



Broadcasting Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 55

PART I

DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION BROADCASTING

Introductory

1 Multiplex services and digital programme services.

[^{F1}(1) In this Part “multiplex service” means (except where the context otherwise requires) a television multiplex service.]

^{F2}(1A)

^{F2}(2)

^{F2}(3)

(4) In this Part “digital programme service” means a service consisting in the provision by any person of television programmes (together with any ancillary services, as defined by section 24(2)) with a view to their being broadcast in digital form [^{F3}so as to be available for reception by members of the public] , whether by him or by some other person, but does not include—

- (a) a qualifying service,
- (b) a teletext service, or
- (c) any service in the case of which the visual images to be broadcast do not consist wholly or mainly of images capable of being seen as moving pictures, except, in the case of a service falling within paragraph (b) or (c), to the extent that it is an ancillary service.

[^{F4}(4A) In subsection (4), “available for reception by members of the public” means available for reception by members of the public (within the meaning of Part 3 of the Communications Act 2003) in the United Kingdom or another EEA State, or in an area of the United Kingdom or of such a State.]

Status: Point in time view as at 29/12/2003.

Changes to legislation: Broadcasting Act 1996, Cross Heading: Introductory 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)

- (5) The Secretary of State may, if having regard to developments in broadcasting technology he considers it appropriate to do so, by order amend the definition of “digital programme service” in subsection (4).
- (6) No order under subsection (5) shall be made unless a draft of the order has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

[^{F5}(7) In this section “broadcast” means broadcast otherwise than from a satellite.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(1) substituted (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 15 para. 74\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)
- F2** S. 1(1A)-(3) repealed (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 19\(1\) Note 1](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 1(4) substituted (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 15 para. 74\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)
- F4** S. 1(4A) substituted (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 15 para. 74\(4\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)
- F5** S. 1(7) substituted (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 15 para. 74\(5\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 1: transfer of functions (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 1 para. 3\(a\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)
- C2** Pt. 1 modified (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), ss. 215\(10\)\(c\), 411\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)
- C3** Pt. 1 modified (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), ss. 241\(1\), 411\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)

2 Meaning of “independent analogue broadcaster” and “qualifying service”.

[^{F6}(1)]

[^{F7}(2) In this Part “qualifying service” means any of the following, so far as they are provided with a view to their being broadcast in digital form—

- (a) a television broadcasting service included in Channel 3;
- (b) Channel 4;
- (c) Channel 5;
- (d) S4C Digital;
- (e) a television programme service provided by the Welsh Authority with the approval of the Secretary of State under section 205 of the Communications Act 2003;
- (f) the digital public teletext service.]

[^{F8}(7)]

Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 2(1) repealed (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\), s. 411\(2\), Sch. 19\(1\) Note 1](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3\(1\), Sch. 1 \(with art. 11\)](#)

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- F7** S. 2(2) substituted for s. 2(2)-(6) (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 411(2), [Sch. 15 para. 75](#) (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142](#), art. 3(1), [Sch. 1](#) (with art. 11)
- F8** S. 2(6)(7) repealed (29.12.2003) by [Communications Act 2003 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 411(2), [Sch. 19\(1\)](#) Note 1 (with [Sch. 18](#)); [S.I. 2003/3142](#), art. 3(1), [Sch. 1](#) (with art. 11)

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 2 wholly in force at 1.10.1996; s. 2 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 149; s. 2 in force force certain purposes at 15.9.1996 and wholly in force at 1.10.1996 by [S.I. 1996/2120](#), art. 4, [Sch. 1](#)

Status:

Point in time view as at 29/12/2003.

Changes to legislation:

Broadcasting Act 1996, Cross Heading: Introductory 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.