



# Public Utility Transfers and Water Charges Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 15

### *Public utility transfers*

#### **1 Power to act in relation to proposals for privatisation etc**

- (1) Where the Secretary of State is at any time proposing that any property or functions of a relevant public utility should be transferred to another body corporate, the functions of the utility and, in the case of a transfer from an electricity board in England and Wales, the functions of the Electricity Council shall include the power to do anything which in the opinion of the utility or, as the case may be, that Council is appropriate for the purpose of—
  - (a) facilitating the implementation of the proposal for the transfer; or
  - (b) facilitating the implementation of, or securing a modification of, any related proposals of the Secretary of State.
- (2) The proposals which are to be treated for the purposes of this section as related to a proposal of the Secretary of State for the transfer of anything from a relevant public utility to a body corporate shall include any proposal relating to, or to any matter connected with—
  - (a) any of the utility's property, rights or liabilities which would be affected by the transfer, or any such property, rights or liabilities after their proposed transfer;
  - (b) the exercise, whether before or after the transfer, of any function which it is proposed to transfer to or otherwise vest in that body corporate; or
  - (c) the establishment or formation, flotation, control, finances or employees of that body corporate or of any other body corporate which is, or in pursuance of any proposal of the Secretary of State may become, a member of the same group as that body corporate.
- (3) Any power of a relevant public utility or of the Electricity Council to do anything under this section in relation to a proposal for the transfer of any property or functions, or in relation to any related proposals, shall include power to do that thing with a view to promoting the interests of—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (a) any body corporate to which it is proposed to transfer the property or functions; or
  - (b) any body corporate which is, or in pursuance of any proposal of the Secretary of State may become, a member of the same group as a body corporate to which it is proposed to transfer the property or functions.
- (4) The powers conferred by this section in relation to any proposal shall be exercisable whether or not Parliament has given any approval on which the implementation of the proposal depends and shall be without prejudice to any power conferred otherwise than by virtue of this section.
- (5) For the purposes of this section a body corporate is a member of the same group as another body corporate if it is a holding company or subsidiary of that other body corporate or if it is another subsidiary of that other body corporate's holding company; and in this subsection "holding company" and "subsidiary" have the same meanings as in the Companies Act 1985.
- (6) References in this section to a body corporate shall include references to a body corporate which has not been established or formed but which may be established or formed in pursuance of a proposal of the Secretary of State.
- (7) In this section—
- "electricity board" means the Central Electricity Generating Board, an Area Board, within the meaning of the Electricity Act 1947, the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board or the South of Scotland Electricity Board; and
  - "relevant public utility" means a water authority in England and Wales or an electricity board;
- and, in relation to a water authority, references in this section to a proposal of the Secretary of State shall include references to a proposal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.