

British Broadcasting Corporation (Privatisation) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Make provision for the privatisation of the British Broadcasting Corporation; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Transfer of property etc. of the British Broadcasting Corporation

- (1) Within one year of this Act coming into force, the Secretary of State must specify a date (“the transfer date”) on which the all the property, rights and liabilities of the British Broadcasting Corporation (“the BBC”) shall, by virtue of this section, become the property, rights and liabilities a limited company established by the Secretary of State for that purpose (“the successor company”). 5
- (2) The transfer date must be a day no later than 1 April 2028.
- (3) This section applies to all property, rights and liabilities of the BBC, whether or not they are capable of being transferred or assigned by the BBC, and whether they are located in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. 10

2 Shareholders of the successor company

- (1) The Secretary of State must arrange for ownership of the successor company to be transferred to its shareholders, in the form of shares, within one week of the transfer date. 15
- (2) Every person who holds a TV licence on the transfer date, and who has held a TV licence (whether or not it is the same licence) continuously for the period of one year before the transfer date, shall be a shareholder of the successor company.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, the Secretary of State may not— 20
 - (a) issue shares in the successor company to any person other than a person specified in subsection (2), or
 - (b) retain any shares in the successor company.

3 Repeal of Royal Charter

Any Royal Charter for the establishment or continuance of the BBC then in force shall be repealed on the transfer date.

4 Consequential provision

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument make amendments consequential on the provisions of this Act to Part 4 of the Communications Act 2003 (Licensing of TV reception). 5
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make further provision consequential on the provisions of this Act.
- (3) The power to make regulations under subsections (1) and (2) may (among other things) be exercised by modifying any provision made by or under an enactment. 10
- (4) Regulations under this section –
 - (a) may make transitional and saving provision;
 - (b) may not be made unless a draft of them has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament. 15

5 Commencement, extent and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed. 20
- (3) This Act may be cited as the British Broadcasting Corporation (Privatisation) Act 2023.

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Presented by Sir Christopher Chope

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