



Finance Act 1993

1993 CHAPTER 34

PART III

OIL TAXATION

185 Abolition of PRT for oil fields with development consents on or after 16th March 1993

- (1) In this Part of this Act a “non-taxable field” means an oil field—
- (a) for no part of which consent for development was granted to a licensee by the Secretary of State before 16th March 1993; and
 - (b) for no part of which a programme of development was served on a licensee or approved by the Secretary of State before that date;
- and in this Part of this Act “taxable field” means an oil field which is not a non-taxable field.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) above, no account shall be taken, in relation to an oil field, of a consent for development granted before 16th March 1993 or a programme of development served on a licensee or approved by the Secretary of State before that date if—
- (a) in whole or in part that consent or programme related to another oil field for which a determination under Schedule 1 to the principal Act was made before the determination under that Schedule for the field in question; and
 - (b) on or after 16th March 1993, a consent for development is or was granted or a programme of development is or was served on a licensee or approved by the Secretary of State and that consent or programme relates, in whole or in part, to the field in question.
- (3) Petroleum revenue tax shall not be charged in accordance with the Oil Taxation Acts in respect of—
- (a) profits from oil won from a non-taxable field under the authority of such a licence as is referred to in section 1(1) of the principal Act; or

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- (b) any receipts accruing to a participator in a non-taxable field which, in the case of a taxable field, would be tariff receipts or disposal receipts attributable to the field for any period.
- (4) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (3) above—
- (a) in section 1(2) of the principal Act (the charge to tax) after the words “oil field” there shall be inserted “which is a taxable field”;
 - (b) in section 3(1D) of the principal Act (apportionment of expenditure between oil field and non-oil field use) for the words “an oil field”, in both places where they occur, there shall be substituted “a taxable field”;
 - (c) in section 5B of the principal Act (allowance of research expenditure) in subsection (6) after the words “this Act” there shall be inserted “or for purposes relating to non-taxable fields”;
 - (d) no computation shall be made under the Oil Taxation Acts of the assessable profit or allowable loss accruing to a participator in any period from a non-taxable field; and
 - (e) no expenditure shall be regarded as allowable (or allowed) for a non-taxable field under the Oil Taxation Acts.
- (5) In section 12(1) of the principal Act (interpretation) at the end of the definition of “oil field” there shall be added the words “and “taxable field” and “non-taxable field” have the same meaning as in Part III of the Finance Act 1993”.
- (6) Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (4) above, where, apart from this section, expenditure incurred on or after 16th March 1993 would fall to be apportioned (as being allowable expenditure) between two or more oil fields, at least one of which is a non-taxable field, the apportionment shall be made as if all the fields were taxable fields, but subsection (4)(e) above shall then apply to any amount of expenditure apportioned to a non-taxable field.
- (7) In subsections (1) and (2) above “development”, in relation to an oil field, means—
- (a) the erection or carrying out of permanent works for the purpose of getting oil from the field or for the purpose of conveying oil won from the field to a place on land; or
 - (b) winning oil from the field otherwise than in the course of searching for oil or drilling wells;
- and consent for development does not include consent which is limited to the purpose of testing the characteristics of an oil-bearing area and does not relate to the erection or carrying out of permanent works.
- (8) In subsection (7) above “permanent works” means any structures or other works whatsoever which are intended by the licensee to be permanent and are neither designed to be moved from place to place without major dismantling nor intended by the licensee to be used only for searching for oil.

186 Reduction of rates of PRT and interest repayments for taxable oil fields

- (1) With respect to chargeable periods ending after 30th June 1993 the rate of petroleum revenue tax (relevant only to taxable fields) shall be 50 per cent. and, accordingly, with respect to such periods, in section 1(2) of the principal Act for “75” there shall be substituted “50”.

