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# Telecommunications Act 1984

# **CHAPTER 12**

# **TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984**

### PART I

# INTRODUCTORY

- 1 The Director General of Telecommunications.
- 2 Abolition of British Telecommunications' exclusive privilege.
- 3 General duties of Secretary of State and Director.
- 4 Meaning of "telecommunication system" and related expressions.

### **PART II**

# PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

# Licensing etc. of telecommunication systems

- 5 Prohibition on running unlicensed systems.
- 6 Exceptions to section 5.
- 7 Power to license systems.
- 7A Licensing procedures
  - 8 Special provisions applicable to certain licences.
  - 9 Public telecommunication systems.
- 10 The telecommunications code.
- 11 Provisions supplementary to section 10.

# Modification of licences

- 12 Modification of licence conditions by agreement.
- 12A Agreement required for the purposes of section 12.
  - 13 Licence modification references to Commission.
- 13A References under section 13: time limits

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- 13B References under section 13: powers of investigation
  - 14 Reports on licence modification references.
  - 15 Modification of licence conditions following report.

# Enforcement of licences

- 16 Securing compliance with licence conditions.
- 17 Procedural requirements.
- 18 Validity and effect of orders.
- 19 Register of licences and orders.

# Approvals etc. for the purposes of licences

- 20 Approval of contractors.
- 21 Register of approved contractors.
- 22 Approval etc. of apparatus.
- 23 Register of approved apparatus etc.
- 24 Approval etc. of meters.
- 25 Delegation of functions under sections 22 and 24.
- 26 Grants and loans to persons exercising certain functions.
- 27 Recognition of bodies representing consumers etc.

# Standards of performance

- 27A Standards of performance in individual cases.
- 27B Overall standards of performance.
- 27C Information with respect to levels of performance.
- 27D Information to be given to customers about overall performance.
- 27E Procedures for dealing with complaints.
- 27F Disputes about discrimination etc. in fixing charges.
- 27G Billing disputes.
- 27H Deposits.
- 27I Complaints about deposits.
- 27J Disconnections.
- 27K Enforcement of standards of performance, etc.
- 27L Definitions for sections 27A to 27K.

# Marking etc. of telecommunication apparatus

- 28 Information etc. to be marked on or to accompany telecommunication apparatus.
- 29 Information etc. to be given in advertisements.
- 30 Enforcement provisions.

# Rating of telecommunications operators

- 31 Rating in England and Wales.
- 32 Rating in Scotland.
- 33 Rating in Northern Ireland.

# Acquisition etc. of land by public telecommunications operators

- 34 Compulsory purchase of land in England and Wales.
- 35 Compulsory purchase of land in Scotland.
- 36 Compulsory purchase of land in Northern Ireland.
- 37 Entry, for exploratory purposes, on land in England and Wales.

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- Entry, for exploratory purposes, on land in Scotland.
- 39 Entry, for exploratory purposes, on land in Northern Ireland.
- 40 Acquisition of land by agreement.
- 41 Purchase of Duchy of Lancaster land.

# Offences

- 42 Fraudulent use of telecommunication system.
- 42A Possession or supply of anything for fraudulent purpose in connection with use of telecommunication system.
  - 43 Improper use of public telecommunication system.
  - 44 Modification etc. of messages.
  - 45 Disclosure of messages etc.
  - Assaults etc. on persons engaged in the business of public telecommunications operator.

# Regulations

46A Powers to make regulations.

Appeals

46B Appeals

### PART III

### OTHER FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR

- 47 General functions.
- 48 Publication of information and advice.
- 49 Investigation of complaints.
- 50 Functions under 1973 and 1980 Acts.
- 51 Co-ordination of functions under Part II and wireless telegraphy functions.
- 52 Power to give assistance in relation to certain proceedings.
- 53 Power to require information etc.
- 54 Power to establish advisory bodies.
- 55 Annual and other reports.

# **PART IV**56–59

# PART V

### TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKING OF BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Vesting of property etc. of British Telecommunications in a company nominated by the Secretary of State

- Vesting of property etc. of British Telecommunications in a company nominated by the Secretary of State.
- 61 Initial Government holding in the successor company.
- 62 Conversion of certain loans transferred to the successor company.
- 63 Government investment in securities of the successor company.
- 64 Exercise of Secretary of State's functions through nominees.

