

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part III Miscellaneous and supplemental

Section 15: General interpretation

70. This section provides for the interpretation of various terms used throughout the Act.

71. *Subsection (1)* inter alia defines:

- *electronic communication* to mean a communication transmitted (whether from one person to another, from one device to another or from a person to a device or vice versa) by means of a telecommunication system (within the meaning of the Telecommunications Act 1984), or by other means but while in an electronic form.

Section 4(1) of the Telecommunications Act 1984 says

- In this Act *telecommunication system* means a system for the conveyance, through the agency of electric, magnetic, electro-magnetic, electro-chemical or electro-mechanical energy of-
 - (a) speech, music and other sounds;
 - (b) visual images;
 - (c) signals serving for the impartation (whether as between persons and persons, things and things or persons and things) of any matter otherwise than in the form of sounds or visual images; or
 - (d) signals serving for the actuation or control of machinery or apparatus.
- *subordinate legislation* as having the same meaning as in the Interpretation Act 1978, and also including corresponding secondary legislation made under Acts of the Scottish Parliament and certain statutory rules in Northern Ireland.
 - Section 21(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978 provides that subordinate legislation means Orders in Council, orders, rules, regulations, schemes, warrants, byelaws and other instruments made or to be made under any Act.