



Water Resources Act 1991

1991 CHAPTER 57

PART VI

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS IN RELATION TO THE AUTHORITY

CHAPTER II

REVENUE PROVISIONS

Water resources charges

123 Power to make scheme imposing water resources charges.

- (1) Where—
- (a) an application is made for any licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act or for the variation of, or of the conditions of, any such licence;
 - (b) a licence under that Chapter to abstract water is granted to any person or there is a variation of any such licence or of the conditions of any such licence; or
 - (c) a licence under that Chapter to abstract water is for the time being in force,
- the Authority may require the payment to it of such charges as may be specified in or determined under a scheme made by it under this section.
- (2) The persons who shall be liable to pay charges which are required to be paid by virtue of a scheme under this section shall be—
- (a) in the case of a charge by virtue of subsection (1)(a) above, the person who makes the application; and
 - (b) in the case of a charge by virtue of subsection (1)(b) or (c) above, the person to whom the licence is granted or, as the case may be, the person holding the licence which is varied or is in force.
- (3) Provision made by a scheme for the purposes of subsection (1)(c) above may impose a single charge in respect of the whole period for which a licence is in force or separate

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charges in respect of different parts of that period or both such a single charge and such separate charges.

- (4) The Authority shall not make a scheme under this section unless its provisions have been approved by the Secretary of State under section 124 below.
- (5) A scheme under this section may—
 - (a) make provision with respect to the times and methods of payment of the charges which are required to be paid by virtue of the scheme;
 - (b) make different provision for different cases, including different provision in relation to different circumstances or localities; and
 - (c) contain supplemental, consequential and transitional provision for the purposes of the scheme;
 and such a scheme may revoke or amend a previous scheme under this section.
- (6) It shall be the duty of the Authority to take such steps as it considers appropriate for bringing the provisions of any scheme under this section which is for the time being in force to the attention of persons likely to be affected by them.
- (7) A scheme under this section shall have effect subject to any provision made by or under section 58 above or sections 125 to 130 below.

124 Approval of scheme under section 123.

- (1) Before submitting a scheme under section 123 above to the Secretary of State for his approval the Authority shall, in such manner as it considers appropriate for bringing it to the attention of persons likely to be affected by the scheme, publish a notice—
 - (a) setting out its proposals; and
 - (b) specifying the period within which representations or objections with respect to the proposals may be made to the Secretary of State.
- (2) Where any proposed scheme under section 123 above has been submitted to the Secretary of State for his approval, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State, in determining whether or not to approve the scheme or to approve it subject to modifications—
 - (a) to consider any representations or objections duly made to him and not withdrawn; and
 - (b) to have regard to the matters specified in subsection (3) below.
- (3) The matters mentioned in subsection (2) above are—
 - (a) the desirability of ensuring that the amounts recovered by the Authority by way of charges fixed by or under schemes under section 123 above are the amounts which, taking one year with another, are required by the Authority for recovering such amounts as the Secretary of State may consider it appropriate to attribute to the expenses incurred by the Authority in carrying out its functions under Part II of this Act; and
 - (b) the need to ensure that no undue preference is shown, and that there is no undue discrimination, in the fixing of charges by or under any scheme under that section.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(a) above—
 - (a) the Secretary of State shall take into account any determinations under section 117 above in determining the amounts which he considers it

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appropriate to attribute to the expenses incurred by the Authority in carrying out its functions under Part II of this Act; and

- (b) those amounts may include amounts in respect of the depreciation of, and the provision of a return on, such of the Authority's assets as are held by it for purposes connected with the carrying out of those functions.
- (5) The consent of the Treasury shall be required for the giving of an approval to a scheme under section 123 above.

125 Specific exemptions from water resources charges.

- (1) No charges, other than those for the purpose of recovering administrative expenses attributable to the exercise by the Authority of its functions in relation to the application for the licence, shall be levied in respect of water authorised by a licence to be abstracted for use in the production of electricity or any other form of power by any generating station or apparatus of a capacity of not more than five megawatts.
- (2) No charges shall be levied in respect of water authorised by a licence to be abstracted from underground strata, in so far as—
 - (a) the water is authorised to be abstracted for use for agricultural purposes other than spray irrigation; and
 - (b) the quantity of water authorised to be abstracted from the strata in any period of twenty-four hours does not exceed twenty cubic metres in aggregate.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 125(2) modified (18.5.1992) by S.I. 1992/1096, arts. 3, 4, Sch.

