

COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 1: Functions of Ofcom

Section 21: Advisory committee on elderly and disabled persons

64. This section places OFCOM under a duty to exercise their powers under paragraph 14 of the Schedule to the Office of Communications Act 2002 to establish and maintain a committee to provide advice on the interests in relation to communications matters of elderly persons and of persons with disabilities.

**Communications matters* has the same meaning as in section 3.

65. *Subsections (2) and (3)* require each committee to be comprised of a chairman, appointed by OFCOM, and such number of other members as OFCOM think fit. In making the appointments, OFCOM must have regard to the desirability of ensuring that the members of the committee include persons who are familiar with the needs of the elderly and of persons who are familiar with the needs of persons with disabilities.
66. Under *subsections (5) and (6)*, should the Consumer Panel so request, the committee may also, with the consent of OFCOM, provide advice to the Consumer Panel on the interests of the elderly and of persons with disabilities.