- (2) In paragraph 17 of Schedule 2 to the principal Act (limit on interest in the case of relief for losses carried back) at the end of sub-paragraph (2) there shall be added the words “and, in relation to the appropriate repayment, the chargeable period for which the relevant assessment or amendment is made is referred to as “the repayment period””.
- (3) In sub-paragraph (4) of that paragraph—
- (a) at the beginning there shall be inserted the words “Subject to sub-paragraph (6) below”; and
 - (b) in paragraph (a) for the words “85 per cent.” there shall be substituted “the relevant percentage of the amount” and after the word “above” there shall be inserted “which is treated as reducing the assessable profit of the repayment period”.
- (4) At the end of that paragraph there shall be added the following sub-paragraphs—
- “(5) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (4)(a) above—
 - (a) where the repayment period ends on or before 30th June 1993, the relevant percentage, in relation to the amount of the loss or losses which is treated as reducing the assessable profit accruing to the participator for that period is 85 per cent.; and
 - (b) in relation to the amount of the loss or losses which is treated as reducing the assessable profit accruing to the participator for any later repayment period, the relevant percentage is 60 per cent.
 - (6) If, in order to give effect to the relief for losses carried back, a repayment of APRT falls, or will on the making of a claim fall, to be made with respect to a chargeable period which is the repayment period in relation to the appropriate repayment, the reference in sub-paragraph (4)(b) above to the appropriate repayment shall be construed as a reference to the aggregate of that repayment and the repayment of APRT.
 - (7) In sub-paragraph (6) above “APRT” means advance petroleum revenue tax paid under Chapter II of Part VI of the Finance Act 1982.”

187 Returns and information

- (1) In Schedule 2 to the principal Act (management and collection of petroleum revenue tax), other than the Table in paragraph 1 (modifications of the Taxes Management Act 1970),—
- (a) for the words “an oil field”, in each place where they occur, there shall be substituted “a taxable field”; and
 - (b) for the words “the oil field”, in each place where they occur, there shall be substituted “the taxable field”;
- and paragraph 7 (which is superseded by the following provisions of this section) shall be omitted.
- (2) The Board may by notice in writing require a person—
- (a) to deliver to a named officer of the Board such documents as are in the person’s possession or power and as (in the Board’s reasonable opinion) contain, or may contain, information relevant to—
 - (i) any tax liability to which that person is or may be subject, or
 - (ii) the amount of any such liability; or

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- (b) to furnish to a named officer of the Board such particulars as the Board may reasonably require as being relevant to, or to the amount of, any such liability.
- (3) The Board may, for the purpose of enquiring into the tax liability of any person (“the taxpayer”), by notice in writing require any other person to deliver to or, if the person to whom the notice is given so elects, to make available for inspection by, a named officer of the Board, such documents—
 - (a) as are in his possession or power; and
 - (b) as (in the Board’s reasonable opinion) contain, or may contain, information relevant to—
 - (i) any tax liability to which the taxpayer is or may be or may have been subject; or
 - (ii) the amount of any such liability.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5) below, a notice under subsection (3) above shall name the taxpayer with whose liability the Board is concerned; and (for the avoidance of doubt) a company which has ceased to exist may be so named.
- (5) If, on an application made by the Board, a Special Commissioner gives his consent, the Board may give such a notice as is mentioned in subsection (3) above but without naming the taxpayer to whom the notice relates; but such a consent shall not be given unless the Special Commissioner is satisfied—
 - (a) that the notice relates to a taxpayer whose identity is not known to the Board or to a class of taxpayers whose individual identities are not so known;
 - (b) that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the taxpayer or any of the class of taxpayers to whom the notice relates may have failed or may fail to comply with any provision of the Oil Taxation Acts;
 - (c) that any such failure is likely to have led or to lead to serious prejudice to the proper assessment or collection of tax; and
 - (d) that the information which is likely to be contained in any documents to which the notice relates is not readily available from another source.
- (6) A person to whom a notice is given under subsection (5) above may, by notice in writing given to the Board within thirty days after the date of the notice under that subsection, object to that notice on the ground that it would be onerous for him to comply with it; and, if the matter is not resolved by agreement, it shall be referred to the Special Commissioners who may confirm, vary or cancel that notice.
- (7) Subsections (2) to (6) above (which, in relation to petroleum revenue tax, contain provisions similar to those of section 20 of the Taxes Management Act 1970) shall have effect subject to Part I of Schedule 21 to this Act (which contains provisions similar to those of section 20B of that Act); and the provisions of Part II of that Schedule relating to the meaning of “documents” (which are derived from provisions of sections 20 and 20D of that Act) shall have effect.
- (8) Section 98 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 (penalties, etc. in relation to special returns) shall have effect as if, in the first column of the Table in that section, there were included a reference to subsections (2) to (6) above.

