



Competition Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 21

An Act to abolish the Price Commission; to make provision for the control of anti-competitive practices in the supply and acquisition of goods and the supply and securing of services; to provide for references of certain public bodies and other persons to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission; to provide for the investigation of prices and charges by the Director General of Fair Trading; to provide for the making of grants to certain bodies; to amend and provide for the amendment of the Fair Trading Act 1973; to make amendments with respect to the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976; to repeal the remaining provisions of the Counter-Inflation Act 1973; and for purposes connected therewith. [3rd April 1980]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Act excluded by [Financial Services Act 1986](#) (c. 60, SIF 69), ss. 126(1), 140, Sch. 11 paras. 12(1)(2), [36\(2\)](#)
- C2 Act amended by [Electricity Act 1989](#) (c. 29, SIF 44:1), [s. 100\(1\)](#); by [Companies Act 1989](#) (c. 40, SIF 27), s. 47(1), [Sch. 14 para. 10\(1\)\(2\)](#) and by S.I. 1990/593, art. 49(1), [Sch. 14 para. 10\(1\)](#)
Act amended (1.4.1996) by S.I. 1996/593, reg. 2, [Sch. 1](#)
- C3 Act modified (E.W.) (1.11.1991) by [New Roads and Street Works Act 1991](#) (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), [ss. 10\(1\)\(b\), 12\(4\)](#) (with s. 25(2)); S.I. 1991/2288, [art. 3](#), Sch.
- C4 Act modified (S.) (21.10.1991) by [New Roads and Street Works Act 1991](#) (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), [s. 33\(1\)\(b\)](#) (with s. 47(4)); S.I. 1991/2286, art. 2, [Sch. 1](#)
- C5 Act: power to apply conferred (E.W.) (1.12.1991) by [Water Industry Act 1991](#) (c. 56, SIF 130), [ss. 12\(5\), 223\(2\)](#) (with [ss. 82\(3\), 186\(1\), 222\(1\)](#), Sch 14 para. 6)
- C6 Act: definitions applied (E.W.) (1.12.1991) by [Water Industry Act 1991](#) (c. 56, SIF 130), [ss. 17\(4\), 31\(9\), 223\(2\)](#) (with [ss. 82\(3\), 186\(1\), 222\(1\)](#), Sch. 14 para. 6)
- C7 Act modified (17.2.1994) by S.I. 1993/3160 (N.I. 15), [art. 32\(1\)\(b\)](#).
Act modified (3.1.1995) by 1994 c. 40, ss. 12(7), 82(2), [Sch. 4 paras. 5-8](#)
- C8 Act applied (1.3.1996) by 1986 c. 44, [s. 27\(6\)](#) (as substituted (1.3.1996) by 1995 c. 45, s. 10(1), [Sch. 3 para. 25](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#))
Act applied (1.3.1996) by 1986 c. 44, [s. 36A\(9\)](#) (as inserted (1.3.1996) by 1995 c. 45, s. 10(1), [Sch. 3 para. 43](#); S.I. 1996/218, [art. 2](#))
Act applied (N.I.) (10.6.1996) by S.I. 1996/275 (N.I. 2), [art. 18\(5\)](#) (with Sch. 7 paras. 2, 3(2)); S.R. 1996/216, [art. 2](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 20/06/2003.

Changes to legislation: Competition Act 1980 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

C9 Act extended (N.I.) (10.6.1996) by S.I. 1996/275 (N.I. 2), **art. 23(8)** (with Sch. 7 paras. 2, 3(2)); S.R. 1996/216, **art. 2**

Commencement Information

I1 Act not in force at Royal Assent see s. 33(5); Act wholly in force at 12.8.1980

1 **F1**

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 1 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. II** Group 2

Control of anti-competitive practices

F2 2 **F2**

Textual Amendments

F2 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I.2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F3 **F3**

Textual Amendments

F3 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F4 **F4**

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F5 **F5**

Textual Amendments

F5 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, **art. 2, Sch.**

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F66

Textual Amendments

F6 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F77

Textual Amendments

F7 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F88

Textual Amendments

F8 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F99

Textual Amendments

F9 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F1010

Textual Amendments

F10 Ss. 2-10 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 17, 74(3), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

Further references and investigations

11 References of public bodies and certain other persons to the Commission.

(1) The Secretary of State may at any time refer to the Commission any question relating to—

(a) the efficiency and costs of, [^{F11}or]

