

### FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION: TIMETABLE AND INTERDEPENDENCIES

The following table is *indicative* and based on current information. *It is neither a prediction nor a target* and timings are subject to *considerable uncertainty* depending on factors such as the timing of the EU directives, Ministers' decisions on the future legislative programme, availability of Parliamentary time and the progress of the legislation.

	2001	2002				2003			
	<i>q4</i>	<i>q1</i>	<i>q2</i>	<i>q3</i>	<i>q4</i>	<i>q1</i>	<i>q2</i>	<i>q3</i>	<i>q4</i>
Ofcom Bill – <i>establishes Ofcom to prepare for assumption of powers and responsibilities</i>	Introduced into Lords, completes Lords stages	Second reading in Commons, Royal Assent	Ofcom chairman appointed	Ofcom board appointed - preparations for assuming powers and responsibilities					
EU electronic communications directives	Directives agreed	Directives enter into force 20 days after adoption (anticipated late February) - preparation for implementation 15 months after entry into force (anticipated late May 2003)				Implement by Comms Bill or SI depending on timing			
Spectrum Management Review	Reports end-January	Government formulates response and takes into account in finalising Communications Bill							
Introduction of spectrum trading	Directives will permit trading at MS's discretion after implementation	Consultation on details of introduction of spectrum trading						Spectrum trading roll-out commences	
Communications Bill – <i>transfers powers to Ofcom, sets out duties etc</i>		Draft Bill published “in the spring”	Consultation on Bill – possible pre-legislative scrutiny	Introduction into Parliament	Passage through Parliament	Royal Assent	Ofcom operational		