

Communications Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 21

[F1PART 3A

PROMINENCE ON TELEVISION SELECTION SERVICES

f^{F1}Supplemental provisions of Part 3A

Textual Amendments

F1 Pt. 3A inserted (24.5.2024 for specified purposes) by Media Act 2024 (c. 15), ss. 28(1), 55(1)(a)

362AZ6 Fees

- (1) OFCOM may require a person other than the BBC or S4C who is—
 - (a) a provider of a designated internet programme service, or
 - (b) a provider of a regulated television selection service, to pay to OFCOM a fee of an amount determined by OFCOM.
- (2) The amount of a fee required under subsection (1) must be determined by OFCOM in accordance with a statement of principles prepared and published by them for the purpose of this section.
- (3) Those principles must be such as appear to OFCOM to be likely to secure the following objectives—
 - (a) that, on a year by year basis, the aggregate amount of the fees payable to OFCOM under subsection (1) is sufficient to meet, but does not exceed, the annual cost to OFCOM of carrying out their functions under this Part less an appropriate amount to take into account costs that will be met by fees payable—
 - (i) by the BBC under section 198(4), or
 - (ii) by S4C under section 207(6);

- (b) that the relationship between the aggregate amount of the fees and the cost to OFCOM of carrying out the functions is transparent;
- (c) that any fee required is justifiable and proportionate having regard to the circumstances of the person required to pay it.
- (4) As soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, OFCOM must publish a statement of accounts setting out in respect of that year—
 - (a) the aggregate amount of the fees payable under subsection (1) for that year that have been received by OFCOM,
 - (b) the aggregate amount of the fees payable under subsection (1) for that year that remain outstanding and are likely to be paid or recovered, and
 - (c) the costs to them of carrying out their functions under this Part less an appropriate amount to take into account costs that have been or are to be met by fees payable—
 - (i) by the BBC under section 198(4), or
 - (ii) by S4C under section 207(6).
- (5) Any deficit or surplus shown (after applying this subsection for all previous years) by the statement of accounts is to be—
 - (a) carried forward, and
 - (b) taken into account in determining what is required to meet the objective described in subsection (3)(a) in relation to the following year.
- (6) OFCOM may repay a person some or all of a fee paid under subsection (1) if—
 - (a) in the case of a fee paid by the provider of a designated internet programme service, OFCOM revoke the designation of an internet programme service provided by that person under section 362AB at some time during the period to which the fee relates;
 - (b) in the case of a fee paid by the provider of a regulated television selection service—
 - (i) the Secretary of State has revoked the designation of a regulated television selection service provided by that person at some time during the period to which the fee relates, or
 - (ii) the person gives OFCOM a notice under section 362AH(2) or (3) in accordance with section 362AH(4) at some time during the period to which the fee relates.
- (7) For the purposes of this section, OFCOM's costs of carrying out their functions under this Part during a financial year include their costs of preparing to carry out those functions during that year.
- (8) OFCOM—
 - (a) may revise a statement of principles published by them, and
 - (b) where they do so, must publish the statement as revised.
- (9) Before publishing a statement of principles or a revision of it, OFCOM must consult such persons as they consider appropriate.
- (10) In this section, a reference to the functions of OFCOM under this Part includes a reference to their functions under Schedules 16A and 16B, so far as relating to this Part.
- (11) In this section, "financial year" means a period of 12 months ending on 31 March.