188 Exploration and appraisal expenditure

(1) In section 5A of the principal Act (allowance of exploration and appraisal expenditure), in subsection (1) (conditions for expenditure to be allowable) after paragraph (a) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

“(aa) either is incurred before 16th March 1993 or is incurred within the period of two years beginning on that date and is expenditure to which that person or, if that person is a company, that company or a company associated with it in respect of the expenditure, is committed immediately before that date; and”.

(2) After subsection (1) of that section there shall be inserted the following subsections—

“(1A) For the purposes of subsection (1)(aa) above, in respect of expenditure incurred on or after 16th March 1993, a person is to be regarded as committed to that expenditure immediately before that date if—

- (a) he has an obligation under an exploration and appraisal contract entered into before that date to incur the expenditure; or
- (b) the expenditure is incurred wholly and exclusively for the same purpose as that for which the contract referred to in paragraph (a) above was entered into and is so incurred pursuant to an obligation under an exploration and appraisal contract entered into on or after 16th March 1993 and before 16th June 1993.

(1B) In considering whether a person has at any time such a contractual obligation as is referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of subsection (1A) above in respect of any expenditure,

- (a) if the contract contains a power (however exercisable) by virtue of which the person concerned, or a company associated with him in respect of the expenditure, is able to bring any contractual obligations to an end, he shall not be regarded as committed to any expenditure which, if the power were to be exercised, would not be incurred; and
- (b) if the person concerned (or a company associated with him in respect of the expenditure) has an option (however described) which was not exercised before 16th March 1993 but the exercise of which would increase his expenditure under the contract, he shall not be regarded as committed to any expenditure which would be incurred only as a result of the exercise of the option.

(1C) For the purposes of subsection (1A) above a contract is an exploration and appraisal contract if it is a contract for the provision of any services or other business facilities or assets for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2) below.”

(3) In subsection (2) of that section for the words “subsection (1)” there shall be substituted “subsections (1) to (1C)”.

189 Transitional relief for certain exploration and appraisal expenditure

(1) This section applies in any case where—

- (a) a participator in an oil field or an associate incurs expenditure on or after 16th March 1993 and before 1st January 1995; and

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- (b) apart from this section, that expenditure would not be allowable under section 5A of the principal Act (as amended by section 188 above); and
 - (c) if section 188 above had not been enacted, the expenditure would be allowable in the case of the participator under section 5A of the principal Act; and
 - (d) on 16th March 1993 the participator or the associate was a licensee in respect of the area to which the expenditure related.
- (2) In the following provisions of this section—
- (a) expenditure falling within subsection (1) above is referred to as “transitional E and A expenditure”; and
 - (b) the participator in whose case that expenditure would be allowable as mentioned in paragraph (c) of that subsection is referred to as “the claimant”.
- (3) Subject to the following provisions of this section, so much of the transitional E and A expenditure incurred by the claimant or an associate as does not in the aggregate exceed £10 million shall be allowable in the case of the claimant under section 5A of the principal Act (as exploration and appraisal expenditure).
- (4) In subsections (1) to (3) above any reference to an associate of a participator applies only where the participator is a company and is a reference to another company—
- (a) which on 16th March 1993 was a member of the same group of companies as the participator; and
 - (b) with which the participator is associated in respect of expenditure incurred by the other company;
- and subsections (7) and (8) of section 5 of the principal Act (companies and associates etc.) apply for the purposes of this section as they apply for the purposes of that section.
- (5) Where—
- (a) the claimant is a company, and
 - (b) on 16th March 1993 the claimant was a member of a group of companies, and
 - (c) at least one other company which was a member of the group on that date was then a participator in an oil field, and
 - (d) that other company is also the claimant in relation to an amount of transitional E and A expenditure,
- subsection (3) above shall have effect as if references therein to the claimant were references to the aggregate of all those companies which on that date were members of the group and are the claimants in relation to any transitional E and A expenditure.
- (6) In this section, a group of companies means a company which is not a 51 per cent. subsidiary of any other company, together with each company which is its 51 per cent. subsidiary; and section 838 of the Taxes Act 1988 (subsidiaries) applies for the purposes of this section as it applies for the purposes of the Tax Acts (within the meaning of that Act).