126 Agreements containing exemptions from charges.

- (1) The Authority may, on the application of any person who is liable to pay charges to the Authority for the abstraction of water under a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act, make an agreement with him either exempting him from the payment of charges or providing for charges to be levied on him at reduced rates specified in the agreement.
- (2) In the exercise of its powers under subsection (1) above in relation to any person, the Authority shall have regard to—
 - (a) the extent to which any works constructed at any time by that person or any works to be constructed by him have made, or will make, a beneficial contribution towards the fulfilment of the purposes of the functions of the Authority under any enactment;
 - (b) any financial assistance which that person has rendered, or has agreed to render, towards the carrying out of works by the Authority in the performance of those functions; and
 - (c) any other material considerations.
- (3) The Secretary of State may give directions as to the exercise by the Authority of its powers under subsection (1) above.
- (4) Without prejudice to the exercise of the power conferred by subsection (3) above, if on any application under this section—

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- (a) the Authority refuses to make an agreement with the applicant as mentioned in subsection (1) above; or
 - (b) the applicant objects to the terms of such an agreement as proposed by the Authority and that objection is not withdrawn,
- the applicant or the Authority may refer the question in dispute to the Secretary of State.
- (5) On a reference under subsection (4) above—
- (a) the Secretary of State shall determine the question in dispute, having regard to the matters to which, in accordance with subsection (2) above, the Authority was required to have regard in relation to the applicant; and
 - (b) may give directions to the Authority requiring it to make an agreement with the applicant in accordance with his decision.
- ^{F1}(6)
- (7) Any decision of the Secretary of State on a reference under subsection (4) above shall be final; and section 69 above shall apply in relation to the decision on a reference under this section as it applies in relation to a decision on a reference such as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) of that section, but as if references to the other party were references to the applicant.

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 126(6) repealed (21.9.1995) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1)(3), Sch. 22 para. 153, Sch. 24 (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1995/1983, art. 3

127 Special charges in respect of spray irrigation.

- (1) Where a person (“the applicant”) is for the time being the holder of a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act to abstract water (“the applicant’s licence”), and in accordance with the provisions of that licence—
- (a) the water is to be used on land of which the applicant is the occupier; and
 - (b) the purposes for which water abstracted in pursuance of the licence is to be used consist of or include spray irrigation,
- the applicant may apply to the Authority to make an agreement with him under this section and, subject to the following provisions of this section and sections 128 and 129 below, the Authority may make such an agreement accordingly.
- (2) During any period for which an agreement under this section is in force, the following charges shall be payable by the applicant to the Authority in respect of the applicant’s licence, in so far as it relates to water authorised to be abstracted and used on the relevant land, that is to say—
- (a) basic charges calculated, in accordance with the agreement, by reference to the quantity of water authorised to be so abstracted and used from time to time in pursuance of the licence; and
 - (b) supplementary charges calculated, in accordance with the agreement, by reference to the quantity of water which is measured or assessed as being abstracted from time to time by or on behalf of the applicant from the source of supply to which the applicant’s licence relates for use on the relevant land.
- (3) In determining—