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- 65 Target investment limit for Government shareholding.
- 66 Financial structure of the successor company.
- 67 Temporary restrictions on successor company's borrowings etc.
- 68 Liability of Secretary of State in respect of liabilities vesting in successor company.
- 69 Dissolution of British Telecommunications.

# Miscellaneous and supplemental

- Application of law in relation to offer of shares or debentures of the successor company.
- 71 Application of Trustee Investments Act 1961 in relation to investment in the successor company.
- 72 Tax provisions.
- 73 Interpretation of Part V.

### PART VI

# Amendment and enforcement of Wireless Telegraphy Acts

- Restriction on revocation or variation of certain wireless telegraphy licences.
- 75 Alteration of penalties and mode of trial for certain offences under the 1949 Act.
- 76 Arrest without warrant for certain offences under the 1949 Act.
- 77 Substitution of new section for section 7 of the 1967 Act.
- 78 Regulations with respect to resistance to interference.
- 79 Seizure of apparatus and other property used in committing certain offences under the 1949 Act.
- 80 Proceedings in England and Wales or Northern Ireland for forfeiture of restricted apparatus.
- 81 Proceedings in Scotland for forfeiture of restricted apparatus.
- 82 Amendments with respect to forfeiture on conviction.
- 83 Disposal of apparatus and other property seized by virtue of section 79.

### **Approvals**

84 Approval of wireless telegraphy apparatus etc.

# Marking etc. of apparatus

- 85 Information etc. to be marked on or to accompany apparatus.
- 86 Information etc. to be given in advertisements.
- 87 Offences under section 85 or 86 due to default of third person.

# Miscellaneous and supplemental

- 88 Wireless telegraphy functions of Director.
- 89 Abolition of advisory committee.
- 90 Radio interference service.
- 91 Construction of references to conclusion of proceedings.
- 92 Interpretation of Part VI and minor amendments.

### PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL

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### Miscellaneous

- 93 Grants to promote interests of disabled persons.
- 94 Directions in the interests of national security etc.
- 95 Orders under the 1973 and 1980 Acts.
- 96 Prohibitions and restrictions applying to lessees with respect to telecommunications.
- 97 Contributions by local authorities towards provision of facilities.
- 98 Use of certain conduits for telecommunication purposes.
- 99 Power of Post Office to provide telecommunication services etc.
- 100 Membership of British Telecommunications.

# Supplemental

- 101 General restrictions on disclosure of information.
- 102 Offences by bodies corporate.
- 103 Summary proceedings.
- 104 Orders and schemes.
- 105 Financial provisions.
- 106 General interpretation.
- Application to territorial waters and the continental shelf etc.
- Extension to the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.
- 109 Amendments, transitional provisions and repeals.
- 110 Short title, commencement and extent.

# **SCHEDULES**

# SCHEDULE 1 — Director General of Telecommunications

- 1 There shall be paid to the Director such remuneration, and...
- 2 In the case of any such holder of the office...
- 3 If, when any person ceases to hold office as the...
- 5 In the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 in Part...
- 6 The Director shall have an official seal for the authentication...
- 7 The Documentary Evidence Act 1868 shall have effect as if...
- 8 Anything authorised or required by or under this Act or...

# SCHEDULE 2 — The Telecommunications Code

# Arrangement of paragraphs

# Interpretation of code

1 (1) In this code, except in so far as the...

Agreement required to confer right to execute works etc.

2 (1) The agreement in writing of the occupier for the...

Agreement required for obstructing access etc.

3 (1) A right conferred in accordance with paragraph 2 above...

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# Effect of rights and compensation

4 (1) Anything done by the operator in exercise of a...

Power to dispense with the need for required agreement

5 (1) Where the operator requires any person to agree for...

Acquisition of rights in respect of apparatus already installed

6 (1) The following provisions of this paragraph apply where the...

Court to fix financial terms where agreement dispensed with

7 (1) The terms and conditions specified by virtue of sub-paragraph...

Notices and applications by potential subscribers

8 (1) Where—(a) it is reasonably necessary for the agreement...

# Street works

9 (1) The operator shall, for the statutory purposes, have the...