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- (b) the service provided by, ^{F12}...
- ^{F12}(c)
- a person falling within subsection (3) below and specified in the reference, including any question whether, in relation to a matter falling within [^{F13}paragraph (a) or (b)] above, the person is pursuing a course of conduct which operates against the public interest.
- ^{F14}(2)
- (3) The persons referred to in subsection (1) above are—
- (a) any body corporate—
- (i) which supplies goods or services by way of business,
- (ii) the affairs of which are managed by its members, and
- (iii) the members of which hold office as such by virtue of their appointment to that or another office by a Minister under any enactment; or
- [^{F15}(aa) any publicly owned railway company, within the meaning of the Railways Act 1993, which supplies network services or station services, within the meaning of Part I of that Act; or]
- [^{F16}(b) any person (not falling within paragraph (a) above) who provides in Northern Ireland a bus service within the meaning of section 14 of the Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 1966; or]
- [^{F17}(bb) any person who provides a railway passenger service in pursuance of an agreement entered into by London Regional Transport by virtue of [^{F18}section 3(2) or (2A)(a)] of the [^{F19}London Regional Transport Act 1984]; or]
- [^{F20}(c) the National Rivers Authority;]
- [^{F21}(cc) [^{F22}the new water and sewerage authorities, within the meaning of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994;]]
- (d) any board administering a scheme under the ^{M1}Agricultural Marketing Act 1958 [^{F23}or the ^{M2}Agricultural Marketing Act (Northern Ireland) 1964][^{F24}or the Agricultural Marketing (Northern Ireland) Order 1982]; or
- (e) any body corporate with a statutory duty to promote and assist the maintenance and development of the efficient supply of any goods or services by a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (d) above; or
- (f) any subsidiary, within the meaning of [^{F25}section 736 of]the [^{F26}Companies Act 1985], of a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (e) above.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by order exclude from subsection (3)(b) [^{F27}or (bb)] above persons of such descriptions as may be specified in the order.
- (5) No question concerning a person falling within subsection (3)(b) [^{F28}or (bb)] above or a subsidiary of a body falling within [^{F29}that subsection][^{F29}either of those paragraphs]may be referred to the Commission under this section unless it relates to the carriage of passengers by the person or, as the case may be, the subsidiary.
- (6) The Secretary of State may at any time by notice given to the Commission vary a reference under this section.
- (7) On making a reference under this section or on varying such a reference under subsection (6) above the Secretary of State shall arrange for the reference or, as the case may be, the variation to be published in such manner as he considers most suitable

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for bringing it to the attention of persons who in his opinion would be affected by it or be likely to have an interest in it.

(8) On a reference under this section the Commission shall investigate and report on any question referred to them but shall exclude from their investigation and report consideration of—

(a) any question relating to the appropriateness of any financial obligations or guidance as to financial objectives (however expressed) imposed on or given to the person in question by or under any enactment, or otherwise by a Minister;^{F30} . . .

^{F30}(b)

^{F31}[^{F32}(9)

^{F33}(9A)]

(10) A report of the Commission on a reference under this section shall be made to the Secretary of State and shall state, with reasons, the conclusions of the Commission with respect to any question referred to them and, where the Commission conclude that the person specified in the reference is pursuing a course of conduct which operates against the public interest, the report may include recommendations as to what action (if any) should be taken by the person for the purpose of remedying or preventing what the Commission consider are the adverse effects of that course of conduct.

(11) In this section “Minister” includes a Northern Ireland department and the head of such a department.

Textual Amendments

- F11** Word in s. 11(1)(a) inserted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(2)(a)(i)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F12** S. 11(1)(c) and preceding word repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(2)(a)(ii), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F13** Words in s. 11(1) substituted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(2)(a)(iii)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F14** S. 11(2) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(2)(b), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F15** S. 11(3)(aa) inserted (6.1.1994) by 1993 c. 43, s. 152(1), **Sch. 12 para. 12(1)** (with s. 150(1)(o)); S.I. 1993/3237, **art. 2(2)**
- F16** S. 11(3)(b) substituted by virtue of Transport Act 1985 (c. 67, SIF 126), **s. 114(1)(a)**
- F17** S. 11(3)(bb) inserted (E.W.) by London Regional Transport Act 1984 (c. 32, SIF 126), **s. 71(3)(a)**, Sch. 6 para. 15(1)(b)
- F18** Words in s. 11(3)(bb) substituted (E.W.) (17.8.1996) by 1996 c. 21, **ss. 4(2)(a), 6(2)**
- F19** Words substituted by Transport Act 1985 (c. 67, SIF 126), **s. 114(1)(b)**
- F20** S. 11(3)(c) commencing “the National Rivers” substituted (E.W.) for s. 11(3)(c) commencing “any statutory water” by Water Act 1989 (c. 15, SIF 130), s. 190(1), **Sch. 25 para. 59(1)**
- F21** S. 11(3)(cc) inserted (S.) (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 39, **s. 72** (with s. 74(4)); S.I. 1996/323, art. 4(1)(a), **Sch. 1**
- F22** S. 11(3)(cc) repealed (S.) (1.4.2002) by Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp. 3), ss. 71, 72(2), Sch. 7 {para. 10} (with art. 67); S.S.I. 2002/118, **art. 2(3)**
- F23** Words repealed (*prosp.*) (but by S.R.s 1984 No. 422 and 1989 No. 47 the repeal came into operation in relation to the Pigs Marketing Board (Northern Ireland) on 31.12.1984 and in relation to the Milk Marketing Board for Northern Ireland on 1.4.1989 respectively) by S.I. 1982/1080, (N.I. 12), art. 46(2), Sch. 9