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- (a) whether to make an agreement with the applicant under this section; and
 - (b) the charges to be leviable under such an agreement,
- the Authority shall have regard to the extent to which, in any year within the period proposed to be specified in the agreement as the period for which it is made, the quantity of water referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) above is likely to exceed the quantity referred to in paragraph (b) of that subsection.
- (4) Where the applicant’s licence authorises water abstracted in pursuance of the licence to be used on the relevant land for purposes which include spray irrigation and other purposes—
- (a) any agreement made under this section shall provide for apportioning, as between those purposes respectively, the quantity referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) above and the quantity referred to in paragraph (b) of that subsection;
 - (b) subsection (2) above shall have effect as if in each of those paragraphs the reference to the quantity of water mentioned in that paragraph were a reference to so much of that quantity as in accordance with the agreement is apportioned to the purpose of spray irrigation; and
 - (c) in subsection (3) above any reference to either of those paragraphs shall be construed as a reference to that paragraph as modified by paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (5) An application under subsection (1) above may be made by a person who has applied for, but is not yet the holder of, a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act to abstract water; and, in relation to an application so made or to an agreement made on such an application—
- (a) the reference in that subsection to the provisions of the applicant’s licence shall be construed as a reference to the proposals contained in the application for a licence; and
 - (b) any other reference in this section or in section 128 or 129 below to the applicant’s licence shall be construed as a reference to any licence granted to the applicant in pursuance of the application mentioned in paragraph (a) above or in pursuance of an appeal consequential upon the application so mentioned.
- (6) In this section and sections 128 and 129 below—
- “the applicant” and “the applicant’s licence” shall be construed, subject to subsection (5) above, in accordance with subsection (1) above;
 - “the relevant land” means the land on which the applicant’s licence, as for the time being in force, authorises water abstracted in pursuance of the licence to be used for purposes which consist of or include spray irrigation; and
 - “year” means a period of twelve months beginning—
- (a) with the date on which an agreement under this section comes into force or is proposed to come into force; or
 - (b) with an anniversary of that date.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 S. 127(1)(4) modified (18.5.1992) by S.I. 1992/1096, arts. 3, 4, Sch.

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128 Duration of agreement under section 127.

- (1) The period specified in an agreement under section 127 above as the period for which it is made shall not be less than five years.
- (2) An agreement under section 127 above shall remain in force until the occurrence of whichever of the following events first occurs, that is to say—
 - (a) the period specified in the agreement, as mentioned in subsection (1) above, comes to an end;
 - (b) the applicant’s licence expires or is revoked;
 - (c) the applicant ceases to be the occupier of the relevant land or, if he has previously ceased to be the occupier of a part or parts of that land, ceases to be the occupier of the remainder of it;
 - (d) the agreement is terminated under subsection (4) below.
- (3) At any time while an agreement under section 127 above is in force, the applicant may apply to the Authority to terminate the agreement.
- (4) If, on an application for the termination of an agreement under section 127 above, the Authority is satisfied that, by reason of any change of circumstances since the agreement was made, it ought to be terminated, it may terminate the agreement, either unconditionally or subject to such conditions (whether as to any payment to be made by the applicant or otherwise) as the Authority and the applicant may agree.

129 Directions and appeals with respect to exercise of powers under sections 127 and 128.

- (1) The Secretary of State may give directions as to the exercise by the Authority of its powers under sections 127 and 128 above.
- (2) Without prejudice to the exercise of the power conferred by subsection (1) above, if on any application under section 127 or 128 above—
 - (a) the Authority refuses to make or terminate an agreement under section 127 above; or
 - (b) the applicant objects to the proposals of the Authority—
 - (i) as to the terms of such an agreement; or
 - (ii) as to the conditions subject to which such an agreement is to be terminated,
 and that objection is not withdrawn,
 the applicant or the Authority may refer the question in dispute to the Secretary of State.
- (3) On a reference under subsection (2) above—
 - (a) the Secretary of State shall determine the question in dispute, having regard to the matters to which, in accordance with subsection (3) of section 127 above, the Authority would be required to have regard in relation to the applicant on an application under that section; and
 - (b) may give directions to the Authority requiring it to make an agreement with the applicant in accordance with his decision.

^{F2}(4)

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- (5) Any decision of the Secretary of State on a reference under subsection (2) above shall be final; and section 69 above shall apply in relation to the decision on a reference under this section as it applies in relation to a decision on a reference such as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) of that section, but as if references to the other party were references to the applicant.

Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 129(4) repealed (21.9.1995) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1)(3), Sch. 22 para. 153 (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1995/1983, art. 3

130 Charges in respect of abstraction from waters of British Waterways Board.

- (1) Where the British Waterways Board are the holders of a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act authorising abstraction from any inland waters to which section 66 above applies, then, the charges which, apart from this subsection, would be payable in respect of that licence either—
- (a) shall be reduced to such extent, and as so reduced shall be payable subject to such conditions; or
 - (b) shall not be payable,
- as the Board and the Authority may agree or, in default of such agreement, the Secretary of State may determine.
- (2) Where—
- (a) a person other than the British Waterways Board is the holder of a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act authorising abstraction from any inland waters to which section 66 above applies; and
 - (b) any charges in respect of that licence are payable,
- the Authority shall pay to the Board such proportion of those charges, subject to such conditions, as the Board and the Authority may agree, or, in default of such agreement, the Secretary of State may determine.

