

British Telecommunications Act 1981

CHAPTER 38

BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1981

PART I

NEW CORPORATION FOR THE PROVISION OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND DATA PROCESSING SERVICES

The Corporation

1	The Corporation.
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4, 5	
	Powers of the Secretary of State over the Corporation
6	General control and supervision by the Secretary of State.
7, 8	
	Users' Councils
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	Transfers of property, rights and liabilities
10	Transfers of property, rights and liabilities
11—20	

	Charges and other terms and conditions applicable to services
21 22	
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	Limitation of liability
23	
	Finance
24—27 28	General duty of the Corporation as to finance. (1)
29, 30	(1)
	The Corporation's accounts, and audit thereof
31	The Corporation's accounts and audit thereof.
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33 34	Power of the Secretary of State to make orders about pensions.
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25	Rating
35 36	Rating in Scotland.
37—52	
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	PART II
	THE POST OFFICE
	Powers and duties of the Post Office
58	Powers of the Post Office
59 60	General duty of the Post Office. Redistribution of property, rights and liabilities among wholly owned
61	subsidiaries. Control of wholly owned subsidiaries.
	Powers of the Secretary of State over the Post Office
62	General control and supervision by the Secretary of State.
63 64	Activities requiring consultation with the Secretary of State. Activities requiring approval of the Secretary of State.

Post Office Users' Councils

Power to provide that certain services shall no longer be referable to Post Office Users' Councils.

Exclusive privilege of the Post Office with respect to the conveyance etc. of letters

- Exclusive privilege of the Post Office with respect to the conveyance etc. of letters.
- 67 General classes of acts not infringing the postal privilege.
- 68 Saving for things done under a licence.
- 69 Suspension of the postal privilege.

Limitation of liability

70 The Post Office to be subject to limited liability in respect of certain inland packets.

Finance

- 71 General duty of the Post Office as to finance.
- 72 Reserves of the Post Office and its wholly owned subsidiaries.
- 73 Borrowing powers of the Post Office and its wholly owned subsidiaries.
- 74 Limitation of indebtedness.
- 75 The Post Office's accounts and audit thereof.

Pensions

76 Power of the Secretary of State to make orders about pensions.

Miscellaneous

- 77 Delivery boxes.
- 78 Interpretation and extent of Part II.

PART III

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- Powers of Treasury to dispose etc. of the shares of Cable and Wireless Limited.
- 80
- 81 Stamp duty.
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- 83 Financial provisions.
- 84 Power of managers of certain welfare funds to preserve their scope.
- 85 General interpretation.
- 86 Application to Northern Ireland.
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- 88 Transitional provisions.
- 89 Repeals and savings.
- 90 Short title and extent.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Provisions with respect to the Corporation and the Members thereof

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	Status
1 2	
	Members
3 4 5 6 7	
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	Proceedings
8 9 10	
	Staff
11	
12 13	
	Fixing of seal and proof of instruments
14 15 16	
SC	CHEDULE 2 — Provisions as to Transfers of Property, Rights and Liabilities
	Allocation of property, rights and liabilities
1 2	(1) The provisions of this paragraph and paragraph 2 shall(1) It shall be the duty of the transferor and
	Rights and liabilities under contracts of employment
3	(1) The provisions of this paragraph shall have effect where
	Right to production of documents of title
4	Where on any transfer to which this Schedule applies the
	Perfection of vesting of certain property or rights

Where in the case of any transfer to which this...

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Proof of title by certificate

6 In the case of any transfer to which this Schedule...

Restrictions on dealing with certain land

7 If the Secretary of State is satisfied on the representation...

Construction of agreements, statutory provisions and documents

- 8 Where in the case of any transfer to which this...
- 9 Except as otherwise provided in any provision of this Act...
- 10 Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of paragraphs...
- 11 (1) References in paragraphs 8 to 10 to agreements to...

Third parties affected by vesting provisions

12 (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraphs 8 to...