# Power to fly lines

10 (1) Subject to paragraph 3 above and the following provisions...

# Tidal waters etc.

11 (1) Subject to paragraph 3 above and the following provisions...

### Linear obstacles

12 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this code, the...

Arbitration in relation to linear obstacles

13 (1) Any objection or question which, in accordance with paragraph...

Alteration of apparatus crossing a linear obstacle

14 (1) Without prejudice to the following provisions of this code,...

# *Use of certain conduits*

15 (1) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this code shall...

Compensation for injurious affection to neighbouring land etc.

16 (1) Where a right conferred by or in accordance with...

# Objections to overhead apparatus

17 (1) This paragraph applies where the operator has completed the...

Obligation to affix notices to overhead apparatus

18 (1) Where the operator has for the purposes of the...

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# Tree lopping

19 (1) Where any tree overhangs any streetroad and, in doing...

Power to require alteration of apparatus

20 (1) Where any electronic communications apparatus is kept installed on,...

Restriction on right to require the removal of apparatus

21 (1) Where any person is for the time being entitled...

Abandonment of apparatus

22 Without prejudice to the preceding provisions of this code, where...

Undertaker's works

23 (1) The following provisions of this paragraph apply where a...

Notices under code

24 (1) Any notice required to be given by the operator...

Appeals in Northern Ireland

25 Article 60 of the County Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1980...

Application to the Crown

26 (1) This code shall apply in relation to land in...

Savings for and exclusion of certain remedies etc.

27 (1) Except in so far as provision is otherwise made...

Application of code to existing systems

28 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, references...

Effect of agreements concerning sharing of apparatus

29 (1) This paragraph applies where— (a) this code has been...

SCHEDULE 3 — Penalties and Mode of Trial under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949

- 1 The following subsections shall be substituted for subsection (1) of...
- 3 The following provisions shall not apply where a person is...

SCHEDULE 4 — Minor and Consequential Amendments

# Interpretation

1 (1) In this Schedule and in any enactment amended by...

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# General

2	A requirement to do what is necessary to inform designated
	Enactments relating to statutory undertakers, etc.
3	(1) The references to British Telecommunications in the following enactments
	The Telegraph Acts 1863 and 1868
4	
	The Foreign Enlistment Act 1870
5	In section 30 of the Foreign Enlistment Act 1870 (interpretation),
6	
8	
9 11	
13	
15	
20	
24	
30 32	
34 53	
62	
64	
70	
	The Military Tramways Act 1887
7	
	The Telegraph Act 1899
10	In section 2(1) of the Telegraph Act 1899 (supplemental provision
	The Official Secrets Act 1911
12	(1) (2) Any telecommunications station or office belonging to, or
	The Official Secrets Act 1920
14	
	The Law of Property Act 1925
1.6	
16	In subsection (4) of section 194 of the Law of
	The Roads Improvement Act 1925
17	(1) For subsection (6) of section 1 of the Roads

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### The Public Health Act 1925

18 In section 10 of the Public Health Act 1925 (under...

The Bridges Act 1929

19 For section 13 of the Bridges Act 1929 (which applies...

The Civil Defence Act (Northern Ireland) 1939

21 For section 71 of the Civil Defence Act (Northern Ireland)...

The Water Act 1945

22 (1) The Water Act 1945 shall be amended in accordance...

The Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947

23 In section 3 of the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure)...

The Roads Act (Northern Ireland) 1948

25 For subsections (1) and (2) of section 41 of the...

The Special Roads Act 1949

26 (1) For section 20 of the Special Roads Act 1949...

The Coast Protection Act 1949

27 In section 47 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, for...

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

28 (1) In the proviso to section 20(2) of the National...

The Public Utilities Street Works Act 1950

29 (1) The Public Utilities Street Works Act 1950 shall be...

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953

31 In section 6 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act...

The Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Drainage and Navigation Act (Northern Ireland) 1955

33 For subsection (2) of section 17 of the Lough Neagh...

The Housing Act 1957

35 (1) After section 74 of the Housing Act 1957, in...

The Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1958

36 (1) For section 17 of the Land Drainage (Scotland) Act...

