



Communications Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 21

PART 1

FUNCTIONS OF OFCOM

International matters

23 Directions for international purposes in respect of broadcasting functions

- (1) This section applies to—
 - (a) OFCOM's functions under the enactments relating to broadcasting; and
 - (b) the matters in relation to which those functions are conferred.
- (2) It shall be the duty of OFCOM—
 - (a) to carry out those functions in accordance with any general or specific directions given to them by the Secretary of State for the purpose mentioned in subsection (3); and
 - (b) to carry out such other functions in relation to the matters to which this section applies as they are required to carry out by any general or specific directions so given.
- (3) The Secretary of State is not to give a direction under this section except for the purpose of securing compliance, in relation to a matter to which this section applies, with an international obligation of the United Kingdom.
- (4) A direction under this section must be contained in an order made by the Secretary of State.
- (5) In this section "the enactments relating to broadcasting" means—
 - (a) the 1990 Act;
 - (b) the 1996 Act;
 - (c) Part 3 of this Act; and
 - (d) the other provisions of this Act so far as relating to the 1990 Act, the 1996 Act or that Part.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) editorial team to Communications Act 2003. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 23(1) applied (with modifications) (8.5.2017) by [The Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(Fire and Rescue Functions\) Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/469\)](#), art. 1(3), **Sch. para. 5**
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Commencement Information

- I1** S. 23 in force at 29.12.2003 by [S.I. 2003/3142](#), art. 3(1), **Sch. 1** (with art. 11)

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Communications Act 2003. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/1900, art. 3(2) by [S.I. 2003/3142 art. 1\(3\)](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/3142 by [S.I. 2004/1492 art. 2](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/3142 by [S.I. 2004/697 art. 2](#)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/3142 art. 4 Sch. 2 by [S.I. 2004/545 art. 2](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- Pt. 3B inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 48\(1\)](#)
- Pt 4A Ch. 1 heading inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 37\(2\)](#)
- Pt. 4A Ch. 2 and cross-heading inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 37\(5\)](#)
- Pt. 4A Ch. 3 inserted by [2024 c. 15 Sch. 5](#)
- Pt. 4A Ch. 4 heading inserted by [2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 2](#)
- Pt. 4A Ch. 5 heading inserted by [2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 9](#)
- s. 148A and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 46 s. 73\(2\)](#)
- s. 198B(1A) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 30\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 198B(3A) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 30\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 198AA inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 30\(2\)](#)
- s. 204A-204C substituted for s. 204-206 by [2024 c. 15 s. 32\(2\)](#)
- s. 245(1)(c) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 46\(2\)](#)
- s. 245(3A)-(3C) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 46\(3\)](#)
- s. 264(3)-(8F) substituted for s. 264(3)-(8) by [2024 c. 15 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 264(10A)(10B) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 264(11)-(11B) substituted for s. 264(11) by [2024 c. 15 s. 1\(4\)](#)
- s. 264(13)-(16) substituted for s. 264(13) by [2024 c. 15 s. 1\(5\)](#)
- s. 265(6)(7) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 3\(4\)](#)
- s. 266(2A) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 270(3)(ca) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 6\(3\)](#)
- s. 270(4A) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 6\(4\)](#)
- s. 270(7A) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 6\(7\)](#)
- s. 277(12A) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 8\(9\)](#)
- s. 277(14) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 8\(11\)](#)
- s. 278(1)(1A) substituted for s. 278(1) by [2024 c. 15 s. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 278(7A) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 9\(4\)](#)
- s. 278(12) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 9\(5\)](#)
- s. 278A inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 10](#)
- s. 278B inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 11](#)
- s. 278C inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 12](#)
- s. 285(3)(h) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 13\(3\)](#)
- s. 285(10) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 13\(4\)](#)
- s. 286(1)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 286(1)(a) by [2024 c. 15 s. 14\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 286(3)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 286(3)(a) by [2024 c. 15 s. 14\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 286(8) inserted by [2024 c. 15 s. 14\(6\)](#)
- s. 288(1)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 288(1)(a) by [2024 c. 15 s. 14\(8\)\(b\)](#)

- s. 288(6) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 14(10)
- s. 290(5) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 15(3)
- s. 290(6) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 15(4)
- s. 315(6)(c) omitted by 2024 c. 15 s. 47(9)
- s. 315A inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 44(9)
- s. 335B(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 12 para. 4(3)
- s. 338A338B and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 18
- s. 351(4)(aa) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 58(2)(b)
- s. 351(5)(aa) substituted for s. 351(5)(a) by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 58(3)(a)
- s. 353(4)(aa) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 59(2)(b)
- s. 359A and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 45
- s. 368B(A2) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 37(4)
- s. 368E(3)(zza) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 12 para. 9(2)
- s. 368E(5)(d)(e) inserted by 2017 c. 30 s. 94(3)
- s. 368I(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 3(4)
- s. 368I(8A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 8
- s. 368K(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 5(3)
- s. 368M(2A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 7(3)
- s. 368O368OZA substituted for s. 368O by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 11(1)
- s. 368AA368AB inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 37(3)
- s. 368BB(7) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 3
- s. 368IA(8A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 9
- s. 368NA(8A)(8B) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 10(3)
- s. 368OB and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 38(1)
- s. 368QA inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 12(1)
- s. 370(13) inserted by 2024 c. 13 Sch. 29 para. 7(2)
- s. 371(13) inserted by 2024 c. 13 Sch. 29 para. 7(3)
- s. 392A and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 49(2)
- s. 392B inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 49(4)
- s. 393(5)(t) inserted by 2024 c. 13 Sch. 30 para. 28(b)
- s. 393(6)(ab) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 38(2)
- s. 402(2A)(zza) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 46(4)
- s. 402(2A)(zzb) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 44(10)
- s. 402(2A)(za)(zb) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 2
- Sch. 3A para. 21(6) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3(5)(b)
- Sch. 3A para. 37(3)(aza) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3(9)
- Sch. 3A para. 84(1)(aza) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3(10)
- Sch. 3A para. 103(1)(ca) inserted by 2022 c. 46 s. 70
- Sch. 3A para. 119A inserted by 2022 c. 46 s. 72
- Sch. 3A Pt. 4ZA inserted by 2022 c. 46 s. 67(1)
- Sch. 9 para. 1(1)(ab) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 62
- Sch. 12 para. 1(15) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 1(10)
- Sch. 12 para. 4(2A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 4 para. 52(4)
- Sch. 12 para. 7(14) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 2(10)
- Sch. 12 para. 8(7A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 3(5)
- Sch. 12 para. 8(13) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 3(8)
- Sch. 12 para. 10(1)(b) and word inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 4(b)
- Sch. 12 para. 10(4)(h) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 4(c)
- Sch. 12 para. 10(12) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 4(d)
- Sch. 12 para. 3(6)-(7B) substituted for Sch. 12 para. 3(6)(7) by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 4 para. 51(4)
- Sch. 12 para. 8(1)-(1C) substituted for Sch. 12 para. 8(1) by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 3(2)
- Sch. 16A inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 10
- Sch. 16B inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 11