



Communications Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 21

PART 3

TELEVISION AND RADIO SERVICES [F¹ETC]

CHAPTER 3

REGULATORY STRUCTURE FOR INDEPENDENT RADIO SERVICES

Radio licensable content services

248 Services that are not radio licensable content services

- (1) A service is not a radio licensable content service to the extent that—
 - (a) it is provided with a view to its being broadcast by means of a multiplex service;
 - (b) it is a sound broadcasting service to which subsection (3) of section 245 applies; or
 - (c) it is comprised in a television licensable content service.
- (2) A service is not a radio licensable content service to the extent that it is provided by means of an electronic communications service if—
 - (a) it forms part only of a service provided by means of that electronic communications service or is one of a number of services access to which is made available by means of a service so provided; and
 - (b) the service of which it forms part, or by which it may be accessed, is provided for purposes that do not consist wholly or mainly in making available services of radio programmes or television programmes (or both) for reception by members of the public.
- (3) A service is not a radio licensable content service if it is a two-way service.

Changes to legislation: *Communications Act 2003, Section 248 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 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*

- (4) A service is a two-way service for the purposes of subsection (3) if it is provided by means of an electronic communications network and an essential feature of the service is that the purposes for which it is provided involve the use of that network, or a part of it, both—
- (a) for the transmission of sounds by the person providing the service to users of the service; and
 - (b) for the transmission of sounds by those users for reception by the person providing the service or by other users of the service.
- (5) A service is not a radio licensable content service if—
- (a) it is distributed by means of an electronic communications network only to persons all of whom are on a single set of premises; and
 - (b) that network is wholly within those premises and is not connected to an electronic communications network any part of which is outside those premises.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (5)—
- (a) a set of premises is a single set of premises if, and only if, the same person is the occupier of all the premises; and
 - (b) two or more vehicles are capable of constituting a single set of premises if, and only if, they are coupled together.
- (7) A service is not a radio licensable content service if it is provided for the purpose only of being received by persons who have qualified as users of the service by reason of being—
- (a) persons who have a business interest in the programmes included in the service; or
 - (b) persons who are to receive the programmes for the purpose only of allowing them to be listened to by persons falling within sub-paragraph (a) or by persons all of whom are on the business premises of the person receiving them.
- (8) For the purposes of subsection (7) a person has a business interest in programmes if he has an interest in receiving or listening to them—
- (a) for the purposes of a business carried on by him; or
 - (b) for the purposes of his employment.
- (9) In this section—
- “business premises”, in relation to a person, means premises at or from which any business of that person is carried on;
- “multiplex service” means a television multiplex service, a radio multiplex service or a general multiplex service;
- “premises” includes a vehicle;
- “vehicle” includes a vessel, aircraft or hovercraft.
- (10) References in this section, in relation to a person, to a business include references to—
- (a) any business or other activities carried on by a body of which he is a member and the affairs of which are managed by its members; and
 - (b) the carrying out of any functions conferred on that person, or on any such body, by or under any enactment.

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Commencement Information

II S. 248 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\(1\)](#)