

*These notes refer to the Communications Act 2003  
(c.21) which received Royal Assent on 17 July 2003*

# COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2003

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### **Part 2: Networks, Services and the Radio Spectrum**

##### *Chapter 1: Electronic Communications Networks and Services*

##### *Section 125: Dishonestly obtaining electronic communications services*

301. Anyone who dishonestly obtains an electronic communications service and intends to avoid paying for that service is guilty of an offence under section 125. A person found guilty of the offence will be liable to a fine or imprisonment, or both. Under *subsection (2)*, it is not an offence under this section to obtain a service mentioned in section 297(1) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. This section replaces section 42 of the Telecommunications Act 1984 which is repealed by Schedule 19.

\*Section 297(1) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 mentions programmes included in a broadcasting or cable programme service (as defined in that Act).