



Transport Act 1968

1968 CHAPTER 73

PART VIII

BRIDGES, LEVEL CROSSINGS, ETC.

Bridges

116 Transfer of responsibility for maintenance of highways on bridges over Boards' railways, inland waterways, etc.

- (1) Where a highway is carried by a bridge over one or more of the following, that is to say, a railway of the Railways Board, a railway of the London Board, an inland waterway of the Waterways Board or any other installation or land used by any of those Boards in connection with a railway or inland waterway, and immediately before the appointed day—
- (a) the Board or Boards concerned are responsible for maintaining the highway carried by the bridge, or that highway together with the highway giving access to the bridge; and
 - (b) the highway at each end—
 - (i) of the bridge ; or
 - (ii) if the Board or Boards are also responsible for maintaining the highway giving access to the bridge, of the bridge and any such highway,
- is a highway maintainable at the public expense,
- the highway carried by the bridge, together with any such highway as is mentioned in paragraph (b)(ii) of this subsection, shall on that day become a highway maintainable at the public expense.
- (2) Any agreement between any of the Boards mentioned in subsection (1) of this section and a highway authority, so far as it provides for that authority to carry out after the appointed day, at the expense of the Board, any maintenance for which the Board cease to be responsible by virtue of that subsection, shall cease to have effect on that day.

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- (3) Where by virtue of any agreement or order made before the appointed day—
- (a) a highway authority is responsible for maintaining the highway carried by or giving access to a bridge such as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section; and
 - (b) but for that agreement or order, any of the Boards mentioned in that subsection would by virtue thereof have ceased to be responsible for maintaining that highway on that day,
- that Board shall not by virtue of that agreement or order be liable to make to that highway authority in respect of the maintenance of that highway any annual or other periodical payment (not being an instalment of a lump sum) which falls due after that day.
- (4) Where paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of this section are not satisfied immediately before the appointed day in the case of any such bridge as is mentioned in that subsection, or such a bridge as aforesaid is constructed after that day, then, if those paragraphs are satisfied in the case of that bridge on any subsequent day, the highway carried by the bridge, together with any highway giving access to the bridge for the maintenance of which the Board or Boards concerned are also responsible, shall on that subsequent day become a highway maintainable at the public expense.
- (5) A highway which by virtue of this section on any day becomes a highway maintainable at the public expense shall—
- (a) if and so far as it is in any county, be a county road if on that day the highway at one or both ends of it is in relation to that county a county road; and
 - (b) if and so far as it is in a non-county borough or urban district, be a claimed county road if on that day the highway at one or both ends of it is in relation to that borough or district a claimed county road ;
- but this subsection shall be without prejudice to any provision by virtue of which a highway may at any time cease to be a county road or a claimed county road.
- (6) This section shall not affect the responsibility of any of the Boards for the maintenance of any part of a bridge or its approaches other than the surface of the highway, and a highway authority—
- (a) shall not by virtue of this section be under any duty to make good, or incur any liability by reason of, any defect in the surface of the highway so far as attributable to the failure of any of the Boards to discharge that responsibility;
 - (b) shall permit the Board or Boards concerned to carry out on or in relation to the surface of the highway any works reasonably required to be carried out by them for discharging that responsibility or for inspecting, maintaining or altering any apparatus of the Board or Boards incorporated in or attached to the bridge; and
 - (c) shall not, without the consent of the Board or Boards concerned, increase to a significant extent the weight of the materials constituting the surface of the highway.
- (7) Nothing in this section shall affect any liability incurred by any of the Boards by reason of any act or omission in relation to any highway before the day on which they cease by virtue of this section to be responsible for its maintenance.