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SCHEDULE 3 — Consequential Amendments
         Part I — GENERAL
     Part II — PUBLIC GENERAL ENACTMENTS
                Enactments relating to telegraphs
 Enactments relating to the supply of electricity
  7, 8
             Enactments relating to statutory undertakers
  10
     11, 12
     Other enactments
13—22
     23
     24 (1).....
25, 26
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     As from the appointed day, references in subsections (1) and...
35—38
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4	19	
5	50	
5	51	(1) Section 7(2) of the 1969 Act (powers of the
5	52	•••••
53—5	55	
5	56	
5	57	(1)
58—6	60	•••••
61, 6	52	
6	53	As from the date on which the Treasury first exercise
64, 6	55	
6	66	
6	57	(1)
6	58	•••••
69—7	71	
7	72	
7	73	(1)
74—7	76	•••••
		Part III — LOCAL ENACTMENTS AND SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION
77—8	30	
8	31	
82, 8	33	
8	34	As from the appointed day, article 7 of the Visiting
	9.0	
		HEDULE 4 — General Transitional Provisions
	1	Except as otherwise provided by any provision of this Act
	2	A direction given by the Secretary of State to the
	3	(1) Subsections (1) and (2) of section 7 shall have
	4	An approval given by the Secretary of State to the
	5	Section 13(4) shall have effect as if any apparatus which
	6	(1) A licence granted, or having effect as if granted,
	7	(1) A scheme made by the Post Office under section
	8	(1) Section 22(2) shall have effect as if any application
	9	(1) Sections 26(3), 27(2), 73(3) and 74(2) shall have effect
	0	An authorisation given, or having effect as if given, by
	11	(1) A certificate given by the Post Office under section
	12	An undertaking given, or having effect as if given, to
	13	Where, on the appointed day, there are in progress any
	4	(1) This paragraph applies to the following instruments, namely—
	15	A notice or certificate given, request made or requirement imposed
	16	An authority granted under section 5(1) of the Telegraph Act
	17	Any such council as is mentioned in the Telegraph Act
	18	(1) A notice given under section 26 of the Electric
	9	An order under section 24 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914
	20	(4) 37 4 2 4 4 4 4 4 1 11 60 4 4 4 1 12 2
	21	(1) Nothing in this Act shall affect the validity of
2	22	(1) If the appointed day is other than a 1st

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the British Telecommunications Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULE 5 — Special Transitional Provisions with Respect to Patients for Inventions and Registered Designs

Part I — INTERPRETATION

- 1 In this Schedule "agreement to which this Schedule applies...
 - Part II PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS
- 3 (1) Where an agreement to which this Schedule applies contains...
- 4 Where by an agreement to which this Schedule applies, being...
- 5 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3) where, on or after the...
- 6 Where, in the case of an invention, an authority for...
- 7 The authority of the Corporation in respect of an invention...
- 8 (1) The Corporation shall have the power to use, for...
- 9 (1) In relation to any use of a patented invention...
- 10 (1) Any dispute as to the exercise by the Corporation...
- 11 (1) Where, in pursuance of an agreement to which this...
- 12 Expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Patents Act...
 Part III REGISTERED DESIGNS
- 13 (1) Where an agreement to which this Schedule applies contains...
- 14 Where, by an agreement to which this Schedule applies, being...
- 15 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), where, on or after the...
- Where, in the case of a design, an authority for...
- 17 The authority of the Corporation in respect of a design...
- 18 (1) In the case of articles vested in the Corporation...
- 19 (1) In relation to any use of a registered design...
- 20 (1) Any dispute as to the exercise by the Corporation...
- 21 (1) Where, in pursuance of an agreement to which this...
- 22 Expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Registered Designs...

SCHEDULE 6 — ENACTMENTS REPEALED

Part I — ENACTMENTS REPEALED ON THE PASSING OF THIS ACT

Northern Ireland Legislation

Part II — ENACTMENTS REPEALED ON THE APPOINTED DAY

Northern Ireland Legislation

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the British Telecommunications Act 1981.