

Last updated 14.01.20

UNITED KINGDOM



Name of Regulatory Authority **OFCOM**  
Address Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA  
Phone 020 7981 3000  
Fax 020 7981 3333  
E-mail [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)  
Homepage [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

**Basis for operation**

Legal framework 2003 Communications Act

General remit  TV  radio  networks and infrastructures  
 competition

Funding mechanisms <sup>i</sup>  licence fee  industry fee  state budget  
 mixed funding (please specify):  
 other (please specify):

**Board Composition**

Number of members: 9 Term of office: years Re-election possible:   
Proposal of members: <please describe the procedure>

Appointment of members: *6 are appointed by the secretaries of state for Trade and Industry and for Culture Media and Sport. Those 6 then appoint the other 3 members from the staff of Ofcom including the Chief Executive.*

Revocation of mandate possible:  based on: <please state the possible reasons for revocation of the mandate>

Number of staff: Approx 700

Chairperson: Lord Terry Burns  
Chief Executive Officer: Melanie Dawes

More information about Ofcom’s structure can be found here: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/about/csg/>

**Competences**

	national	regional	local
Granting of licences	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
terrestrial digital broadcasters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
satellite analogue broadcasters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
satellite digital broadcasters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cable analogue broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
cable digital broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
others(please specify):			
radio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
telecoms			
in the areas where your authority is not competent to grant licences, please specify the authority in charge:			
Please add any other relevant information:			

Granting of registrations	terrestrial analogue broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	terrestrial digital broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	satellite analogue broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	satellite digital broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	cable analogue broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	cable digital broadcasters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	others(please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
in the areas where your authority is not competent to grant declarations, please specify the authority in charge:				
Please add any other relevant information:				

Frequency allocation

Supervision of	private broadcasters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	public broadcasters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Others telecoms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Handling complaints

Sanctioning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> issue warning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> impose fine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> demand to broadcast announcement
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> revoke licence	<input type="checkbox"/> suspend licence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> reduction in the licensing period
	<input type="checkbox"/> suspend a programme / broadcast		
	<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify): direction not to repeat an item		

Rule making  codes  rules (please specify):  
 other (please specify):

Consultative powers  please specify the areas covered: special advisory groups exist for consumers, different nations and the English regions, disabled and elderly people, and religion.

Power of nomination  please specify:  
(e.g. chairman of  
PSB)

Monitoring  programming  
 financial performance  
 others (please specify): competition

others  Please specify:

Please add any information you deem important:

**More information about Ofcom's role can be found at <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/about/sdrp/>**

---

<sup>i</sup> By "licence fee" we refer to the public service licence fee usually paid by the entire population, whereas the term "industry fee" implies all those funding mechanisms based on a contribution from broadcasters themselves, including, for example, licensing fees (i.e. an amount of money that is paid by the broadcaster for it to be able to carry out its broadcasting operations) and frequency taxes.