Charges in connection with control of pollution

131 Power to make scheme of charges.

- (1) Where—
- (a) an application is made to the Authority for a Part III consent;
 - (b) the Authority gives a Part III consent otherwise than in a case where an application for a consent was made under paragraph 1 of Schedule 10 to this Act; or
 - (c) a Part III consent is for the time being in force,
- the Authority may require the payment to it of such charges as may be specified in or determined under a scheme made by it under this section.
- (2) The persons who shall be liable to pay charges which are required to be paid by virtue of a scheme under this section shall be—
- (a) in the case of a charge by virtue of subsection (1)(a) above, the person who makes the application;

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- (b) in the case of a charge by virtue of subsection (1)(b) above, any person who is authorised to do anything by virtue of the consent and on whom the instrument giving the consent is served; and
 - (c) in the case of a charge by virtue of subsection (1)(c) above, any person who makes a discharge in pursuance of the consent at any time during the period to which, in accordance with the scheme, the charge relates.
- (3) Provision made by a scheme for the purposes of subsection (2)(c) above may impose a single charge in respect of the whole period for which the consent is in force or separate charges in respect of different parts of that period or both such a single charge and such separate charges.
- (4) The Authority shall not make a scheme under this section unless its provisions have been approved by the Secretary of State under section 132 below.
- (5) A scheme under this section may—
- (a) make provision with respect to the times and methods of payment of the charges which are required to be paid by virtue of the scheme;
 - (b) make different provision for different cases, including different provision in relation to different persons, circumstances or localities; and
 - (c) contain supplemental, consequential and transitional provision for the purposes of the scheme;
- and such a scheme may revoke or amend a previous scheme under this section.
- (6) It shall be the duty of the Authority to take such steps as it considers appropriate for bringing the provisions of any scheme under this section which is for the time being in force to the attention of persons likely to be affected by them.
- (7) In this section “a Part III consent” means a consent for the purposes of section 88(1)(a), 89(4)(a) or 90 above.

132 Approval of scheme under section 131.

- (1) Before submitting a scheme under section 131 above to the Secretary of State for his approval the Authority shall, in such manner as it considers appropriate for bringing it to the attention of persons likely to be affected by it, publish a notice—
- (a) setting out its proposals; and
 - (b) specifying the period within which representations or objections with respect to the proposals may be made to the Secretary of State.
- (2) Where any proposed scheme under section 131 above has been submitted to the Secretary of State for his approval, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State, in determining whether or not to approve the scheme or to approve it subject to modifications—
- (a) to consider any representations or objections duly made to him and not withdrawn; and
 - (b) to have regard to the matters specified in subsection (3) below.
- (3) The matters mentioned in subsection (2) above are—
- (a) the desirability of ensuring that the amount recovered by the Authority by way of charges fixed by or under schemes under section 131 above does not exceed, taking one year with another, such amount as appears to the Secretary of State to be reasonably attributable to the expenses incurred by the Authority

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- in carrying out its functions under the consent provisions and otherwise in relation to discharges into controlled waters; and
- (b) the need to ensure that no undue preference is shown, and that there is no undue discrimination, in the fixing of charges by or under the scheme.
- (4) The consent of the Treasury shall be required for the giving of the Secretary of State's approval to a scheme under section 131 above.
- (5) In this section—
- “the consent provisions” means the provisions of Schedule 10 to this Act, together with the provisions of section 91 above and of this section and section 131 above;
- “controlled waters” has the same meaning as in Part III of this Act.

Levies by the Authority on local authorities

133 Power to authorise the Authority to issue levies.

For the purposes of its flood defence functions the Authority shall be a levying body within the meaning of section 74 of the ^{M1}Local Government Finance Act 1988 (power to make regulations authorising a levying body to issue a levy); and that section shall have effect accordingly.

Marginal Citations

M1 1988 c. 41.