362AZ7 Non-payment of fee

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) the provider of a designated internet programme service or regulated television selection service is liable to pay a fee to OFCOM under section 362AZ6, and
 - (b) in OFCOM's opinion, the provider has not paid the full amount of the fee that the provider is liable to pay.
- (2) OFCOM may give the provider a notice under this subsection specifying—
 - (a) the outstanding amount of the fee that OFCOM consider the provider is due to pay to them under section 362AZ6, and
 - (b) the period within which the provider must pay it.
- (3) A notice under subsection (2)—
 - (a) may relate to fees required on different occasions;
 - (b) may also state that OFCOM propose to impose a penalty on the provider.
- (4) The provider may make representations to OFCOM (with any supporting evidence) about the matters contained in the notice.
- (5) Subsection (6) applies if—
 - (a) the notice under subsection (2) stated that OFCOM propose to impose a penalty,
 - (b) the period allowed for representations has expired, and
 - (c) OFCOM are satisfied that an amount of the fee or fees is still due to them.
- (6) OFCOM may give the provider a penalty notice under this subsection requiring the provider to pay to OFCOM a penalty of an amount in sterling determined by OFCOM.
- (7) The penalty may consist of any of the following—
 - (a) a single amount;
 - (b) an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate;
 - (c) a combination of a single amount and an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate.
- (8) The penalty notice may impose a penalty of a different kind, of a greater amount or (in the case of a penalty calculated by reference to a daily rate) payable over a longer period than that proposed in the notice about the proposed penalty.
- (9) See section 362AZ8 for information which must be included in notices under this section.
- (10) Nothing in this section affects OFCOM's power to bring proceedings (whether before or after the imposition of a penalty by a notice under subsection (6)) for the recovery of the whole or part of an amount due to OFCOM under section 362AZ6.
- (11) But OFCOM may not bring such proceedings unless a provider has first been given a notice under subsection (2) specifying the amount due to OFCOM.

362AZ8 Information to be included in a notice under section 362AZ7

(1) A notice under section 362AZ7(2) stating that OFCOM propose to impose a penalty must—

- (a) state the reasons why OFCOM propose to impose the penalty,
- (b) state whether OFCOM propose that the penalty should consist of a single amount, an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, or a combination of the two.
- (c) indicate the amount of the proposed penalty, including (in relation to an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate) the daily rate and how the penalty would be calculated,
- (d) in relation to an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, specify or describe the period for which OFCOM propose that the amount should be payable,
- (e) state the reasons for proposing a penalty of that amount, including any aggravating or mitigating factors that OFCOM propose to take into account, and
- (f) specify the period within which representations in relation to the proposed penalty may be made.
- (2) A penalty notice under section 362AZ7(6) must—
 - (a) give OFCOM's reasons for their decision to impose the penalty,
 - (b) state whether the penalty consists of a single amount, an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, or a combination of the two, and how it is calculated,
 - (c) in relation to a single amount, state that amount,
 - (d) in relation to an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate, state the daily rate,
 - (e) state the reasons for the amount of the penalty, including any aggravating or mitigating factors that OFCOM have taken into account,
 - (f) specify a reasonable period within which the penalty must be paid, and
 - (g) contain information about the consequences of not paying the penalty (including information about the further kinds of enforcement action that it would be open to OFCOM to take).
- (3) A penalty notice under section 362AZ7(6) must also specify the amount of the fee that is (in OFCOM's opinion) due to be paid to OFCOM.
- (4) The period specified under subsection (2)(f) for the payment of a single amount must be at least 28 days beginning with the day on which the penalty notice is given.
- (5) Subsection (6) applies in relation to a penalty notice under section 362AZ7(6) that includes a requirement to pay an amount calculated by reference to a daily rate.
- (6) Such a notice must—
 - (a) state the date from which the amount begins to be payable, which must not be earlier than the day after the day on which the notice is given;
 - (b) provide for the amount to continue to be payable at the daily rate until—
 - (i) the date on which the full amount of the fee (as specified in the penalty notice) has been paid to OFCOM, or
 - (ii) an earlier date specified in the penalty notice.
- (7) Schedule 16A contains further provision about the imposition of a penalty by a penalty notice under section 362AZ7(6).

362AZ9 Monitoring role for OFCOM

OFCOM have the function of obtaining, compiling and keeping under review information about matters which may be relevant to—

- (a) designating or revoking the designation of an internet programme service under section 362AA or 362AB;
- (b) designating or revoking the designation of a television selection service or specifying or ceasing to specify a description of television selection services under section 362AF;
- (c) deciding whether to take enforcement action under this Part and Schedule 16B (so far as relating to this Part).