117 Duty of Boards as respects bridges carrying highways

- (1) This section applies to any bridge which—

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- (a) carries a highway over one or more of the following that is to say, a railway of the Railways Board, a railway of the London Board, an inland waterway of the Waterways Board or any other installation or land used by any of those Boards in connection with a railway or inland waterway ; and
 - (b) belongs to the Board or Boards whose railway, water way, installation or land is crossed by the bridge.
- (2) It shall be the duty of each of the Boards mentioned in subsection (1) of this section—
- (a) in constructing a bridge which, on completion, will belong to the Board and be a bridge to which this section applies, or in reconstructing a bridge which belongs to the Board and to which this section applies, to secure that it has the required load-bearing capacity ;
 - (b) to maintain and, if necessary, to improve or strengthen any bridge which belongs to the Board and to which this section applies so that it has the required load-bearing capacity, and, if at any time it is not reasonably practicable to secure that it has that capacity by means of maintenance, improvement or strengthening, to reconstruct the bridge or to replace it by a new bridge.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) of this section a bridge has the required load-bearing capacity—
- (a) in the case of a bridge in relation to which load-bearing standards are prescribed by an order made by the appropriate Minister, if it complies with those standards; and
 - (b) in the case of any other bridge, if it is such as to be capable of bearing the weight of the traffic which ordinarily uses, or may reasonably be expected to use, the highway carried by the bridge on or about the day on which this section comes into force in relation to bridges of the Board concerned or, if the bridge is constructed subsequently, when it is opened for traffic.
- (4) An order made for the purposes of subsection (3)(a) of this section—
- (a) may prescribe standards for a particular bridge or for any class or description of bridges;
 - (b) may, in prescribing standards for a particular bridge or for any class or description of bridges, at the same time prescribe different standards for any bridge or bridges resulting from the reconstruction or replacement of that bridge or of any of those bridges;
 - (c) may prescribe standards by reference to any document published by the British Standards Institution, any government department or any other body or authority, and provide that where standards are prescribed as aforesaid any question as to the requirements to be fulfilled by a particular bridge in order to comply with those standards shall be determined, in case of dispute, by a certificate of the appropriate Minister;
 - (d) shall not, so long as a bridge is not reconstructed or replaced, be such as to require the bridge to comply with standards higher than those prescribed in relation thereto by a previous order under this section.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b) of this section, no account shall be taken of any traffic which cannot use the highway carried by the bridge in question without infringing a prohibition for the time being in force under section 1, 6, 12 or 17 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967.
- (6) The requirements of this section shall be in addition to, and, so far as inconsistent therewith, shall prevail over, any requirements applicable to the bridge in question

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under section 46, 50, 51, 52, or 66 of the Railways Clauses Consolidation Act 1845, section 39, 43, 44, 45, or 58 of the Railways Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1845 or under any similar enactment.

- (7) In subsection (2) of this section references to a bridge being constructed by or belonging to a Board include references to its being constructed by or belonging to any two or more of the Boards mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, and in any such case the duties imposed by the said subsection (2) shall be duties of both or all of those Boards.
- (8) In this section " the appropriate Minister" means, as respects bridges in England, the Minister and as respects bridges in Scotland or Wales, the Secretary of State.

118 Duty of highway authorities, etc., as respects bridges over Boards' railways or inland waterways

- (1) This section applies to any bridge, including a bridge constructed after the day on which this section comes into force, which—
- (a) carries a highway over one or more of the following, that is to say, a railway of the Railways Board, a railway of the London Board or an inland waterway of the Waterways Board; and
 - (b) belongs to the Minister, the Secretary of State, a local highway authority or some other person not being the Board or Boards whose railway or waterway is crossed by the bridge.
- (2) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) of this section, it shall be the duty of the person to whom a bridge to which this section applies belongs (in this section referred to as " the owner") to maintain it in such a condition that it is not a source of danger to, and does not interfere with, or require any restriction to be placed on, the traffic from time to time using the railway or inland waterway crossed by the bridge.
- (3) Any of the said Boards whose railway or inland waterway is crossed by a bridge to which this section applies (in this section referred to as " the relevant Board ") shall be entitled at all reasonable times to inspect and survey that bridge and for that purpose to place on or against it such apparatus as may be reasonably required; and subject to subsection (5) of this section, the Board may—
- (a) at any time serve on the owner a notice requiring him to carry out, within such reasonable time as may be specified in the notice, any works so specified which are required to maintain the bridge in, or to restore it to, the condition mentioned in subsection (2) of this section; and
 - (b) if all or any of those works are not satisfactorily carried out by the owner in accordance with the notice, themselves carry out all or any of those works and recover the reasonable expenses of so doing from the owner;
- and, if, in the opinion of the Board, it is necessary so to do by reason of the urgency of the matter, the Board may, without giving any such notice, themselves carry out any works which are required as aforesaid and, subject to subsection (5) of this section, recover the reasonable expenses of so doing from the owner.
- (4) The relevant Board shall afford to the owner of a bridge to which this section applies such access to land occupied by them as he may reasonably require for maintaining the bridge in, or restoring it to, the condition mentioned in subsection (2) of this section, except that the Board shall not be obliged to afford access for any works the carrying out of which would, in the opinion of the Board, involve danger to or interference with,