190 Allowance of expenditure on certain assets limited by reference to taxable field use

- (1) Where, in the case of expenditure incurred as mentioned in section 1(1) of the 1983 Act (expenditure incurred on non-dedicated mobile assets),—
- (a) the expenditure would, apart from this subsection, be allowable under section 4 of the principal Act for a claim period of a taxable field, and
 - (b) during that claim period, the asset becomes dedicated to a non-taxable field,

that proportion of the expenditure which is equal to the proportion of the claim period during which the asset is dedicated to a non-taxable field shall not be allowable as mentioned in paragraph (a) above.

- (2) For the purpose of determining whether an asset becomes at any time dedicated to a non-taxable field, it shall be assumed that, in relation to a non-taxable field, any reference in section 2 of the 1983 Act (dedicated mobile assets) to a claim period is a reference to—
 - (a) the period ending at the end of December following the determination of the field; or
 - (b) the period of twelve months ending at the end of December in any later year.
- (3) In paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 to the 1983 Act (brought-in assets) in sub-paragraph (1) (c) (which requires that during the initial period the asset should have been used otherwise than in connection with an oil field) for the words “an oil field” there shall be substituted “a taxable field”.
- (4) In paragraph 8 of that Schedule (subsequent use of new asset otherwise than in connection with an oil field) in the heading and in sub-paragraphs (1) to (3) and (6) for the words “an oil field” there shall be substituted “a taxable field”.
- (5) In paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 to the 1983 Act (acquisition otherwise than at arm’s length: limit on tariff and disposal receipts)—
 - (a) in paragraphs (a) and (c) of sub-paragraph (1) for the words “an oil field” there shall be substituted “a taxable field”;
 - (b) at the end of sub-paragraph (1)(c) there shall be added “and
 - (d) the asset is to be used wholly in connection with a taxable field”;
 - (c) in sub-paragraph (3)(a) for the words “an oil field” there shall be substituted “a taxable field”; and
 - (d) in sub-paragraph (3)(b) for the words “an oil field” there shall be substituted “a taxable field or, if it is to a participator in a taxable field, the asset is to be used wholly or partly in connection with a non-taxable field”.

191 Time when expenditure is incurred

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, where a claim is made under the principal Act for the allowance of any expenditure and the claim is received by the Board after 16th March 1993, an amount of expenditure is to be taken to be incurred for the purposes of the Oil Taxation Acts on the date on which the obligation to pay that amount becomes unconditional (whether or not there is a later date on or before which the whole or any part of that amount is required to be paid).
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, where the amount of any expenditure incurred by any person at any time after 16th March 1993 under a contract—
 - (a) for the acquisition from any other person of, or of an interest in, an asset, or
 - (b) for the provision by any other person of services or other business facilities of whatever kind (whether in connection with the use of an asset or not), or
 - (c) for the grant or transfer to that person by any other person of any right, licence or interest (other than an interest in an asset)

is disproportionate to the extent to which that other person has, at or before that time, performed his obligations under the contract then, for the purposes of the Oil Taxation

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Acts, only so much of the expenditure shall be taken to have been incurred at that time as is proportionate to those obligations which have been so performed.

