



Town and Country Planning Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 8

PART VI

RIGHTS OF OWNERS ETC. TO REQUIRE PURCHASE OF INTERESTS

CHAPTER I

INTERESTS AFFECTED BY PLANNING DECISIONS OR ORDERS

Service of purchase notices

137 Circumstances in which purchase notices may be served.

- (1) This section applies where—
- (a) on an application for planning permission to develop any land, permission is refused or is granted subject to conditions; or
 - (b) by an order under section 97 planning permission in respect of any land is revoked, or is modified by the imposition of conditions; or
 - (c) an order is made under section 102 or paragraph 1 of Schedule 9 in respect of any land.
- (2) If—
- (a) in the case mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b), any owner of the land claims that the conditions mentioned in subsection (3) are satisfied with respect to it, or
 - (b) in the case mentioned in subsection (1)(c), any person entitled to an interest in land in respect of which the order is made claims that the conditions mentioned in subsection (4) are satisfied with respect to it,

he may, within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, serve on the council of the district [^{F1}, Welsh county, county borough] or London borough in which the land is situated a notice (in this Act referred to as “a purchase notice”) requiring that council to purchase his interest in the land in accordance with this Chapter.

Changes to legislation: Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Cross Heading: Service of purchase notices is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2024. 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) View outstanding changes

- (3) The conditions mentioned in subsection (2)(a) are—
- (a) that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state; and
 - (b) in a case where planning permission was granted subject to conditions or was modified by the imposition of conditions, that the land cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of the permitted development in accordance with those conditions; and
 - (c) in any case, that the land cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any other development for which planning permission has been granted or for which the local planning authority or the Secretary of State has undertaken to grant planning permission.
- (4) The conditions mentioned in subsection (2)(b) are—
- (a) that by reason of the order the land is incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state; and
 - (b) that it cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development for which planning permission has been granted, whether by that order or otherwise.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a) and any claim arising in the circumstances mentioned in that subsection, the conditions referred to in sections 91 and 92 shall be disregarded.
- (6) A person on whom a ^{M1}repairs notice has been served under section 48 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 shall not be entitled to serve a notice under this section in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1)(a) in respect of the building in question—
- (a) until the expiration of three months beginning with the date of the service of the repairs notice; and
 - (b) if during that period the compulsory acquisition of the building is begun in the exercise of powers under section 47 of that Act, unless and until the compulsory acquisition is discontinued.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (6) a compulsory acquisition—
- (a) is started when the the notice required by section 12 of the ^{M2}Acquisition of Land Act 1981 or, as the case may be, paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to that Act is served; and
 - (b) is discontinued—
 - (i) in the case of acquisition by the Secretary of State, when he decides not to make the compulsory purchase order; and
 - (ii) in any other case, when the order is withdrawn or the Secretary of State decides not to confirm it.
- (8) No purchase notice shall be served in respect of an interest in land while the land is incapable of reasonably beneficial use by reason only of such an order as is mentioned in subsection (1)(c), except by virtue of a claim under subsection (2)(b).

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 137(2) inserted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 19, s. 20(4), **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 24(3)** (with ss. 54(5) (7), 55(5), Sch. 17 paras. 22(1), 23(2)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, **Sch. 1**

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Marginal Citations

- M1** 1990 c. 9
M2 1981 c. 67.

[^{F2}137A Purchase notices: Crown land

- (1) A purchase notice may be served in respect of Crown land only as mentioned in this section.
- (2) The owner of a private interest in Crown land must not serve a purchase notice unless—
 - (a) he first offers to dispose of his interest to the appropriate authority on equivalent terms, and
 - (b) the offer is refused by the appropriate authority.
- (3) The appropriate authority may serve a purchase notice in relation to the following land—
 - (a) land belonging to Her Majesty in right of Her private estates;
 - (b) land belonging to Her Majesty in right of the Duchy of Lancaster;
 - (c) land belonging to the Duchy of Cornwall;
 - (d) land which forms part of the Crown Estate.
- (4) An offer is made on equivalent terms if the price payable for the interest is equal to (and, in default of agreement, determined in the same manner as) the compensation which would be payable in respect of it if it were acquired in pursuance of a purchase notice.
- (5) Expressions used in this section and in Part 13 must be construed in accordance with that Part.]

Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 137A inserted (7.6.2006) by [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(c. 5\)](#), ss. 79, 121, [Sch. 3 para. 1](#) (with s. 111); [S.I. 2004/1281](#), [art. 2](#)

138 Circumstances in which land incapable of reasonably beneficial use.

- (1) Where, for the purpose of determining whether the conditions specified in section 137(3) or (4) are satisfied in relation to any land, any question arises as to what is or would in any particular circumstances be a reasonably beneficial use of that land, then, in determining that question for that purpose, no account shall be taken of any unauthorised prospective use of that land.
- (2) A prospective use of land shall be regarded as unauthorised for the purposes of subsection (1)—
 - (a) if it would involve the carrying out of [^{F3}development other than any development specified in paragraph 1 or 2 of Schedule 3;]or
 - (b) in the case of a purchase notice served in consequence of a refusal or conditional grant of planning permission, if it would contravene the condition set out in Schedule 10.

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Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 138(2)(a) substituted (25.9.1991) by [Planning and Compensation Act 1991 \(c. 34, SIF 123:1\)](#), s. 31, [Sch. 6 para.18](#) (with s. 84(5)); S.I. 1991/2067, [art.3](#) (subject to [art. 4](#))

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 79\(2\)](#)
- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 83\(4\)](#)
- Act excluded by [2023 asc 3 s. 140\(4\)\(b\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 7(3) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 7A(6) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2\(4\)](#)
- s. 7ZA inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2\(3\)](#)
- s. 58B and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 102\(1\)](#)
- s. 59A(3)(ba) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 4\(b\)](#)
- s. 62(2A)(za) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 124\(2\)](#)
- s. 62B(5)(ca) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2\(5\)](#)
- s. 70(2)(azb) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 3\(a\)](#)
- s. 70(3)(ca) inserted in earlier affecting provision [2016 c. 22, s. 5\(8\)](#) by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 194](#)
- s. 70(3A) inserted by [2017 c. 20 Sch. 3 para. 2](#)
- s. 70A(5A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 4\(a\)](#)
- s. 70A(10)(11) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 110\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 70B(5A)(5B) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 110\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 73B inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 110\(2\)](#)
- s. 74(1C)(aa) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 5\(b\)](#)
- s. 75ZA and cross-heading inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 155](#)
- s. 83(1A)-(1C) amendment to earlier affecting provision [2004 c. 5, s. 45\(2\)](#) by [2011 c. 20 Sch. 8 para. 14\(4\)\(5\)Sch. 25 Pt. 16](#)
- s. 83(1A)-(1C) inserted by [2004 c. 5 s. 45\(2\)](#)
- s. 83(2)-(2B) amendment to earlier affecting provision [2004 c. 5, s. 45\(3\)](#) by [2011 c. 20 Sch. 8 para. 14\(4\)\(5\)Sch. 25 Pt. 16](#)
- s. 83(2)-(2B) substituted for s. 83(2) by [2004 c. 5 s. 45\(3\)](#)
- s. 83(4) inserted by [2004 c. 5 s. 45\(4\)](#)
- s. 85(1A) inserted by [2004 c. 5 s. 45\(6\)](#)
- s. 93(5)(6) inserted by [2017 c. 20 Sch. 3 para. 6](#)
- s. 94(1)(e) and word inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1\(15\)](#)
- s. 102(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 9\(b\)](#)
- s. 106A(9A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 125](#)
- s. 106ZA inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 158\(1\)](#)
- s. 106ZB inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 159\(1\)](#)
- s. 106ZB(2)(a) omitted by [2023 c. 55 s. 130\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 108(1A)(1B) inserted by [2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 15\(4\)](#)
- s. 108(3A) inserted by [2004 c. 5 Sch. 6 para. 6](#)
- s. 108(3B)(ba) inserted by [2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 15\(6\)](#)
- s. 108(3B)(ba) word omitted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1\(16\)\(d\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 108(3B)(bb) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1\(16\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 108(3DA) inserted by [2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 15\(7\)](#)
- s. 108(3DB) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1\(16\)\(e\)](#)
- s. 141(6) inserted by [2017 c. 20 Sch. 3 para. 7](#)
- s. 169(1)(a) words renumbered as s. 169(1)(a) by [2017 c. 20 s. 26\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 169(1)(b) inserted by [2017 c. 20 s. 26\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 170(8BA) inserted by [2017 c. 20 s. 26\(6\)](#)