The Local Government (Omnibus Shelters and Queue Barriers) (Scotland) Act 1958

37 In section 3 of the Local Government (Omnibus Shelters and...

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# The Opencast Coal Act 1958

38 (1) Section 45 of the Opencast Coal Act 1958 (provisions...

The Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961

39 (1) The Flood Prevention (Scotland) Act 1961 shall be amended...

The Public Health Act 1961

40 In section 29B(3) of the Public Health Act 1961 (which...

The Pipe-lines Act 1962

41 In section 40 of the Pipe-lines Act 1962 (avoidance of...

The Water Resources Act 1963

42 (1) In section 67 of the Water Resources Act 1963...

The Harbours Act 1964

43 For section 53 of the Harbours Act 1964 (saving for...

The New Towns Act (Northern Ireland) 1965

44 (1) In section 25 of the New Towns Act (Northern...

The Housing (Scotland) Act 1966

45 After section 57 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1966, in...

The Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967

46 (1) In section 11(5)(f) of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967...

The New Towns (Scotland) Act 1968

47 (1) The New Towns (Scotland) Act 1968 shall be amended...

The Countryside Act 1968

48 (1) In subsections (4) and (12) of section 41 of...

The Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968

49 In section 22(1) of the Sewerage (Scotland) Act 1968 (Part...

The Post Office Act 1969

50 ..........

The Roads (Scotland) Act 1970

51 (1) The Roads (Scotland) Act 1970 shall be amended in...

The Harbours Act (Northern Ireland) 1970

52 For section 37 of the Harbours Act (Northern Ireland) 1970...

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	The Iown and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 19/2
54	
	The Electricity Supply (Northern Ireland) Order 1972
55	(1) The Electricity Supply (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 shall be
	The Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1972
56	(1) The power to make a development order under Article
	The Fair Trading Act 1973
57	(1) The Director General of Fair Trading shall consult with
	The Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973
58	(1) For paragraph 3 of Schedule 9 to the Drainage
	The Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1973
59	In article 58 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern
	The Consumer Credit Act 1974
60	(1) In section 16(6) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974
	The Housing (Scotland) Act 1974
61	(1) After section 36 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1974,
	The Scottish Development Agency Act 1975
63	For subsection (8) of section 10 of the Scottish Development
	The Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976
65	In section 41(1)(a) of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976
	The Land Drainage Act 1976
66	(1) In section 23(4) of the Land Drainage Act 1976
	The Development of Rural Wales Act 1976
67	
	The Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977
68	
	The Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977
69	
	The Land Registration (Scotland) Act 1979
71	In section 28(1) of the Land Registration (Scotland) Act 1979

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	The Estate Agents Act 1979
72	In section 10(3)(a) of the Estate Agents Act 1979 (exceptions
	The Competition Act 1980
73	(1) In subsection (2)(a) of section 19 of the 1980
	The Water (Scotland) Act 1980
74	(1) Schedule 4 to the Water (Scotland) Act 1980 (provisions
	The Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980
75	(1) Schedule 28 to the Local Government, Planning and Land
	The Highways Act 1980
76	(1) The Highways Act 1980 shall be amended in accordance
	The Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1980
77	
	The British Telecommunications Act 1981
78	
	The New Towns Act 1981
79	(1) The New Towns Act 1981 shall be amended in
	The Acquisition of Land Act 1981
80	(1) At the end of section 28 of the Acquisition
	The Broadcasting Act 1981
81	In section 3 of the Broadcasting Act 1981 (powers of
	The Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
82	(1) After Article 159 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order
	The Planning Blight (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
83	In Article 2(2) of the Planning Blight (Compensation) (Northern Ireland)
	The Civil Aviation Act 1982
84	In section 48(7)(b) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 (by
	The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1982
85	In section 1 of the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1982 (extension
	Enactments relating to London
86	(1) In the London Overground Wires etc. Act 1933—

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# Enactments relating to call boxes

87 (1) The enactments specified in the following Table (which penalise...

The London Building Acts and enactments relating to highways, etc.

88 (1) Nothing in— (a) the London Building Acts 1930 to...

General adaptations of local enactments

89 (1) A provision to which this paragraph applies which refers...