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- F24** Words inserted by [S.I. 1982/1080](#), (N.I. 12), art. 46(1), Sch. 8
- F25** Words inserted by [Companies Act 1989](#) (c. 40, SIF 27), s. 144(4), **Sch. 18 para. 22**
- F26** Words substituted by [Companies Consolidation \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1985](#) (c. 9, SIF 27), s. 30, **Sch. 2**
- F27** Words inserted (E.W.) by [London Regional Transport Act 1984](#) (c. 32, SIF 126), **s. 71(3)(a)**, Sch. 6 para. 15(2)
- F28** Words inserted (E.W.) by [London Regional Transport Act 1984](#) (c. 32, SIF 126), **s. 71(3)(a)**, Sch. 6 para. 15(3)(a)
- F29** Words “either of those paragraphs” substituted (E.W.) for words “that subsection” by [London Regional Transport Act 1984](#) (c. 32, SIF 126), **s. 71(3)(a)**, Sch. 6 para. 15(3)(b)
- F30** S. 11(8)(b) and the word preceding it repealed (1.3.2000) by [1998 c. 41](#), ss. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(2), **Sch. 14 Pt. 1** (with s. 73); [S.I. 2000/344](#), art. 2, **Sch.**
- F31** S. 11(9) repealed (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002](#) (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(2)(b), **Sch. 26**; [S.I. 2003/1397](#), art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F32** S. 11(9)(9A) substituted for s. 11(9) (1.4.1999) by [1998 c. 41](#), ss. 74(1), 76(3), **Sch. 12 para. 4(3)** (with s. 73); [S.I. 1999/505](#), art. 2, **Sch.**
- F33** S. 11(9A) repealed (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002](#) (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(2)(b), **Sch. 26**; [S.I. 2003/1397](#), art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1958 c. 47.
- M2** 1964 c. 13 (N.I.)

[^{F34}11A References under section 11: time-limits

- (1) Every reference under section 11 above shall specify a period (not longer than six months beginning with the date of the reference) within which a report on the reference is to be made.
- (2) A report of the Commission on a reference under section 11 above shall not have effect (and no action shall be taken in relation to it under section 12 below) unless the report is made before the end of the period specified in the reference or such further period (if any) as may be allowed by the Secretary of State under subsection (3) below.
- (3) The Secretary of State may, if he has received representations on the subject from the Commission and is satisfied that there are special reasons why the report cannot be made within the period specified in the reference, extend that period by no more than three months.
- (4) No more than one extension is possible under subsection (3) above in relation to the same reference.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall publish any extension made by him under subsection (3) above in such manner as he considers most suitable for bringing it to the attention of persons who in his opinion would be affected by it or be likely to have an interest in it.

Textual Amendments

- F34** Ss. 11A-11D inserted (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002](#) (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(3)**; [S.I. 2003/1397](#), art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

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11B References under section 11: powers of investigation and penalties

- (1) The following sections of Part 3 of the Enterprise Act 2002 shall apply, with the modifications mentioned in subsections (2) and (3) below, for the purposes of references under section 11 above as they apply for the purposes of references under that Part—
 - (a) section 109 (attendance of witnesses and production of documents etc.);
 - (b) section 110 (enforcement of powers under section 109: general);
 - (c) section 111 (penalties);
 - (d) section 112 (penalties: main procedural requirements);
 - (e) section 113 (payments and interest by instalments);
 - (f) section 114 (appeals in relation to penalties);
 - (g) section 115 (recovery of penalties); and
 - (h) section 116(statement of policy).
- (2) Section 110 shall, in its application by virtue of subsection (1) above, have effect as if—
 - (a) subsection (2) were omitted;
 - (b) in subsection (4), for the word “publication” there were substituted “laying before both Houses of Parliament”; and
 - (c) in subsection (9) the words from “or section” to “section 65(3)” were omitted.
- (3) Section 111(5)(b)(ii) shall, in its application by virtue of subsection (1) above, have effect as if—
 - (a) for the words “published (or, in the case of a report under section 50 or 65, given)” there were substituted “made”;
 - (b) for the words “published (or given)”, in both places where they appear, there were substituted “made”; and
 - (c) the words “by this Part” were omitted.