- s. 171A(2)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 117(2)(a)
- s. 171B(1)(a)(b) substituted for words by 2023 c. 55 s. 115(1)
- s. 171B(2)(a)(b) substituted for words by 2023 c. 55 s. 115(2)
- s. 171E(8) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 116(3)
- s. 172ZA inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 117(3)
- s. 174(2AA)(b) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 s. 113(6)
- s. 176(6) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 119(2)
- s. 188(1)(zb) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 117(4)(a)
- s. 195(3A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 119(3)
- s. 196(1A) inserted by 2008 c. 29 Sch. 10 para. 8(2)
- s. 208(5A) inserted by 2008 c. 29 Sch. 10 para. 9(2)
- s. 216(2)(a)(b) substituted for words by 2023 c. 55 s. 120(2)(a)
- s. 216(6A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 120(2)(c)
- s. 303(1ZZA) inserted by 2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 87
- s. 303(10A) inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 19(3)
- s. 303(12) inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 19(4)
- s. 303A(1A)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(2)(a)
- s. 303A(9B) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(4)
- s. 303A(10)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(5)
- s. 303A(12) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(6)
- s. 303ZB inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 134
- s. 314A inserted by 2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 90
- s. 324(1A)(a) words in s. 324(1A) renumbered as s. 324(1A)(a) by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(20)(a)
- s. 324(1A)(b) and word inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(20)(b)
- s. 327ZA applied (with modifications) by 1990 c. 10, s. 37 (as amended) by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(7)(a)
- s. 327ZA applied by 1990 c. 9, s. 89(1) (as amended) by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(5)(a)
- s. 327ZA inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(1)
- s. 327ZA modified by 1990 c. 9, s. 89(1ZC) (as inserted) by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(5)(b)
- s. 333(3ZZAA) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(21)(b)
- s. 333(3ZB) inserted by 2016 c. 22 s. 159(2)
- s. 333(3ZZA) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(21)(a)
- Sch. 1 para. 5(4) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2(7)(c)
- Sch. 1 para. 7(10)(10A) substituted for Sch. 1 para. 7(10) by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 11(2)
- Sch. 4B para. 11(3)-(5) inserted by 2017 c. 20 s. 7
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(fa) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 99(1)(b)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(ca) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 102(2)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(4A)(4B) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 102(2)(b)
- Sch. 4B para. 5(5)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 12(a)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(da) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 12(b)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(ea) substituted for Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(e) by 2023 c. 55 s. 99(1)(a)
- Sch. 7 para. 12(1)-(1C) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2004 c. 5 s. 45(9) by 2011 c. 20 Sch. 8 para. 14(7)
- Sch. 7 para. 12(1)-(1C) substituted for Sch. 7 para. 12(1) by 2004 c. 5 s. 45(9)
- Sch. 7A para. 14(4) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(3)
- Sch. 9 para. 1(1A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 13(b)
- Sch. 9A inserted by 2016 c. 22 Sch. 13
- Sch. 13 para. 24A inserted by 2017 c. 20 s. 26(7)