



# British Telecommunications Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 38

### PART I

#### NEW CORPORATION FOR THE PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND DATA PROCESSING SERVICES

##### *Miscellaneous*

#### **53 Documentary evidence as to sums due for services**

- (1) A certificate of the Corporation that a specified sum is due to it from a specified person under provisions of a scheme made under section 21 with respect to telecommunication services shall, in any proceedings instituted by it against him or his personal representatives or against it by him or his personal representatives, be evidence (and, in Scotland, sufficient evidence) of that fact.
- (2) A certificate of the Corporation that a specified sum is due to it from a specified person under an agreement with respect to telecommunication services provided by it shall (subject to any term of the agreement to the contrary), in any proceedings instituted by it against him or his personal representatives or against it by him or his personal representatives, be evidence (and, in Scotland, sufficient evidence) of that fact.
- (3) In any proceedings instituted by or against the Corporation to which the rate at which a charge was levied at any time, in respect of a service, by an authority outside the British Islands is material, a certificate of the Corporation that the charge was levied at that rate at that time in respect of that service by that authority shall be evidence (and, in Scotland, sufficient evidence) of that fact.

#### **54 Reimbursement by the Corporation of certain contributions to international organisations**

The Corporation may reimburse the Secretary of State the whole or any part of a sum paid by him by way of contribution towards the expenses of an international organisation of which Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom is a member,

being an organisation concerned with activities which the Corporation has power to carry on.

## **55 Power of local authorities to contribute towards new offices or facilities**

- (1) Where a local authority consider that it would be for the benefit of the whole or any part of their area that—
  - (a) any telecommunications office should be established; or
  - (b) any additional telecommunication facilities should be provided,
 by the Corporation, whether within or outside the area to be benefited, the authority may undertake to pay to the Corporation any loss it may sustain by reason of the establishment or maintenance of the office or the provision of the facilities.
- (2) In the application of this section to England and Wales, references in subsection (1) to a local authority include references to a parish or community council.
- (3) In the application of this section to Scotland, nothing in subsection (1) shall authorise the giving of an undertaking as respects the establishment of an office or the provision of facilities outside the area to be benefited.

## **56 Records**

- (1) The Public Records Act 1958 shall, as from the appointed day, have effect as if the Corporation were included amongst the bodies and establishments set out in Part II of the Table at the end of paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to that Act.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall have power by order to vest in the Corporation the property in such records of the department of the Postmaster General as may be specified or described in the order, and to give to the Corporation, with respect to records in the case of which the property therein has been vested in the Corporation by an order under this subsection, such directions as he thinks fit for securing that they are available to the Crown for inspection and copying.

## **57 Interpretation and extent of Part I**

- (1) In this Part—
  - " accounting year " means, subject to section 31(5) and paragraph 22 of Schedule 4, the period beginning with the appointed day and ending with the next following 31st March or each subsequent period of twelve months beginning with the end of a previous accounting year;
  - " the British Islands " means the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man;
  - " local authority "—
    - (a) in relation to England and Wales, means a county council, the Greater London Council, a district council, a London borough council or the Common Council of the City of London;
    - (b) in relation to Scotland, means a regional, islands or district council;
    - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, means a district council, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Northern Ireland Electricity Service or an Education and Library Board ;
  - " national health service authority "—

- (a) in relation to England and Wales, means a Regional Health Authority, Area Health Authority, District Health Authority, special health authority, Family Practitioner Committee or board of governors of a teaching hospital;
- (b) in relation to Scotland, means a Health Board or the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service constituted under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 ;
- (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, means a Health and Social Services Board, the Northern Ireland Central Services Agency for the Health and Social Services or the Northern Ireland Staffs Council for the Health and Social Services established under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972;

" telecommunication system " shall be construed in accordance with section 12(1).

- (2) Any reference in this Part to data processing shall be construed as including a reference to the storage and retrieval of information.
- (3) Nothing in this Part shall be taken to restrict the construction of references to the Corporation's business so as to exclude the performance of services which, by virtue of section 2(1) (b), (c) or (d), it has power to perform.
- (4) Subject to subsection (6), this Part, except section 55 and any provision which, by its terms, is limited in its operation to a part of the United Kingdom, shall extend to the Isle of Man; and sections 12, 17, 18, 48 and 50 shall have effect, in their application to the Isle of Man, with the substitution of references to information for references to indictment.
- (5) This Part, except sections 3, 7 to 9, 11 to 23, 46 to 53 and 55 and any provision which, by its terms, is limited in its operation to a part of the United Kingdom, shall extend to the Channel Islands.
- (6) In the event of the conclusion of an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Government of the Isle of Man providing for—
  - (a) the surrender by the Corporation, as regards that Isle, of the privilege conferred on the Corporation by section 12(1); and
  - (b) the administration in that Isle of telecommunication services by, or under the authority of, that Government instead of by the Corporation,

Her Majesty may by Order in Council make such provision as it appears to Her requisite or expedient to make in order to give effect to the agreement or in consequence of the conclusion thereof, including, in particular, provision for the amendment or repeal of enactments (including enactments contained in this Act) or other instruments.