Textual Amendments

F34 Ss. 11A-11D inserted (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10\(3\)](#); S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

11C References under section 11: further supplementary provisions

- (1) Section 117 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (false or misleading information) shall apply in relation to functions under this Act as it applies in relation to functions under Part 3 of that Act but as if, in subsections (1)(a) and (2), the words “the OFT,” were omitted.
- (2) Section 125 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (offences by bodies corporate) shall apply for the purposes of this Act as it applies for the purposes of Part 3 of that Act.
- (3) For the purposes of section 12 below, a conclusion contained in a report of the Commission is to be disregarded if the conclusion is not that of at least two-thirds of the members of the group constituted in connection with the reference concerned in pursuance of paragraph 15 of Schedule 7 to the Competition Act 1998.

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Textual Amendments

F34 Ss. 11A-11D inserted (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), s. 279, [Sch. 25 para. 10\(3\)](#); S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), [Sch.](#) (with art. 8)

11D Interim orders

- (1) Subsection (2) below applies where, in the circumstances specified in subsection (1) of section 12 below, the Secretary of State has under consideration the making of an order under subsection (5) of that section.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by order, for the purpose of preventing pre-emptive action—
 - (a) prohibit or restrict the doing of things which the Secretary of State considers would constitute pre-emptive action;
 - (b) impose on any person concerned obligations as to the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets;
 - (c) provide for the carrying on of any activities or the safeguarding of any assets either by the appointment of a person to conduct or supervise the conduct of any activities (on such terms and with such powers as may be specified or described in the order) or in any other manner;
 - (d) do anything which may be done by virtue of paragraph 19 of Schedule 8 to the Enterprise Act 2002 (information powers).
- (3) An order under this section shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order.
- (4) An order under this section shall, if it has not previously ceased to be in force, cease to be in force on the making of the order under section 12(5) below or (as the case may be) on the making of the decision not to make such an order.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall publish any decision made by him not to make an order under section 12(5) below in such manner as he considers most suitable for bringing it to the attention of persons who in his opinion would be affected by it or be likely to have an interest in it.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, consider any representations received by him in relation to varying or revoking an order under this section.
- (7) The following provisions of Part 3 of the Enterprise Act 2002 shall apply in relation to orders under this section as they apply in relation to orders under paragraph 2 of Schedule 7 to that Act—
 - (a) section 86(2) and (3) (enforcement orders: general provisions);
 - (b) section 87 (delegated power of directions); and
 - (c) section 94(1) to (5), (8) and (9) (rights to enforce orders).
- (8) In this section “pre-emptive action” means action which might impede the making of an order under section 12(5) below.]

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Textual Amendments

F34 Ss. 11A-11D inserted (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), s. 279, [Sch. 25 para. 10\(3\)](#); [S.I. 2003/1397](#), art. 2(1), [Sch.](#) (with art. 8)

12 Orders following report under section 11.

- (1) This section applies where a report of the Commission on a reference under section 11 above concludes that the person specified in the reference is pursuing a course of conduct which operates against the public interest.
- (2) If it appears to the Secretary of State that any other Minister has functions directly relating to the person specified in the reference or, in the case of a reference only concerning the activities of the person in a part of the United Kingdom, functions directly relating to the person in respect of his activities in that part, he shall send a copy of the report of the Commission on the reference to that Minister; and in subsection (3) below “the relevant Minister” means—
 - (a) in a case where it appears to the Secretary of State that any Minister (including himself) has such functions, that Minister, and
 - (b) in a case where it appears to the Secretary of State that no Minister has such functions, the Secretary of State.
- (3) If—
 - (a) the relevant Minister considers it appropriate for the purpose of remedying or preventing what he considers are the adverse effects of the course of conduct specified in the report of the Commission as operating against the public interest, and
 - (b) the person specified in the reference does not fall within paragraph (d) of section 11(3) above and is not a subsidiary of a body falling within that paragraph,he may by order direct the person to prepare within such time, if any, as may be specified in the order a plan for remedying or preventing such of those effects as are so specified; but where there is more than one relevant Minister no such order shall be made except by all the relevant Ministers acting jointly and where none of the relevant Ministers is the Secretary of State no such order shall be made except after consultation with him.
- (4) It shall be the duty of a person to whom a direction is given under subsection (3) above to prepare such a plan as is mentioned in that subsection and to send a copy of that plan to the Minister or Ministers by whom the order containing the direction was made who shall lay it before Parliament; and, in a case where the plan involves the use by a body of its powers in relation to any subsidiary within the meaning of [^{F35}section 736 of] the [^{F36}Companies Act 1985], the plan shall specify the manner in which the body proposes using those powers.
- (5) Whether or not an order has been or may be made under subsection (3) above, the Secretary of State may, if he considers it appropriate for the purpose of remedying or preventing what he considers are the adverse effects of the course of conduct specified in the report of the Commission as operating against the public interest, [^{F37}make an order under this subsection].

