



Broadcasting Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 42

^{F1}PART I

INDEPENDENT TELEVISION SERVICES

CHAPTER 1

REGULATION BY COMMISSION OF TELEVISION SERVICES GENERALLY

General provisions about licences

3 Licences under Part I.

- (1) Any licence granted by [^{F1}OFCOM] under this Part shall be in writing and (subject to the provisions of this Part) shall continue in force for such period as is provided, in relation to a licence of the kind in question, by the relevant provision of [^{F2} Chapter 2 or 5 of this Part or section 235 of the Communications Act 2003].
- (2) A licence may be so granted for the provision of such a service as is specified in the licence or for the provision of a service of such a description as is so specified.
- (3) [^{F1}OFCOM] —
 - (a) shall not grant a licence to any person unless they are satisfied that he is a fit and proper person to hold it; and
 - (b) shall do all that they can to secure that, if they cease to be so satisfied in the case of any person holding a licence, that person does not remain the holder of the licence;

and nothing in this Part shall be construed as affecting the operation of this subsection or of section 5(1) or (2)(b) or (c).

- [^{F3}(3A) Where [^{F1}OFCOM] are not satisfied that a BBC company which has applied for a licence is a fit and proper person to hold it, they shall, before refusing the application, notify the Secretary of State that they are not so satisfied.]

Status: Point in time view as at 08/02/2007.

Changes to legislation: Broadcasting Act 1990, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) [^{F1}OFCOM] may vary a licence by a notice served on the licence holder if—
- (a) in the case of a variation of the period for which the licence is to continue in force, the licence holder consents; or
 - (b) in the case of any other variation, the licence holder has been given a reasonable opportunity of making representations to [^{F1}OFCOM] about the variation.
- (5) Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) does not affect the operation of section 41(1)(b); and that subsection shall not authorise the variation of any conditions included in a licence in pursuance of section 19(1) or 52(1) or in pursuance of any other provision of this Part which applies section 19(1).
- (6) A licence granted to any person under this Part shall not be transferable to any other person without the previous consent in writing of [^{F1}OFCOM] .
- (7) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (6), [^{F1}OFCOM] shall not give their consent for the purposes of that subsection unless they are satisfied that any such other person would be in a position to comply with all of the conditions included in the licence which would have effect during the period for which it is to be in force.
- [^{F4}(8) The holding by a person of a licence under this Part shall not relieve him of—
- (a) any liability in respect of a failure to hold [^{F5}a licence under section 8 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006]; or
 - (b) any obligation to comply with requirements imposed by or under Chapter 1 of Part 2 of the Communications Act 2003 (electronic communications networks and electronic communications services).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 3 substituted (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 15 para. 1\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1](#) (with art. 11)
- F2** Words in s. 3(1) substituted (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 15 para. 1\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1](#) (with art. 11)
- F3** S. 3(3A) inserted (24.7.1996) by 1996 c. 55, ss. 136, 149(1)(f), [Sch. 8 para. 1](#)
- F4** S. 3(8) substituted (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 15 para. 1\(4\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1](#) (with art. 11)
- F5** Words in s. 3(8)(a) substituted (8.2.2007) by [Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 \(c. 36\), s. 126\(2\), Sch. 7 para. 10](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. I: transfer of functions (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 1 para. 3\(a\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1](#) (with art. 11)

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