- or require any restriction to be placed on, traffic using the railway or inland waterway crossed by the bridge, and where the Board refuse access as aforesaid—
- (a) the owner of the bridge shall not by virtue of subsection (2) of this section be under any duty to carry out those works; but
 - (b) the Board may themselves carry out those works and, subject to subsection (5) of this section, recover the reasonable expenses of so doing from the owner.
- (5) The owner of a bridge shall not by virtue of the foregoing provisions of this section be under any duty to carry out or pay for works for making good any defect—
- (a) caused by the withdrawal of support from land in connection with the working or getting of minerals or with brine pumping ; or
 - (b) for which the relevant Board are themselves responsible ;
- but nothing in this subsection shall affect any agreement between the owner of the bridge and the relevant Board and, subject to any such agreement, the relevant Board shall be entitled to carry out any works which are required to make good any such defect as aforesaid.
- (6) The owner of any bridge to which this section applies shall afford to the relevant Board such access to land occupied by him as they may reasonably require for exercising their powers under this section; but the Board shall not claim such access as of right unless they have given the owner not less than seven days previous notice in writing stating the purpose of the proposed entry, except that they shall not be obliged to give such a notice if, in their opinion, it is impracticable to do so by reason of the urgency of the matter, in which case they shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable (before or after they enter the land) for informing the owner of the purpose of the entry.
- (7) Where, in exercising their powers under this section in relation to any bridge, a Board cause damage to the bridge or to any land occupied by the owner of the bridge, they shall pay to the owner such compensation as may be just.
- (8) The duty imposed by subsection (2) of this section on the owner of a bridge shall be in addition to any duty of the owner to maintain the bridge which arises under any other enactment or any order or agreement passed or made before the day on which this section comes into force or the date on which the bridge became a bridge to which this section applies, as the case may be; and, if under any such enactment, order or agreement there are subsisting as between the owner and the relevant Board any rights or liabilities as respects the making of payments in connection with the maintenance of the bridge, those rights and liabilities may be abrogated or modified by agreement between them or, in default of agreement, on the application of either of them, by arbitration.
- (9) Any dispute arising out of this section between the owner of a bridge and a Board shall be referred to arbitration, but this subsection—
- (a) shall be without prejudice to any provision of this section whereby any matter is to be determined by the opinion of a Board; and
 - (b) shall not preclude the carrying out by a Board of any works pending the determination of any arbitration proceedings.
- (10) The provisions of this section shall have effect in relation to any bridge subject to any agreement made between the owner of the bridge and the relevant Board after the date on which those provisions became applicable to the bridge.
- (11) Where any cable, pipe or other apparatus is incorporated in or attached to a bridge to which this section applies, then—

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- (a) if the apparatus belongs to the owner of the bridge, it shall be treated for the purposes of this section as forming part of the bridge; and
- (b) if the apparatus belongs to some other person, the provisions of subsections (2) to (10) of this section shall have effect in relation to the apparatus and to that person as they have effect in relation to a bridge to which this section applies and to the owner of such a bridge;

but none of the said Boards shall by virtue of this subsection interfere with the use of any such apparatus for providing any supply or service if the apparatus is so used by its owner under statutory powers and he has not consented to that interference.

- (12) Nothing in this section shall be taken as authorising any person to interfere with traffic lawfully using any bridge, or as authorising the disregard of any of the provisions of the Public Utilities Street Works Act 1950.

119 Ending of liability of Boards to make payments on being relieved of responsibility for bridges carrying trunk or special roads

- (1) Where after the appointed day any bridge belonging to the Railways Board, the London Board or the Waterways Board is transferred to the Minister or the Secretary of State under section 229 of the Highways Act 1959 or section 7 of the Trunk Roads Act 1946 (bridges carrying highways which become trunk roads) or to a special road authority by an order made by virtue of section 230 of the said Act of 1959 or section 8 of the Special Roads Act 1949 (bridges carrying highways which are included in special road schemes), the Board—
 - (a) shall not be liable under the provisions of section 58(2) of the said Act of 1959, section 7(3) of the said Act of 1946 or section 8(2) of the said Act of 1949, to pay any sum in respect of the value to the Board of the extinguishment of their liability for the maintenance, repair or improvement of the bridge or the highway carried thereby; but
 - (b) shall not be entitled to receive under section 229(3) or 230(2) of the said Act of 1959 or the said section 7(3) or 8(2) any sum in respect of the value to them of the bridge as an asset productive of revenue except to the extent (if any) by which that sum exceeds the sum which, apart from paragraph (a) of this subsection, the Board would be liable to pay under the provisions mentioned in that paragraph.
- (2) None of the Boards mentioned in subsection (1) of this section shall be liable to pay any instalment or make any annual payment under the provisions mentioned in paragraph (a) of that subsection if the obligation to pay that instalment or to make that payment arises from the transfer of any bridge before the appointed day and that instalment or payment falls due after that day.

120 Minimum height for bridge parapets

- (1) The Minister may by order prescribe a minimum height for the parapets of any specified bridge carrying a road over a railway or of any class or description of such bridges, and it shall be the duty of the person who constructs any bridge to which such an order applies, or, if the bridge is already in existence, who is responsible for maintaining it, to secure that it has parapets of a height not less than that prescribed by the order.
- (2) Any bridge having parapets of a height not less than that for the time being prescribed for that bridge by an order under this section shall be deemed to comply with any

requirements as to the height of those parapets imposed by or under section 50 or 66 of the Railways Clauses Consolidation Act 1845, section 43 or 58 of the Railways Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1845 or any similar enactment.