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- [^{F38}(5A) An order under subsection (5) above may contain anything permitted by Schedule 8 to the Enterprise Act 2002, except paragraphs 8, 13 and 14 of that Schedule.
- (5B) An order under subsection (5) above shall come into force at such time as is determined by or under the order.]
- [^{F39}(6) The following provisions of Part 3 of the Enterprise Act 2002 shall apply in relation to orders under subsection (5) above as they apply in relation to orders under paragraph 11 of Schedule 7 to that Act—
- (a) section 86(2) and (3) (enforcement orders: general provisions);
 - (b) section 87 (delegated power of directions);
 - (c) section 88 (contents of certain enforcement orders);
 - (d) section 94(1) to (5), (8) and (9) (rights to enforce orders); and
 - (e) Schedule 10 (procedural requirements for orders).
- (7) The Secretary of State shall publish any decision made by him to dispense with the requirements of Schedule 10 to the Enterprise Act 2002 as applied by subsection (6) above; and shall do so in such manner as he considers most suitable for bringing the decision to the attention of persons who in his opinion would be affected by it or be likely to have an interest in it.]

Textual Amendments

- F35** Words inserted by [Companies Act 1989 \(c. 40, SIF 27\)](#), s. 144(4), **Sch. 18 para. 22**
- F36** Words substituted by [Companies Consolidation \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1985 \(c. 9, SIF 27\)](#), s. 30, **Sch. 2**
- F37** Words in s. 12(5) substituted (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(4)(a)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F38** S. 12(5A)(5B) inserted (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(4)(b)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F39** S. 12(6)(7) substituted for s. 12(6) (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(4)(c)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C10** S. 12(5) amended by [Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 \(c. 48, SIF 67A\)](#), **ss. 144(2), 238(2)**
- C11** S. 12(5A) modified by [Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 \(c. 48\)](#), ss. 144(2), 238(2), Sch 2A para. 17(2) (as substituted (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), s. 279, **Sch. 25 paras. 18(2)(4)(5)(a)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8))

^{F40}13 Investigations of prices directed by Secretary of State.

.....

Textual Amendments

- F40** S. 13 repealed (1.4.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 9, 279, **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/766, art. 2, Sch. (with art. 3) (as amended (20.7.2007) by S.I. 2007/1846, reg. 3(2), Sch.)

Status: Point in time view as at 20/06/2003.

Changes to legislation: Competition Act 1980 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 May 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

Patents and agricultural schemes

14 F41

Textual Amendments

F41 S. 14 repealed by Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (c. 48, SIF 67A), s. 303(2), Sch. 8

15 Agricultural schemes: special provisions.

(1) In subsection (1) of section 19A of the ^{M3}Agricultural Marketing Act 1958 (power of Minister to make orders under section 19 of that Act where report of Commission on monopoly reference contains certain conclusions) after the words “Fair Trading Act 1973” there shall be inserted the words “ or section 8 or 11 of the Competition Act 1980”.

(2) The Secretary of State shall not—

^{F42}(a)

^{F43}(b)

(c) make or vary a reference under section 11 above,

in a case where the person to whom or to whose conduct or activities the investigation or reference relates falls within section 11(3)(d) above unless he has first consulted the relevant Minister.

^{F43}(3)

^{F43}(4)

(5) In this section “the relevant Minister” means—

(a) in the case of a board administering a scheme under the said Act of 1958, the Minister who would have power to make an order under section 19 of that Act in relation to that board or the board administering that scheme, and

(b) in the case of a board administering a scheme under [^{F44}the said Act of 1964 [^{F45}or]the said Order of 1982], the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.

Textual Amendments

F42 S. 15(2)(a) and the word immediately following it repealed (3.1.1995) by 1994 c. 40, ss. 81, 82(2), Sch. 17

F43 S. 15(2)(b)(3)(4) repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(5), Sch. 14 Pt. I (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, Sch.

F44 Words in s. 15(5)(b) repealed (*prosp.*) (but by S.R.s 1984 No. 422 and 1989 No. 47 the repeal came into operation in relation to the Pigs Marketing Board (Northern Ireland) on 31.12.1984 and in relation to the Milk Marketing Board for Northern Ireland on 1.4.1989 respectively) by S.I. 1982/1080, (N.I. 12), art. 46(2), Sch. 9

F45 “Words in s. 15(5)(b) inserted by S.I. 1982/1080 (N.I. 12), art. 46(1), Sch. 8

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C12** The text of ss. 15(1), 22, 23, 27(4), 28, 30(1), 32(2), 33(4), Sch. 2 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

Marginal Citations

- M3** 1958 c. 47.

