



# Communications Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 21

### PART 2

#### NETWORKS, SERVICES AND THE RADIO SPECTRUM

### CHAPTER 1

#### ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

##### *General conditions: telephone numbers*

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>56A. Conditions for limitations on allocation of telephone numbers**

- (1) When OFCOM allocate telephone numbers in accordance with the National Telephone Numbering Plan, they must specify whether an allocation may be transferred from one person to another, and may set out the conditions under which the allocation may be transferred.
- (2) If OFCOM allocate telephone numbers for a limited period of time, the limitation must be objectively justifiable in relation to the services to which it relates, taking account of the need to allow for an appropriate period of investment amortisation.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 56A inserted (26.5.2011) by [The Electronic Communications and Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 2011 \(S.I. 2011/1210\)](#), reg. 1(2), [Sch. 1 para. 31](#) (with Sch. 3 para. 2)

**Changes to legislation:**

Communications Act 2003, Section 56A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- 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](#)

**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](#)
- 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\(3\)](#)
- 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)
- 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](#)