General drainage charges

134 Raising of general drainage charges.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the Authority may raise at an amount per hectare of chargeable land in a local flood defence district a charge to be known as a general drainage charge and to be levied in accordance with sections 135 and 136 below.
- (2) The Authority shall not levy a general drainage charge in respect of any local flood defence district unless the regional flood defence committee for the area in which that district is situated have recommended that such a charge should be raised.
- (3) For the purposes of this section and sections 135 and 136 below the area of a regional flood defence committee in relation to which no local flood defence scheme is in force shall be treated as a single local flood defence district; and any parts of such an area in relation to which no such scheme is in force shall be treated as included in a single such district.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 S. 134 restricted (1.12.1991) by [Water Consolidation \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1991 \(c. 60, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 2(2), 4(2), [Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 2\(2\)](#)

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135 Amount, assessment etc. of general drainage charge.

- (1) A general drainage charge raised by the Authority for a local flood defence district for any year shall be at a uniform amount per hectare of chargeable land in that district.
- (2) The uniform amount referred to in subsection (1) above shall be ascertained, subject to subsection (3) below, by multiplying the relevant quotient ^{F3} . . . by one penny and by such number as may be specified by either of the Ministers by order made for the purposes of this subsection.
- (3) The number specified in an order under this section for the purposes of subsection (2) above shall (apart from any adjustment made to it to take account of rough grazing land) be such as the Minister making the order considers will secure, so far as reasonably practicable, that the amount specified in paragraph (a) below will be equal to the amount specified in paragraph (b) below, that is to say—
 - (a) the aggregate amount produced by any charge levied by reference to a relevant quotient ^{F4} . . . ; and
 - (b) the aggregate amount which, if the chargeable land in the local flood defence district had been liable to be rated for the financial year beginning in 1989, would have been produced by a rate levied on the land at an amount in the pound (of rateable value) equal to that quotient multiplied by one penny.
- (4) An order under this section may be made so as to apply either—
 - (a) to all general drainage charges; or
 - (b) to the general drainage charges proposed to be raised in any one or more local flood defence districts specified in the order;
 and any such order applying to more than one local flood defence district may make different provision as respects the different districts to which it applies.
- (5) Schedule 15 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the assessment, incidence, payment and enforcement of general drainage charges.
- (6) The power of each of the Ministers to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

[^{F5}(7) In this section “relevant quotient” means a quotient determined for the year concerned in accordance with rules contained in regulations made by either of the Ministers.]

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 135(2) repealed (1.8.1992 subject to savings in S.I. 1992/1755, **art. 2(2)**) by *Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14)*, s. 117(1)(2), Sch. 13 para. 96(1), **Sch.14** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); S.I. 1992/1755, **art. 2(1)**
- F4** Words in s. 135(3)(a) repealed (1.8.1992 subject to savings in S.I. 1992/1755, **art. 2(2)**) by *Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14)*, s. 117(1)(2), Sch. 13 para. 96(2), **Sch.14** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); S.I. 1992/1755, **art. 2(1)**
- F5** S. 135(7) added (1.8.1992 subject to savings in S.I. 1992/1755, **art. 2(2)**) by *Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14)*, s. 117(1), **Sch. 13 para. 96(3)** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); S.I. 1992/1755, **art. 2(1)**

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4** S. 135 restricted (1.12.1991) by [Water Consolidation \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1991 \(c. 60, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 2(2), 4(2), [Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 2\(2\)](#).

F6 136

Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 136 repealed (1.8.1992 subject to savings in [S.I. 1992/1755, art. 2\(2\)](#)) by [Local Government Finance Act 1992 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 117(1)(2), [Sch. 13 para. 97, Sch.14](#) (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); [S.I. 1992/1755, art. 2\(1\)](#)

