



# Communications Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 21

### PART 3

#### TELEVISION AND RADIO SERVICES [F1ETC]

#### <sup>F1F1</sup>CHAPTER 4

#### REGULATORY PROVISIONS

#### *Party political broadcasts on television and radio*

### **333 Party political broadcasts**

- (1) The regulatory regime for every licensed public service channel, and the regulatory regime for every national radio service, includes—
  - (a) conditions requiring the inclusion in that channel or service of party political broadcasts and of referendum campaign broadcasts; and
  - (b) conditions requiring that licence holder to observe such rules with respect to party political broadcasts and referendum campaign broadcasts as may be made by OFCOM.
- (2) The rules made by OFCOM for the purposes of this section may, in particular, include provision for determining—
  - (a) the political parties on whose behalf party political broadcasts may be made;
  - (b) in relation to each political party on whose behalf such broadcasts may be made, the length and frequency of the broadcasts; and
  - (c) in relation to each designated organisation on whose behalf referendum campaign broadcasts are required to be broadcast, the length and frequency of such broadcasts.
- (3) Those rules are to have effect subject to sections 37 and 127 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41) (only registered parties and designated

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**Changes to legislation:** Communications Act 2003, Section 333 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 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](#)

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organisations to be entitled to party political broadcasts or referendum campaign broadcasts).

- (4) Rules made by OFCOM for the purposes of this section may make different provision for different cases.
- (5) Before making any rules for the purposes of this section, OFCOM must have regard to any views expressed by the Electoral Commission.
- (6) In this section—

“designated organisation”, in relation to a referendum, means a person or body designated by the Electoral Commission under section 108 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (c. 41) in respect of that referendum;

“national radio service” means a national service within the meaning of section 245 of this Act; and

“referendum campaign broadcast” has the meaning given by section 127 of that Act.

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**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 333 in force at 29.12.2003 by S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3(1), **Sch. 1** (with art. 11)

**Changes to legislation:**

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**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):

- 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. 368E(5)(d)(e) inserted by [2017 c. 30 s. 94\(3\)](#)
- 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\(1\)](#)