Saving in respect of offences under section 5

90 Nothing in a local Act passed after but in the...

SCHEDULE 5 — General Transitional Provisions and Savings

Part I — Provisions and Savings coming into force on Appointed Day

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, a...
- 2 (1) An approval issued under section 16(2) of the 1981...
- 3 (1) An order made under section 17 of the 1981...
- 4 An order made, or having effect as if made, by...
- 5 A compulsory purchase order made under section 38 or 39...
- 6 An application for a vesting order made under section 40...
- 7 An authorisation given by British Telecommunications under section 41, 42...
- 8 (1) An order made under section 89 of the Post...
- 9 An undertaking given, or having effect as if given, under...
- 10 A direction given, or having effect as if given, under...
- 11 Nothing done, on or after the appointed day, under, and...
- 12 (1) Where immediately before the appointed day British Telecommunications—
- 13 Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of section...
- 14 Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of section...
- 15 Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of section...
- 16 Subject to paragraph 4 above and paragraph 26 below, nothing...
- 17 Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of section...
- 18 Subject to paragraph 49 below, nothing in this Act shall...
- 19 Subject to paragraph 50 below, nothing in this Act shall...

Part II — PROVISIONS AND SAVINGS COMING INTO FORCE ON TRANSFER DATE

- 20 A licence granted under section 7 of this Act to...
- 21 An order made under section 9(1) of this Act which...
- 22 An approval given under section 20(1) of this Act which...
- 23 An approval given, or having effect as if given, under...
- 24 An approval given under section 24(1) of this Act which...
- 25 A recognition given under section 27(1) of this Act which...
- 26 An order made, or having effect as if made, under...
- 27 A compulsory purchase order made, or having effect as if...
- 28 An application for a vesting order made, or having effect...
- 29 An authorisation given, or having effect as if given, by...
- 30 An order made under section 57 of this Act which...
- A licence granted under section 58 of this Act to...
- 32 An undertaking given, or having effect as if given, to...

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- 33 A direction given, or having effect as if given, to...
- 34 (1) For the purposes of authorising the making, in relation...
- 35 Where immediately before the transfer date there is in force...
- 36 (1) Except as otherwise provided by the foregoing provisions of...
- 37 (1) It is hereby declared for the avoidance of doubt...
- 38 (1) It shall be the duty of British Telecommunications and...
- 39 (1) During the transitional period it shall be the duty...
- 40 (1) Notwithstanding the repeal of subsection (12) of section 6...
- 41 For the purpose of enabling anything which, on the transfer...
- 42 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, nothing in this Act...
- 43 Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of any...
- 44 Nothing in this Act shall affect the operation of section...
- Where by virtue of anything done before the transfer date,...
- 46 (1) Section 6(2) of the Commonwealth Telegraph Act 1949 shall...
- 47 (1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the validity of...
- 48 (1) Where an asset, or the right to receive an...
- 49 An order under section 19 of the Local Government Act...
- 50 An order under section 6 of the Local Government (Scotland)...
- 51 (1) Where a distribution is proposed to be declared during...

### SCHEDULE 6 —

- 1 (1) For the purpose of making, in relation to agreements...
- 2 Any reference to an agreement to which Schedule 5 applies...
- 3 Except in a case where it falls to be modified...
- 4 The reference in paragraph 4 of Schedule 5 to paragraph...
- 5 The excepted case stated in paragraph 6 of Schedule 5...
- 6 (1) The reference in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 5 to...
- 7 (1) The reference in paragraph 9(1) of Schedule 5 to...
- 8 The third reference in paragraph 10(2) of Schedule 5 to...
- 9 The reference in paragraph 14 of Schedule 5 to paragraph...
- 10 The excepted case stated in paragraph 16 of Schedule 5...
- 11 (1) The reference in paragraph 18(1) of Schedule 5 to...
- 12 (1) The reference in paragraph 19(1) of Schedule 5 to...
- 13 The first and third references in paragraph 20(2) of Schedule...
- 14 Nothing in this Schedule shall affect the operation of Schedule...

# SCHEDULE 7 — Repeals

- Part I REPEALS COMING INTO FORCE ON APPOINTED DAY
- Part II REPEALS COMING INTO FORCE ON TRANSFER DATE
- Part III REPEALS COMING INTO FORCE ON DISSOLUTION OF BRITISH
  - TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- Part IV WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY REPEALS

# **Status:**

Point in time view as at 26/05/2008.

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