Special drainage charges

137 Special drainage charges in interests of agriculture.

- (1) Where it appears to the Authority that the interests of agriculture require the carrying out, improvement or maintenance of drainage works in connection with any watercourses in the area of any regional flood defence committee, the Authority may submit to either of the Ministers for confirmation a scheme under this section with respect to those watercourses.
- (2) A scheme under this section with respect to any watercourses is a scheme—
 - (a) designating those watercourses, and any watercourses connected with them, for the purposes of this section; and
 - (b) making provision for the raising, in accordance with section 138 below, of a charge (known as a “special drainage charge”) for the purpose of meeting the expenses of drainage works in connection with the designated watercourses and any expenses arising from such works.
- (3) A scheme under this section shall designate for the purposes of the special drainage charge so much of the area of the regional flood defence committee as consists of land which, in the opinion of the Authority, is agricultural land that would benefit from drainage works in connection with the designated watercourses.
- (4) The watercourses designated in any scheme under this section shall, if the scheme is confirmed, be treated for the purposes of this Act and the ^{M2}Land Drainage Act 1991 as part of a main river.
- (5) A scheme under this section-
 - (a) may make provision for any of the matters referred to in subsections (1) and (2) of section 108 above; and
 - (b) may provide for the revocation or amendment of, and for the retransfer of property, rights, powers, duties, obligations and liabilities transferred by, any previous scheme under this section.
- (6) Schedule 16 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the making and confirmation of schemes under this section.
- (7) For the purposes of this section—

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- (a) the reference to expenses of drainage works is a reference to expenses incurred in the construction, improvement or maintenance of drainage works;
 - (b) the expenses of any drainage works which may be necessary in consequence of other drainage works, and so much of any contribution made under section 57 of the ^{M3}Land Drainage Act 1991 as is fairly attributable to such expenses, shall be deemed to be expenses arising from those other drainage works; and
 - (c) the expenses of any drainage works shall be taken (without prejudice to section 221(5) below) to include a proper proportion of the cost of the officers and buildings and establishment of the authority carrying them out.
- (8) In this section and Schedule 16 to this Act “watercourse” has the same meaning as in Part IV of this Act.

Marginal Citations

- M2** 1991 c. 59.
M3 1991 c. 59.

138 Levying and amount of special drainage charge.

- (1) A special drainage charge shall be levied by the Authority in respect of chargeable land included in the area designated for the purposes of the charge by the scheme authorising it (“the relevant chargeable land”).
- (2) The special drainage charge raised for any year shall be at a uniform amount per hectare of the relevant chargeable land.
- (3) The uniform amount referred to in subsection (2) above shall be determined by the regional flood defence committee for the area which includes the relevant chargeable land but shall exceed neither—
 - (a) an amount to be specified in the scheme as the maximum amount of the charge or such greater amount as may be authorised for the purposes of the scheme by an order made by one of the Ministers on the application of the Authority; nor
 - (b) twenty-five pence or such other amount as may be substituted for twenty-five pence by an order made by one of the Ministers and approved by a resolution of the House of Commons.
- (4) Before either of the Ministers makes an order under subsection (3)(a) above he shall—
 - (a) consult with such of the associations and persons concerned as he considers appropriate;
 - (b) cause a notice of his intention to make the order, and of the time (which shall not be less than thirty days) within which objections to the proposed order may be made to him, to be published in such manner as he thinks best adapted for informing persons affected;
 - (c) if he considers it necessary, afford such persons an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by him for the purpose; and
 - (d) consider the report of the person so appointed and any objections duly made.
- (5) An order under subsection (3)(b) above may be made so as to apply—
 - (a) to special drainage charges in general; or

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- (b) to the special drainage charges proposed to be raised in respect of such areas of regional flood defence committees as may be specified in the order; or
 - (c) to special drainage charges proposed to be raised in pursuance of one or more schemes made under section 137 above and so specified;
- and any such order applying to the charges proposed to be raised in respect of more than one area of a regional flood defence committee, or authorised by more than one such scheme, may make different provision for the charges in respect of different areas or, as the case may be, the charges authorised by the different schemes.
- (6) The power of each of the Ministers to make an order under subsection (3)(b) above shall be exercisable by statutory instrument; and section 14 of the ^{M4}Interpretation Act 1978 (power to revoke or amend orders made by statutory instrument) shall apply to the power to make orders under subsection (3)(a) above as it applies, by virtue of this subsection, to the power to make orders under subsection (3)(b) above.
- (7) Schedule 15 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the assessment, incidence, payment and enforcement of special drainage charges.

Marginal Citations

M4 1978 c. 30.

