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Telecommunications Law and Regulation

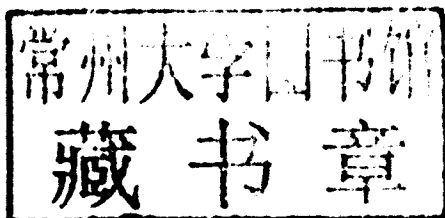
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Fourth Edition

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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 since its inception.

This fourth edition substantially updates and extends the scope of the third edition. In terms of new material, all the chapters have again changed and grown significantly, reflecting the ongoing legal and regulatory developments occurring in the sector. New chapters have been included on Spectrum Management (Flanagan), Consumer Protection (Newman), Convergence (Mac Sithigh), and Content Control (Marsden); although, for reasons of space, certain other chapters have had to be dropped. 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 2012, the issues discussed will continue to occupy law students and professional advisers in the coming years.

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