General provisions about references and investigations

16 General provisions as to reports.

^{F46}(1)

- (2) For the purposes of the law relating to defamation, absolute privilege shall attach to any report of the Commission ^{F47}... under this Act.

^{F48}(3)

Textual Amendments

- F46** S. 16(1) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(5)(a), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F47** Words in s. 16(2) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(5)(b), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F48** S. 16(3) repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(6), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C13** S. 16 modified (transfer of functions) by Telecommunications Act 1984 (c. 12, SIF 96), s. 50(3) and (E.W.S.) by Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29, SIF 44:1), s. 43(3)
- C14** S. 16 modified (transfer of functions) (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/231, **art. 46(3)(4)**; S.R. 1992/117, **art. 3(1)**
- C15** S. 16 modified (transfer of functions) and amended (E.W.S.) (1.4.1994) by 1993 c. 43, s. 67(3)(4); S.I. 1994/571, **art. 5**
- C16** S. 16 amended (E.W.)(1.12.1991) by Water Industry Act 1991 (c. 56, SIF 130), **ss. 31(4)(c), 35(4), 223(2)** (with ss. 82(3), 186(1), 222(1), Sch. 14 para. 6)
- C17** Ss. 2-10, 16: certain functions transferred (1.3.1996) by 1986 c. 44, s. 36A (as inserted (1.3.1996) by 1995 c. 45, s. 10(1), **Sch. 3 para. 43**; S.I. 1996/218, **art. 2**)
Ss. 2-10, 16: certain functions transferred (N.I.) (10.6.1996) by S.I. 1996/275 (N.I. 2), **art. 23(3)** (with Sch. 7 paras. 2, 3(2)); S.R. 1996/216, **art. 2**

17 Laying before Parliament and publication of reports.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the Secretary of State shall lay a copy of any report made to him under section ^{F49} . . . , 11(10) ^{F50}... above before each House of Parliament and shall arrange for the report to be published in such manner as appears to him appropriate.

- (2) The Secretary of State shall not lay a copy of a report made to him under section ^{F51} . . . 11(10) above before either House of Parliament unless at least twenty-four hours

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before doing so he has transmitted to every person specified in the reference a copy of the report in the form in which it is laid (or by virtue of subsection (3) below is treated as being laid) before each House of Parliament.

- (3) If a report made to him under section ^{F49} . . . , 11(10) ^{F52}... above is presented by command of Her Majesty to either House of Parliament otherwise than at or during the time of a sitting of that House, the presentation of the report shall for the purposes of this section be treated as the laying of a copy of it before that House by the Secretary of State.
- (4) If it appears to the Secretary of State that the publication of any matter in a report made to him under section ^{F49} . . . , 11(10) ^{F52}... above would be [^{F53}inappropriate] , he shall exclude that matter from the copies of the report as laid before Parliament and from the report as published under this section.
- [^{F54}(5) In deciding what is inappropriate for the purposes of subsection (4) the Secretary of State shall have regard to the considerations mentioned in section 244 of the Enterprise Act 2002.]
- (6) Any reference in [^{F55}section] 12 above to a report of the Commission shall be construed as a reference to the report in the form in which copies of it are laid (or by virtue of subsection (3) of this section are treated as having been laid) before each House of Parliament under this section.

Textual Amendments

- F49** Words in s. 17(1)(3)-(5) repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(7)(a), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F50** Words in s. 17(1) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(6)(a), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F51** Words in s. 17(2) repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(7)(b), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F52** Words in s. 17(3)(4) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(6)(a), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8); S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F53** Word in s. 17(4) substituted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(6)(b)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F54** S. 17(5) substituted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(6)(c)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F55** Words in s. 17(6) substituted (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 74(1), **Sch. 12 para. 4(7)(c)** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

^{F56}18 Information and advice about operation of Act.

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Textual Amendments

- F56** S. 18 repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(7), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

Status: Point in time view as at 20/06/2003.

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19 Restriction on disclosure of information.

- ^{F57}(1)
- ^{F57}(2)
- ^{F57}(3)
- (4) For the purpose of enabling information obtained under certain enactments to be used for facilitating the performance of functions under this Act, the following amendments shall be made in provisions respecting disclosure of information, namely—
- (a) at the end of paragraph (aa) of the proviso to section 47(2) of the ^{M4}Agricultural Marketing Act 1958 there shall be added the words “or the Competition Act 1980” ;
- [^{F58}(b) at the end of paragraph (aaa) of section 23(2) of the ^{M5}Agricultural Marketing Act (Northern Ireland) Act 1964 there shall be added the words “or the Competition Act 1980” ;]
- ^{F59}(c)
- ^{F59}(d)
- (e) at the end of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 41 of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 there shall be added the words “or the Competition Act 1980” ; and
- ^{F60}(f)
- ^{F61}(5)
- ^{F61}(6)
- ^{F62}(7)

