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Edited by

IAN WALDEN

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Preface

The origins of this book lie in a LLM course in Telecommunications Law, for which I became responsible when I joined the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, at Queen Mary University of London in 1992, and still teach today. One problem faced by our students in those early days was the lack of a suitable textbook, as those targeted at the professional adviser market were priced appropriately. The first edition, published by Blackstone in 2001, was the affordable and accessible single work that we felt was missing in the market. The publication of the second edition, in 2005, was by Oxford University Press. For the third edition, in 2009, my co-editor, John Angel, stepped down from the role due to other commitments. I would like to record my thanks to John for his invaluable input to this project. The fourth edition was published in 2012.

This fifth edition substantially updates the fourth edition. In terms of new material, all the chapters have changed significantly, reflecting the ongoing legal and regulatory developments occurring in the sector. While no new chapters were required, we welcome some new authors and remain immensely grateful to all the contributors for their input. The organization of the book remains structured into six parts: Fundamentals; Regulatory Regimes; Key Regulatory Issues; Telecommunications Transactions; Communications Content; and International Regulatory Regimes.

The telecommunications sector continues to be of strategic importance to states, both as an activity in its own right as well as an infrastructure over which trade is carried out. Rapid technological and market developments confront the legal frameworks that are designed to regulate the sector, challenging legislators, regulators, and advisers. This book attempts, but inevitably fails, to keep up with such developments and the challenges they generate. While the law should be correct up to January 2018, we have managed to sneak some amendments in up until June 2018.

Professor Ian Walden
Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary, University of London
Of Counsel, Baker McKenzie
June 2018

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Reviews of the previous edition

"The contributions, which are written by practitioners in the field, are tightly written. This work will be of great interest to practitioners."

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