-commencement proposals relating to market power determinations
- 11 Savings for licence conditions relating to accounting
- 12 Charges under Telecommunications Act licences
- 13 Enforcement of breaches of licence conditions
- 14 Saving for agreements having effect by reference to licensing regime
- 15 Fees for approvals for the purposes of licence conditions
- 16 Allocated telephone numbers
- 17 Electronic communications code
- 18 Saving for guarantees of liabilities of telecommunications code operators
- 19 Compulsory purchase
- 20 Notices under section 1D of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949
- 21 Notices under regulations under section 3 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1998
- 22 Disputes about interconnection
- 23 Appeals against wireless telegraphy and telecommunications decisions
- 24 Section 94 of the Telecommunications Act 1984
- 25 Competition Commission: specialist panel members
- Transitory amendments to telecommunications terms in Broadcasting Act 1990
- 27 Activities of the Welsh Authority
- 28 Gaelic Broadcasting
- 29 (1) The continuance in force of the Multiplex Licence (Broadcasting...
- 30 Pre-transfer Broadcasting Act licences
- 31 Channels 3 and 5
- 32 Saving pending replacement of licences for Channels 3 and 5 and the public teletext service
- 33 Digital additional licences
- 34 Programme quotas
- 35 Continuity in relation to appointed news provider
- 36 Networking arrangements
- 37 Determination of qualifying revenue
- 38 Rules for political broadcasts
- 39 Functions under section 88 of the 1990 Act
- 40 Notices under section 94 of the 1990 Act
- 41 Programme standards: television
- 42 Programme standards: radio
- 43 Standards code
- 44 Local and national radio licences
- 45 Section 111B of the 1990 Act
- 46 Section 185 of the 1990 Act
- 47 Section 28 of the 1996 Act

- 48 Section 48 of the 1996 Act
- 49 Applications for extension of pre-transfer licences
- 50 Applications for renewal of licences under 1990 Act and 1996 Act
- 51 Listed events rules
- 52 Complaints to the Broadcasting Standards Commission
- 53 Codes of practice drawn up by the Broadcasting Standards Commission
- 54 Media ownership provisions
- 55 TV licences
- 56 Functions under the Enterprise Act 2002
- 57 Functions under the Competition Act 1998
- 58 (1) Where any regulations made under section 54(4) of the...
- 59 Newspaper mergers
- 60 Chapter 2 of Part 5 and any related repeals shall...
- References in paragraphs 59 and 60 to Chapter 2 of...
- 62 (1) The Secretary of State may, instead of any or...
- 63 Orders in Council under section 6 of the Continental Shelf Act 1964
- 64 Interpretation of Schedule

SCHEDULE 19 — Repeals