Textual Amendments

- F57** S. 19(1)-(3) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), ss. 247(f), 279, **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), **Sch.** (with art. 6)
- F58** S. 19(4)(b) repealed (*prosp.*) (but by S.R.s 1984 No. 422 and 1989 No. 47 the repeal came into operation in relation to the Pigs Marketing Board (Northern Ireland) on 31.12.1984 and in relation to the Milk Marketing Board for Northern Ireland on 1.4.1989 respectively) by S.I. 1982/1080 (N.I. 12), art. 46(2), **Sch. 9**
- F59** S. 19(4)(c)(d) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), ss. 247(f), 279, **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), **Sch.** (with art. 6)
- F60** S. 19(4)(f) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), ss. 247(f), 279, **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), **Sch.** (with art. 6)
- F61** S. 19(5)(6) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), ss. 247(f), 279, **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), **Sch.** (with art. 6)
- F62** S. 19(7) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993 c. 50, s. 1(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. XIV** Gp. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C18** S. 19 amended (E.W.S.) by Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29, SIF 44:1), s. 43(3)
S. 19 amended (E.W.) (1.12.1991) by Water Industry Act 1991 (c. 56, SIF 130), ss. 31(4)(c), 35(4), 223(2) (with ss. 82(3), 186(1), 222(1), Sch. 14 para. 6)
- C19** S. 19 modified (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/231, art. 46(3); S.I. 1992/117, art. 3(1)
- C20** S. 19 amended (E.W.S.) (1.4.1994) by 1993 c. 43, s. 67(3)(4); S.I. 1994/571, art. 5
S. 19 amended (N.I.) (10.6.1996) by S.I. 1996/275 (N.I. 2), art. 23(3) (with Sch. 7 paras. 2, 3(2)); S.R. 1996/216, art. 2

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- C21** S. 19(1) excluded by [Broadcasting Act 1990 \(c. 42, SIF 96\)](#), [s. 197\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- C22** The text of s. 19(4) is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and, except as specified, does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

Marginal Citations

- M4** [1958 c. 47.](#)
- M5** [1964 c. 13 \(N.I.\)](#)

Grants

20 Power to make grants to certain bodies.

If the Secretary of State is satisfied that—

- (a) the general advice of any body on matters of interest to users of goods and services would be useful to him in the formulation of policy concerning those matters and
 - (b) the body disseminates information of such interest,
- he may make a grant to the body on such terms as he thinks fit.

Amendments of Fair Trading Act 1973

^{F63}**21 Monopoly references by Secretary of State alone.**

.....

Textual Amendments

- F63** [S. 21](#) repealed (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), [s. 279](#), [Sch. 25 para. 10\(7\)](#), [Sch. 26](#); [S.I. 2003/1397](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch.](#) (with [art. 8](#))

^{F64}**22**

Textual Amendments

- F64** [S. 22](#) repealed (11.1.1999) by [1998 c. 41](#), [s. 74\(1\)\(3\)](#), [Sch. 12 para. 4\(11\)](#), [Sch. 14 Pt. I](#) (with [s. 73](#)); [S.I. 1998/3166](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)

23 Amendment of s.137(3) of Fair Trading Act 1973.

In section 137(3) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 (definition of “the supply of services”) there shall be inserted after paragraph (b) the following words:—

“and

- (c) includes the making of arrangements for a person to put or keep on land a caravan (within the meaning of Part I of the Caravan Sites and Control

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of Development Act 1960) other than arrangements by virtue of which the person may occupy the caravan as his only or main residence.”

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C23 The text of ss. 15(1), 22, 23, 27(4), 28, 30(1), 32(2), 33(4), Sch. 2 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

^{F65}24 Modification of provisions about performance of Commission’s functions.

.....

Textual Amendments

F65 S. 24 repealed (20.6.2003) by [Enterprise Act 2002 \(c. 40\)](#), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(7), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

Amendments of Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976

^{F66}25 .

.....

Textual Amendments

F66 Ss. 25-30 repealed (1.3.2000) by [1998 c. 41](#), s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(13), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

^{F67}26 .

.....

Textual Amendments

F67 Ss. 25-30 repealed (1.3.2000) by [1998 c. 41](#), s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(13), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

^{F68}27

Textual Amendments

F68 Ss. 25-30 repealed (1.3.2000) by [1998 c. 41](#), s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(13), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

Status: Point in time view as at 20/06/2003.

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F69 **28**

Textual Amendments
F69 Ss. 25-30 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(13), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F70 **29**

Textual Amendments
F70 Ss. 25-30 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, ss. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(13), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

F71 **30**

Textual Amendments
F71 Ss. 25-30 repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(13), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

Supplementary

31 Orders and regulations.

(1) Any power of the Secretary of State to make orders ^{F72}... under this Act shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.