362AZ10Notices

- (1) This section applies in relation to a notice that may or must be given by OFCOM to a person under any provision of this Part or Schedule 16B (so far as relating to this Part).
- (2) OFCOM may give a notice to a person by—
 - (a) delivering it by hand to the person,
 - (b) leaving it at the person's proper address,
 - (c) sending it by post to the person at that address, or
 - (d) sending it by email to that person's email address.
- (3) A notice to a body corporate may be given to any officer of that body.
- (4) A notice to a partnership may be given to any partner or to a person who has the control or management of the partnership business.
- (5) A notice to an entity that is not a legal person under the law under which it is formed (other than a partnership) may be given to any member of the governing body of the entity.
- (6) In the case of a notice given to a person who is a provider of a regulated television selection service, the person's proper address for the purposes of paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2), and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 in its application to those paragraphs, is any address (within or outside the United Kingdom) at which OFCOM believe, on reasonable grounds, that the notice will come to the attention of the person or (where that person is an entity) any director or other officer of that entity.
- (7) In the case of a notice given to a person other than a provider of a regulated television selection service, a person's proper address for the purposes of paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2), and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 in its application to those paragraphs, is—
 - (a) in the case of an entity, the address of the entity's registered or principal office;
 - (b) in any other case, the person's last known address.
- (8) In the case of an entity registered or carrying on business outside the United Kingdom, or with offices outside the United Kingdom, the reference in subsection (7) to its principal office includes—
 - (a) its principal office in the United Kingdom, or
 - (b) if the entity has no office in the United Kingdom, any place in the United Kingdom at which OFCOM believe, on reasonable grounds, that the notice will come to the attention of any director or other officer of that entity.

- (9) For the purposes of subsection (2)(d), a person's email address is—
 - (a) any email address published for the time being by that person as an address for contacting that person, or
 - (b) if there is no such published address, any email address by means of which OFCOM believe, on reasonable grounds, that the notice will come to the attention of that person or (where that person is an entity) any director or other officer of that entity.
- (10) A notice sent by email is treated as given 48 hours after it was sent, unless the contrary is proved.
- (11) In this section—

"director" includes any person occupying the position of a director, by whatever name called;

"officer", in relation to an entity, includes a director, a manager, a partner, an associate, a secretary or, where the affairs of the entity are managed by its members, a member.

362AZ1Application of Part 3A

- (1) A duty imposed on a provider of a television selection service by or under this Part applies in relation to that service only so far as it is made available for use by members of the public in the United Kingdom.
- (2) References in this Part to a television selection service include such a service provided from outside the United Kingdom (as well as such a service provided from within the United Kingdom).
- (3) References in this Part to an internet programme service include such a service provided from outside the United Kingdom (as well as such a service provided from within the United Kingdom).
- (4) The power to require the provision of information by an information notice includes power to require the provision of information held outside the United Kingdom.
- (5) Section 362AZ2(4) (requirements enforceable in civil proceedings against a person) applies whether or not the person is in the United Kingdom.

362AZ12nterpretation of Part 3A

(1) In this Part—

"the agreement objectives" has the meaning given by section 362AM;

"BBC company", "C4 company" and "S4C company" have the same meaning as in Part 3 (see section 362);

"designated internet programme service" has the meaning given by section 362AA;

"entity" means a body or association of persons or an organisation, regardless of whether the body, association or organisation is—

- (a) formed under the law of any part of the United Kingdom or of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, or
- (b) a legal person under the law under which it is formed;

"information notice" has the meaning given by section 362AS;

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Changes to legislation: Communications Act 2003, Cross Heading: Supplemental provisions of Part 3A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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) View outstanding changes

"internet programme service" has the meaning given by section 362AA;

"licensed public service channel" has the same meaning as in Part 3 (see section 362);

"listed channel" has the meaning given by section 362AM;

"programme" means such programme as is described in section 368ZA; "provision"—

- (a) in relation to an internet programme service, is to be construed in accordance with subsection (2);
- (b) in relation to a television selection service, is to be construed in accordance with section 362AE(5);

"public service broadcaster" has the meaning given by section 264;

"public service remit" has the meaning given by section 362AA;

"public service remit content" has the meaning given by section 362AA;

"regulated television selection service" has the meaning given by section 362AF;

"television selection service" has the meaning given by section 362AE.

