

*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 1: Functions of Ofcom**

#### ***Section 10: Duty to encourage availability of easily usable apparatus***

42. This section places a duty on OFCOM to take such steps and enter into such arrangements as appear to them calculated to encourage others to secure that domestic electronic communications apparatus (defined in *subsections (4) and (5)*) is developed which is capable of being used without modification by the widest possible range of individuals, including those with disabilities; and to secure that such apparatus is as widely available as possible. OFCOM are also to review from time to time whether they need to take further steps to perform their duty under this section. For example, many users find TV remote controls and similar devices inconvenient to use because the buttons are so small. OFCOM might accordingly assist designers by dissemination of research results, ergonomic advice, etc., which might be helpful in identifying ways to minimise such inconvenience.