- (3) If, in the case of a contract entered into after 16th March 1993 and falling within paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of subsection (2) above—
- (a) the expenditure referred to in that subsection is incurred before 1st July 1993, and
 - (b) the other person referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) (“the contractor”) has performed his obligations by entering into one or more further contracts, the contractor shall be treated for the purposes of subsection (2) above as having at any time performed his obligations under the contract only to the extent that, at that time, the asset or interest in question has been acquired by, or, as the case may be, the services or other business facilities have been provided to, the person incurring the expenditure.
- (4) In paragraph 2 of Schedule 4 to the principal Act (limitation of allowable expenditure on transactions between connected persons or otherwise than at arm’s length) for sub-paragraph (1) there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraphs—
- “(1) Where, in a transaction to which this paragraph applies, a person has incurred expenditure in acquiring, bringing into existence or enhancing the value of an asset, he shall at any time be treated for the purposes of—
 - (a) sections 3 and 4 of this Act, and
 - (b) sections 3 and 4 of and Schedule 1 to the Oil Taxation Act 1983, as having incurred that expenditure only to the extent that it does not exceed expenditure (other than loan expenditure) incurred up to that time in a transaction to which this paragraph does not apply (or, if there has been more than one such transaction, the later or latest of them) in acquiring, bringing into existence or enhancing the value of, that asset.
 - (1A) Subsections (1) to (3) of section 191 of the Finance Act 1993 apply to determine for the purposes of this paragraph what expenditure has at any time been incurred under a transaction to which this paragraph does not apply, as they apply in relation to expenditure for the allowance of which a claim is received by the Board after 16th March 1993.
 - (1B) In sub-paragraph (1) above “loan expenditure” means expenditure in respect of interest or any other pecuniary obligation incurred in obtaining a loan or any other form of credit.”
- (5) For sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 2 of Schedule 4 to the principal Act there shall be substituted the following sub-paragraphs—
- “(3) The preceding provisions of this section shall, with any necessary modification, apply in relation to expenditure incurred by any person in acquiring an interest in an asset or in bringing into existence an asset in which he is to have an interest, or in enhancing the value of an asset in which he has an interest, as those provisions apply in relation to expenditure incurred by a person in acquiring, bringing into existence, or enhancing the value of an asset, as the case may be.
 - (4) The provisions of sub-paragraphs (1) to (2) above shall, with any necessary modification, apply in relation to expenditure incurred by any person in respect of—

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- (a) the use of an asset (including expenditure on renting or hiring), or
- (b) the provision of services or other business facilities of whatever kind in connection with the use, otherwise than by that person, of an asset,

as they have effect in relation to expenditure incurred in the acquisition of, or of an interest in, an asset.”

- (6) The amendments made by subsections (4) and (5) above have effect where the transaction to which paragraph 2 of Schedule 4 to the principal Act applies takes place on or after 16th March 1993.

192 Chargeable periods in which expenditure may be brought into account

- (1) Where a claim which—
 - (a) is made under Schedule 5 or Schedule 6 to the principal Act for the allowance of any expenditure, and
 - (b) is received by the Board after 16th March 1993,has been allowed, the expenditure shall not be brought into account in determining the assessable profit or allowable loss of any chargeable period which ends earlier than the last day of the claim period in which the expenditure was incurred.
- (2) Where a claim has been made under Schedule 7 to the principal Act for the allowance of any expenditure incurred after 31st March 1993 and that claim has been allowed, the expenditure shall not be brought into account in determining the assessable profit or allowable loss of any chargeable period which ends before the date on which the expenditure was incurred.
- (3) The preceding provisions of this section have effect notwithstanding anything in subsection (9) of section 2 of the principal Act (under which expenditure which had been allowed might in certain cases be taken into account in earlier chargeable periods) and, accordingly, at the beginning of that subsection there shall be inserted “Subject to section 192 of the Finance Act 1993”.

