



Police Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 16

PART I

ORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCES

Alteration of police areas

32 Power to alter police areas by order.

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order make alterations in police areas in England and Wales other than the City of London police area.
- (2) The alterations that may be made by an order under this section include alterations that result in a reduction or an increase in the number of police areas, but not alterations that result in the abolition of the metropolitan police district.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall not exercise his power under this section to make alterations unless either—
 - (a) he has received a request to make the alterations from the [^{F1}local policing body] for each of the areas ^{F2}... affected by them, or
 - (b) it appears to him to be expedient to make the alterations in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall exercise his power to make orders under this section in such a way as to ensure that [^{F3}no police area falls partly in England and partly in Wales and that] none of the following areas—
 - (a) a county in which there are no district councils,
 - (b) a district in any other county,
 - (c) a county borough in Wales, and
 - (d) a London borough,is divided between two or more police areas.

^{F4}(5)

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
for the Police Act 1996, Section 32. (See end of Document for details)*

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 32(3)(a) substituted (25.4.2012) by [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(c. 13\), s. 157\(1\), Sch. 10 para. 5\(2\)](#); S.I. 2012/1129, art. 2(g)
- F2** Words in s. 32(3)(a) repealed (3.7.2000) by 1999 c. 29, ss. 325, 423, Sch. 27 para. 84(2), **Sch. 34 Pt. VII** (with [Sch. 12 para. 9\(1\)](#)); S.I. 2000/1648, art. 2, **Sch.**
- F3** Words in s. 32(4) inserted (25.4.2012) by [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(c. 13\), s. 157\(1\), Sch. 10 para. 5\(3\)](#); S.I. 2012/1129, art. 2(g)
- F4** S. 32(5) repealed (1.4.2000) by 1999 c. 29, ss. 325, 423, **Sch. 27 para. 84(3) Sch. 34 Pt. VII** (with [Sch. 12 para. 9\(1\)](#)); S.I. 1999/3271, **art. 4(b)(c)(d)**

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