- (2) The person, and the only person, who is to be treated for the purposes of this Part as providing an internet programme service is the person who has general control of the service.
- (3) In the case of an internet programme service where the programmes provided to a user of the service are contained in a single on-demand programme service, the person with general control of the service is the person who has editorial responsibility for the on-demand programme service (see section 368A(4)).
- (4) In the case of any other internet programme service, the person with general control of the service is the person who has general control over which—
 - (a) on-demand programme services,
 - (b) non-UK on-demand programme services, and
 - (c) services that fall within section 362AA(10)(c),

are included in the service.

- (5) For the purposes of this Part—
 - (a) the provision of an internet programme service by the BBC does not include its provision by a BBC company;
 - (b) the provision of an internet programme service by C4C does not include its provision by a C4 company;
 - (c) the provision of an internet programme service by S4C does not include its provision by an S4C company;

and, accordingly, control that is or is capable of being exercised by the BBC, C4C or S4C over decisions by a BBC company, C4 company or S4C company about what is to be comprised in a service is to be disregarded for the purposes of determining who has general control of the service.

- (6) For the purposes of this Part, a person ("P") is associated with a public service broadcaster if, and only if—
 - (a) P is a body corporate which is controlled by the public service broadcaster; or
 - (b) where the public service broadcaster is the provider of a Channel 3 service or Channel 5, P and the public service broadcaster are bodies corporate which are both controlled by the same person.

- (7) In subsection (6) "controlled" has the same meaning as in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1990 Act.
- (8) A reference in this Part to access, in relation to a programme provided by an internet programme service, is a reference to the opportunity of viewing in an intelligible form a programme so provided.
- (9) For the purposes of this Part, a reference to an internet programme service being included in a television selection service is a reference to being one of the internet programme services that are, or whose programmes are, available for selection and access by means of the television selection service.
- (10) The services that are to be taken for the purposes of this Part to be available for use by members of the public include any service which—
 - (a) is made available for use only by persons who subscribe to the service (whether for a period or in relation to a particular occasion) or who otherwise request its provision, but
 - (b) is a service the facility of subscribing to which, or of otherwise requesting its provision, is offered or made available to members of the public.]

Changes to legislation:

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View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to:

s. 278B inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 11 s. 278C inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 12 s. 285(3)(h) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 13(3)

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/1900, art. 3(2) by
 S.I. 2003/3142 art. 1(3)
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/3142 by S.I.
 2004/1492 art. 2
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/3142 by S.I.
 2004/697 art. 2
- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2003/3142 art. 4 Sch. 2
 by S.I. 2004/545 art. 2