- (3) It is hereby declared that an order may be made under this section in respect of any such bridge as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section notwithstanding that it carries a highway for which the Minister or the Secretary of State is the highway authority.

121 Application of foregoing sections to undertakers other than Railways Board, London Board and Waterways Board

- (1) In the foregoing sections of this Part of this Act any reference to the Railways Board, the London Board or the Waterways Board includes a reference to any subsidiary of that Board; and sections 116 and 117 of this Act, so far as they relate to installations and land used in connection with a railway, shall apply to the Freight Corporation and any subsidiary of that Corporation as they apply to any of those Boards.
- (2) The Minister may by order apply—
- (a) all or any of the provisions of section 116 or 117 of this Act to bridges over railways or inland waterways of persons other than the Boards mentioned in those sections or their subsidiaries, or over installations or land used in connection with a railway or inland waterway by persons other than those Boards or subsidiaries, the Freight Corporation or the subsidiaries of that Corporation;
 - (b) all or any of the provisions of section 118 of this Act to bridges over railways or inland waterways of persons other than the Boards mentioned in that section or their subsidiaries.
- (3) An order under subsection (2) of this section may make such modifications in the provisions applied by it, and in any other enactment or instrument relating to the bridge, railway, inland waterway, installation or land to which it relates, as appear to the Minister to be appropriate.
- (4) An order under the Light Railways Act 1896 may make provision for any matter for which provision can be made by an order made under subsection (2) of this section in relation to a railway or to any installation or land used in connection with a railway.
- (5) Before making an order under subsection (2) of this section or by virtue of subsection (4) thereof, the Minister shall consult with the highway authority concerned (unless he is himself that authority); and, before making an order under the said subsection (2), the Minister shall consult with the owner of the railway, inland waterway, installation or land concerned.
- (6) Where an order made under subsection (2) or by virtue of subsection (4) of this section applies all or any of the provisions of section 117 of this Act to any bridge to which that section has not at any previous time applied, paragraphs 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 of Schedule 11 to the Highways Act 1959 (which relate to the apportionment of expenses) shall apply in relation to that bridge as if—
- (a) the provisions of the said section 117 so applied were an order to which the said paragraph 15 applies; and
 - (b) the bridge were such a bridge as is mentioned in the said paragraph 15 ; and
 - (c) the highway authorities referred to in those paragraphs of the said Schedule 11 were the highway authority or highway authorities for the highway carried by the bridge;

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but if the order made as aforesaid also applies to the bridge all or any of the provisions of section 116 of this Act and the highway carried by or giving access to the bridge has under the provisions of the said section 116 so applied become a highway maintainable at the public expense instead of by the owners of the bridge, then, for the purposes of paragraph (iii) of the proviso to the said paragraph 15, the share of the expense there referred to of those owners shall be increased by an amount equivalent to the amount of any saving to those owners, in consequence of those provisions of the said section 116, of expense in maintaining that highway.

- (7) In the application of the last foregoing subsection to Scotland, references therein to paragraphs 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 of Schedule 11 to the Highways Act 1959 and to paragraph (iii) of the proviso to the said paragraph 15 shall be construed as references to the following provisions respectively of the Bridges Act 1929, namely, sections 6(1), 6(2), 6(3), 7(2) and 15(b) and paragraph (c) of the proviso to the said section 6(1).
- (8) In subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and in subsection (5) thereof so far as it relates to subsection (2), references to the Minister shall, as respects bridges in Scotland or Wales, be construed as references to the Secretary of State.

122 Interpretation of sections 116 to 121

- (1) Where a railway or an inland waterway passes under a highway by means of a tunnel, or runs in a cutting over which a highway is superimposed, the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act (except sections 119 and 120) shall, so far as applicable and subject to any necessary modifications, have effect in relation to the highway as if it were carried by a bridge and to the structure of the tunnel or, as the case may be, the structure by means of which the highway is superimposed as aforesaid, as if that structure were a bridge.
- (2) In sections 116, 117 and 120 of this Act, and in section 121 thereof so far as it relates to the said sections 116 and 117, references to a railway include references to a railway which has ceased to carry any traffic and to the site of a railway from which the track has been removed.
- (3) In sections 117 and 118 of this Act, and in section 121 thereof so far as it relates to those sections, references to a bridge include references to any abutments or other parts of a bridge and, if the person to whom the bridge belongs is responsible for the maintenance thereof—
 - (a) to the surface of the highway carried by, or giving access to, the bridge;
 - (b) to any embankment, retaining wall or other work or substance supporting or protecting the surface of that highway.
- (4) In the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act, and in this section, references to a highway do not include references to a waterway.