193 Tariff receipts etc

- (1) In section 9 of the 1983 Act (tariff receipts allowance) in subsection (5) (definition of “user field”) in paragraph (a) after the words “other than the principal field” there shall be inserted “or a non-taxable field”, and at the end of that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsection—

“(5A) No order may be made under subsection (5)(b) above on or after 1st July 1993.”
- (2) Where a participator in a taxable field incurs any expenditure and,—
 - (a) apart from this subsection, the expenditure would be taken into account in determining the assessable profit or allowable loss accruing to that participator from the taxable field in any chargeable period, and
 - (b) in the hands of the recipient, the expenditure would, on the relevant assumptions, constitute tariff receipts or disposal receipts of a participator in a non-taxable field attributable to that field for any period, and

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- (c) at the time the expenditure is incurred, the participator referred to in paragraph (a) above is or is connected with a participator in the non-taxable field referred to in paragraph (b) above,
the expenditure shall be disregarded in determining the assessable profit or allowable loss referred to in paragraph (a) above.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, the relevant assumptions are—
- (a) that the non-taxable field is a taxable field; and
 - (b) that the asset which gives rise to the expenditure (by virtue of its use, the provision of services or other business facilities in connection with its use or its disposal) is a qualifying asset in relation to the participator in question.
- (4) In section 12 of the 1983 Act (charge of receipts attributable to United Kingdom use of foreign field asset), in subsection (3) after the words “oil field”, in the first place where they occur, there shall be inserted “which is a taxable field and”.
- (5) After subsection (3) of section 12 of the 1983 Act there shall be inserted the following subsection—
- “(3A) No order may be made under subsection (2)(a) above on or after 1st July 1993.”
- (6) In this section “disposal receipts”, “qualifying asset” and “tariff receipts” have the same meaning as in the 1983 Act; and section 839 of the Taxes Act 1988 (connected persons) applies for the purposes of subsection (2)(c) above.

194 Double taxation relief in relation to petroleum revenue tax

- (1) For the purpose of giving relief from double taxation in relation to petroleum revenue tax in respect of the amount or value of consideration which is brought into charge to tax under section 12 of the 1983 Act (charge of receipts attributable to United Kingdom use of foreign field assets), section 788 of the Taxes Act 1988 (relief by agreement with other countries) shall have effect as if—
- (a) references therein to income tax included references to petroleum revenue tax; and
 - (b) references therein to income included references to any such consideration.
- (2) Section 788 of the Taxes Act 1988, as it has effect in accordance with subsection (1) above, shall apply with respect to any arrangements which—
- (a) are set out in an Order in Council made, or having effect as if made, under that section before as well as after the passing of this Act; and
 - (b) include petroleum revenue tax as a tax to which the arrangements apply.
- (3) In the application of section 788 of the Taxes Act 1988 in accordance with the preceding provisions of this section—
- (a) paragraphs (b) to (d) of subsection (3),
 - (b) subsections (4), (5) and (7), and
 - (c) in subsection (6) the words from “Except” to “this Part”,
- shall be omitted.
- (4) In relation to a claim for relief under section 788 of the Taxes Act 1988 which is made by virtue of this section, sections 42 and 43 of the Taxes Management Act 1970 shall have effect with the following modifications—

- (a) for any reference to income tax there shall be substituted a reference to petroleum revenue tax;
 - (b) any reference to income shall be construed as a reference to such consideration as is referred to in subsection (1) above;
 - (c) for any reference to a year of assessment there shall be substituted a reference to a chargeable period within the meaning of the principal Act; and
 - (d) any reference to a chargeable period shall be construed as a reference to a chargeable period within the meaning of the principal Act.
- (5) Section 816 of the Taxes Act 1988 (disclosure of information) shall apply in relation to petroleum revenue tax as it applies in relation to income tax.

195 Interpretation of Part III and consequential amendments of assessments etc

- (1) In this Part—
- (a) “the principal Act” means the Oil Taxation Act 1975 ;
 - (b) “the 1983 Act” means the Oil Taxation Act 1983 ;
 - (c) “the Oil Taxation Acts” means Parts I and III of the principal Act, the 1983 Act and any other enactment relating to petroleum revenue tax; and
 - (d) “taxable field” and “non-taxable field” shall be construed in accordance with section 185 above.
- (2) The Board may make all such amendments of assessments or determinations or of decisions on claims as may be necessary in consequence of the provisions of this Part.
- (3) This Part, other than section 194, shall be construed as one with Part I of the principal Act.