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:
Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those
provisions):
      Pt. 3B inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 48(1)
      Pt 4A Ch. 1 heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 37(2)
      Pt. 4A Ch. 2 and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 37(5)
      Pt. 4A Ch. 3 inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 5
      Pt. 4A Ch. 4 heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 2
      Pt. 4A Ch. 5 heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 9
      s. 362AZ12(6) applied by 1990 c. 42, s. 18A(5) (as inserted) by 2024 c. 15 s. 19(3)
      s. 362AZ12(6) applied by 1996 c. 55, s. 98(2D) (as substituted) by 2024 c. 15 s.
      20(2)
      s. 124Q(7)(a) words substituted by 2013 c. 22 Sch. 9 para. 52
      s. 148A and cross-heading inserted by 2022 c. 46 s. 73(2)
      s. 198B(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 30(3)(b)
      s. 198B(3A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 30(3)(d)
      s. 198AA inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 30(2)
      s. 204A-204C substituted for s. 204-206 by 2024 c. 15 s. 32(2)
      s. 245(1)(c) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 46(2)
      s. 245(3A)-(3C) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 46(3)
      s. 264(3)-(8F) substituted for s. 264(3)-(8) by 2024 c. 15 s. 1(2)
      s. 264(10A)(10B) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 1(3)
      s. 264(11)-(11B) substituted for s. 264(11) by 2024 c. 15 s. 1(4)
      s. 264(13)-(16) substituted for s. 264(13) by 2024 c. 15 s. 1(5)
      s. 265(6)(7) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 3(4)
      s. 266(2A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 4(2)
      s. 270(3)(ca) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 6(3)
      s. 270(4A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 6(4)
      s. 270(7A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 6(7)
      s. 277(12A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 8(9)
      s. 277(14) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 8(11)
      s. 278(1)(1A) substituted for s. 278(1) by 2024 c. 15 s. 9(2)
      s. 278(7A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 9(4)
      s. 278(12) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 9(5)
      s. 278A inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 10
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s. 285(10) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 13(4)
s. 286(1)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 286(1)(a) by 2024 c. 15 s. 14(2)(b)
s. 286(3)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 286(3)(a) by 2024 c. 15 s. 14(3)(b)
s. 286(8) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 14(6)
s. 288(1)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 288(1)(a) by 2024 c. 15 s. 14(8)(b)
s. 288(6) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 14(10)
s. 290(5) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 15(3)
s. 290(6) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 15(4)
s. 315(6)(c) omitted by 2024 c. 15 s. 47(9)
s. 315A inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 44(9)
s. 335B(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 12 para. 4(3)
s. 338A338B and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 18
s. 351(4)(aa) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 58(2)(b)
s. 351(5)(aa) substituted for s. 351(5)(a) by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 58(3)(a)
s. 353(4)(aa) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 59(2)(b)
s. 359A and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 45
s. 368B(A2) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 37(4)
s. 368E(3)(zza) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 12 para. 9(2)
s. 368E(5)(d)(e) inserted by 2017 c. 30 s. 94(3)
s. 368I(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 3(4)
s. 368I(8A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 8
s. 368K(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 5(3)
s. 368M(2A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 7(3)
s. 368O368OZA substituted for s. 368O by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 11(1)
s. 368AA368AB inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 37(3)
s. 368BB(7) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 3
s. 368IA(8A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 9
s. 368NA(8A)(8B) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 6 para. 10(3)
s. 368OB and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 38(1)
s. 368QA inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 8 para. 12(1)
s. 370(13) inserted by 2024 c. 13 Sch. 29 para. 7(2)
s. 371(13) inserted by 2024 c. 13 Sch. 29 para. 7(3)
s. 392A and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 49(2)
s. 392B inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 49(4)
s. 393(5)(t) inserted by 2024 c. 13 Sch. 30 para. 28(b)
s. 393(6)(ab) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 38(2)
s. 400(1)(ha) words inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 9 para. 4
s. 402(2A)(zza) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 46(4)
s. 402(2A)(zzb) inserted by 2024 c. 15 s. 44(10)
s. 402(2A)(za)(zb) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 2
Sch. 3A para. 21(6) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3(5)(b)
Sch. 3A para. 37(3)(aza) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3(9)
Sch. 3A para. 84(1)(aza) inserted by 2022 c. 46 Sch. para. 3(10)
Sch. 3A para. 103(1)(ca) inserted by 2022 c. 46 s. 70
Sch. 3A para. 119A inserted by 2022 c. 46 s. 72
Sch. 3A Pt. 4ZA inserted by 2022 c. 46 s. 67(1)
Sch. 9 para. 1(1)(ab) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 2 para. 62
Sch. 12 para. 1(15) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 1(10)
Sch. 12 para. 7(14) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 2(10)
Sch. 12 para. 8(7A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 3(5)
Sch. 12 para. 8(13) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 3(8)
Sch. 12 para. 10(1)(b) and word inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 4(b)
Sch. 12 para. 10(4)(h) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 4(c)
Sch. 12 para. 10(12) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 4(d)
Sch. 12 para. 4(2A) inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 4 para. 52(4)
Sch. 12 para. 3(6)-(7B) substituted for Sch. 12 para. 3(6)(7) by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 4
para. 51(4)
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Sch. 12 para. 8(1)-(1C) substituted for Sch. 12 para. 8(1) by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 1 para. 3(2)
Sch. 16A inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 10
Sch. 16B inserted by 2024 c. 15 Sch. 11
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