^{F73}(2)

(3) Any statutory instrument containing ^{F74}... an order under section ^{F75}... 11(4) [^{F76}, 11D] or 12(3) or (5) above [^{F77}, or section 111(4) or (6) or 114(3)(b) or (4)(b) of the Enterprise Act 2002 as applied by section 11B(1)(c) or (f) above,] shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

^{F78}(4)

[^{F79}(5) Any power of the Secretary of State to make an order under this Act —

- (a) may be exercised so as to make different provision for different cases or different purposes; and
- (b) includes power to make such incidental, supplementary, consequential, transitory, transitional or saving provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.]

Status: Point in time view as at 20/06/2003.

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Textual Amendments

- F72** Words in s. 31(1) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(8)(a), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F73** S. 31(2) repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(14)(a), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73)
- F74** Words in s. 31(3) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(8)(b)(i), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F75** Word in s. 31(3) repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(14)(b), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73)
- F76** Word in s. 31(3) inserted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(8)(b)(ii)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F77** Words in s. 31(3) inserted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(8)(b)(iii)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F78** S. 31(4) repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, Sch. 25 para. 10(8)(c), **Sch. 26**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)
- F79** S. 31(5) inserted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(8)(d)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

32 Financial provisions.

- (1) There shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament—
- (a) any expenses incurred by the Secretary of State in consequence of the provisions of this Act; and
 - (b) any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of moneys so provided under any other Act.
- (2) In section 135(2) of the ^{M6}Fair Trading Act 1973 (which provides for any expenses duly incurred by the Director or his staff in consequence of the provisions of that Act to be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament) for the words “of this Act” there shall be substituted the words “of this or any other Act”.

Marginal Citations

M6 1973 c. 41.

33 Short title, interpretation, repeals, commencement and extent.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Competition Act 1980.
- [^{F80}(2) Unless the context otherwise requires, in this Act “Minister” includes a government department and the following expressions shall have the same meanings as they have in Part 3 of the Enterprise Act 2002—
- “business”
 - “the Commission”
 - “enactment”
 - “goods”
 - “services”
 - “supply (in relation to the supply of goods)”
 - “the supply of services”.]

Status: Point in time view as at 20/06/2003.

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^{F81}(3)

^{F81}(4)

- (5) This Act shall come into operation on such day as the Secretary of State may by order appoint, and different days may be so appointed for different provisions and for different purposes.
- (6) An order under this section appointing a day for the coming into operation of any provision of Schedule 2 to this Act may contain such savings with respect to the operation of that provision and such incidental and transitional provisions as appear to the Secretary of State to be appropriate.
- (7) Any reference in any provision of this Act to the appointed day shall be construed as a reference to the day appointed or, as the case may require, first appointed under this section for the coming into operation of that provision.
- (8) This Act extends to Northern Ireland.

Textual Amendments

F80 S. 33(2) substituted (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), s. 279, **Sch. 25 para. 10(9)**; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 8)

F81 S. 33(3)(4) repealed (1.3.2000) by 1998 c. 41, s. 74(1)(3), Sch. 12 para. 4(15)(b), **Sch. 14 Pt. I** (with s. 73); S.I. 2000/344, art. 2, **Sch.**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C24 Power of appointment conferred by s. 33(5) fully exercised: S.I. 1980/497, 1980/978

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1. . . F82

Textual Amendments

F82 Sch. 1 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II Group 2

SCHEDULE 2

Section 33 (4).

ENACTMENTS REPEALED

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C25 The text of ss. 15(1), 22, 23, 27(4), 28, 30(1), 32(2), 33(4), Sch. 2 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

Chapter	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
1973 c. 9.	The Counter-Inflation Act 1973.	Parts I, II and V, so far as unrepealed.
1974 c. 24.	The Prices Act 1974.	In the Schedule, in paragraph 11, the words "or of the Price Commission".
1975 c. 24.	The House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975.	In Part II of Schedule 1, the words "The Price Commission".
1975 c. 25.	The Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975.	In Part II of Schedule 1, the words "The Price Commission".
1975 c. 57.	The Remuneration, Charges and Grants Act 1975.	In section 2, subsection (4), in subsection (5) paragraph (b) and the word "or" immediately preceding it. Section 3.
1977 c. 33.	The Price Commission Act 1977.	The whole Act, except sections 16 and 17.
1978 c. 54.	The Dividends Act 1978.	The whole Act.
1979 c. 1.	The Price Commission (Amendment) Act 1979.	The whole Act.

Status:

Point in time view as at 20/06/2003.

Changes to legislation:

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