Revenue from internal drainage boards

139 Contributions from internal drainage boards.

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, the Authority shall by resolution require every internal drainage board to make towards the expenses of the Authority such contribution as the Authority may consider to be fair.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, where an internal drainage district (“the main internal drainage district”) comprises two or more other internal districts (“minor internal drainage districts”), the Authority shall not require the drainage board for that district to make any contribution towards the expenses of the Authority except in respect of such part, if any, of that district as is not situated within any minor internal drainage district.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) above, the Authority, after determining what contribution should be made by the drainage board for each of the minor internal drainage districts, may, if it thinks fit, require the drainage board for the main internal drainage district to pay direct to the Authority an amount equal to the aggregate of those contributions.
- (4) If the Authority make a requisition under subsection (3) above, the drainage board of the main internal drainage district shall raise the amount paid by them under that subsection to the Authority by means of drainage rates levied by them within, or special levies issued in respect of, the main internal drainage district or, as the case may be, such part of that district as is situated within a minor internal drainage district.
- (5) Without prejudice to subsection (3) of section 140 below, a resolution under this section may be acted upon by the Authority forthwith, notwithstanding that the time for bringing an appeal under that section has not expired or that an appeal so brought is pending.

Status: Point in time view as at 21/09/1995.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Resources Act 1991, chapter II. (See end of Document for details)

140 Appeals in respect of resolutions under section 139.

- (1) If—
- (a) an internal drainage board is aggrieved by a resolution of the Authority under section 139 above determining the amount of any contribution; or
 - (b) the council of any county or London borough is aggrieved by any such resolution on the ground that the amount of the contribution required to be made by an internal drainage board is inadequate,
- the board or council may, within six weeks after the date on which notice of the resolution is given by the Authority to the internal drainage board in question, appeal to the relevant Minister against the resolution.
- (2) On an appeal under this section the relevant Minister may, after—
- (a) considering any objections made to him; and
 - (b) if he thinks fit, holding a local public inquiry,
- make such an order in the matter as he thinks just.
- (3) Where the Authority has acted on a resolution by virtue of section 139(5) above and an appeal is brought in respect of the resolution, the relevant Minister shall by his order direct such adjustment to be made in respect of any sums recovered or paid in pursuance of the resolution as may be necessary for giving effect to his decision.
- (4) Where the relevant Minister makes an order under this section, he shall lay before Parliament particulars of the matter in respect of which the appeal was made and of the reasons for his order.
- (5) Compliance with any order made by the relevant Minister under this section may be enforced by mandamus.
- (6) In this section “the relevant Minister”—
- (a) in relation to an internal drainage district wholly in Wales or the drainage board for such a district, means the Secretary of State;
 - (b) in relation to an internal drainage district partly in Wales or the drainage board for such a district, means the Ministers; and
 - (c) in any other case, means the Minister.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C5 S. 140 extended (1.12.1991) by [Land Drainage Act 1991 \(c. 59, SIF 73:1\)](#) ss. 58(7), 76(2)

141 Precepts for recovery of contributions from internal drainage boards.

- (1) The Authority may issue precepts to internal drainage boards requiring payment of any amount required to be contributed by those boards under section 139 above.
- (2) An internal drainage board shall pay, in accordance with any precept issued to them under this section, the amount thereby demanded.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Authority to prepare, in such form as the relevant Minister may direct, a statement of—
 - (a) the purposes to which the amount demanded by any precept issued by the Authority under this section is intended to be applied; and

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Resources Act 1991, chapter II. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) the basis on which it is calculated;
and an internal drainage board shall not be liable to pay the amount demanded by any such precept until they have received such a statement.
- (4) Compliance with any precept issued by the Authority in accordance with this section may be enforced by mandamus.
- (5) In this section “the relevant Minister” has the same meaning as in section 140 above.

Fisheries contributions

142 Fisheries contributions.

- (1) Each of the Ministers shall have power, on an application made to him by the Authority, by order made by statutory instrument to make provision in relation to an area defined by the order—
- (a) for the imposition on the owners and occupiers of fisheries in that area of requirements to pay contributions to the Authority, of such amounts as may be determined under the order, in respect of the expenses of the carrying out in relation to that area of the Authority’s functions with respect to fisheries;
- (b) for such contributions to be paid or recovered in such manner, and to be refundable, in such circumstances as may be specified in or determined under the order.
- (2) Subsections [F7(2) to (6)]of section 115 above shall have effect in relation to the power conferred by subsection (1) above as they have effect in relation to the power conferred by subsection (1) of that section.
- (3) The reference in this section to the owners and occupiers of fisheries shall have the same meaning as any such reference in the ^{M5}Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975.

Textual Amendments

F7 Words in s. 142(2) substituted (21.9.1995) by 1995 c. 25, s. 116, **Sch. 21 para. 2(3)** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1995/1983, **art. 3**

Marginal Citations

M5 1975 c. 51.

Navigation tolls

143 Power of Authority to levy navigation tolls.

- (1) Where any navigable waters—
- (a) in England and Wales; or
- (b) in so much of the territorial sea adjacent to England and Wales as is included in the area of a regional flood defence committee,
- are not subject to the control of any navigation authority, harbour authority or conservancy authority, the Authority may apply to the Secretary of State for an order imposing tolls in respect of the navigation of vessels in those waters.

Status: Point in time view as at 21/09/1995.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Resources Act 1991, chapter II. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) An order under this section shall not be made unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the cost of the maintenance or works in connection with the waters to which the order relates has been or will be increased as a result of the use of those waters for purposes of navigation.
- (3) Schedule 17 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the making of orders under this section.
- (4) Any tolls payable under this section in respect of the navigation of a vessel in any water referred to in subsection (1) above—
 - (a) may be demanded from the person in charge of the vessel by any person authorised for that purpose by the Authority; and
 - (b) if not paid on demand, may be recovered from either the person in charge of the vessel or the owner of the vessel.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C6 S. 143 modified (1.12.1991) by [Land Drainage Act 1991 \(c. 59, SIF 73:1\)](#), ss. **56(1)**, 76(2)

C7 S. 143(4) modified (1.12.1991) by [Land Drainage Act 1991 \(c. 59, SIF 73:1\)](#), ss. **56(2)**, 76(2)

Incidental power of the Authority to impose charges

144 Incidental power of the Authority to impose charges.

Without prejudice to the generality of its powers by virtue of section 4(1)(a) above and subject to any such express provision with respect to charging by the Authority as is contained in the preceding provisions of this Chapter or any other enactment, the Authority shall have power to fix and recover charges for services and facilities provided in the course of carrying out its functions.

Interpretation of Chapter II

145 Interpretation of Chapter II.

In this Chapter—

“agricultural buildings” has the meaning provided by section 26(4) of the ^{M6}General Rate Act 1967 as amended by the ^{M7}Rating Act 1971;

“agricultural land” means—

- (a) land used as arable, meadow or pasture ground only;
- (b) land used for a plantation or a wood or for the growth of saleable underwood; and
- (c) land exceeding one tenth of a hectare used for the purpose of poultry farming, market gardens, nursery grounds, orchards or allotments, including allotment gardens within the meaning of the ^{M8}Allotments Act 1922,

but does not include land occupied together with a house as a park, gardens (other than as aforesaid) or pleasure grounds, land kept or preserved mainly or exclusively for purposes of sport or recreation or land used as a racecourse;

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“chargeable land” means the agricultural land and agricultural buildings in so much of the area of a regional flood defence committee as does not fall within an internal drainage district, excluding rough grazing land and woodlands other than commercial woodlands;

“commercial woodlands” means woodlands managed on a commercial basis with a view to the realisation of profits;

“drainage” has the same meaning as in Part IV above;

“drainage charge” means general drainage charge or special drainage charge;

“rough grazing land” means land of either of the following descriptions, that is to say—

- (a) land used as pasture ground on which the vegetation consists solely or mainly of one or more of the following, that is to say, bracken, gorse, heather, rushes and sedge; and
- (b) land so used which is unsuitable for mowing by machine and on which the vegetation consists solely or mainly of grass of poor feeding value; and

“spray irrigation” has the same meaning as in Chapter II of Part II of this Act.

Marginal Citations

M6 1967 c. 9.

M7 1971 c. 39.

M8 1922 c. 51.

Status:

Point in time view as at 21/09/1995.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Resources Act 1991, chapter II.