



# Water Act 2003

## 2003 CHAPTER 37

### PART 1

#### ABSTRACTION AND IMPOUNDING

##### *Restrictions on abstraction and impounding*

### 1 Licences to abstract water

- (1) After section 24 of the Water Resources Act 1991 (c. 57) (in this Act referred to as the “WRA”) there is inserted—

#### **“24A Abstraction licences**

- (1) Each licence to abstract water shall be of one of the following three types—
- (a) a licence to abstract water from one source of supply over a period of twenty-eight days or more for any purpose (a “full licence”);
  - (b) a licence to abstract water from one source of supply over a period of twenty-eight days or more for the purpose of—
    - (i) transferring water to another source of supply; or
    - (ii) transferring water to the same source of supply, but at another point, in the course of dewatering activities in connection with mining, quarrying, engineering, building or other operations (whether underground or on the surface),in either case without intervening use (a “transfer licence”);
  - (c) a licence to abstract water from one source of supply over a period of less than twenty-eight days (a “temporary licence”).
- (2) In this Act, a reference (however expressed) to a licence to abstract water is to be taken as a reference to all types of licence, unless it is clear that a different meaning is intended.”

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**Changes to legislation:** Water Act 2003, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 August 2023. 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](#)

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(2) In section 72 of the WRA (interpretation of Chapter 2), in subsection (1), in the appropriate places there is inserted—

““full licence” has the meaning given in section 24A above;”,

““temporary licence” and “transfer licence” have the meanings given in section 24A above.”

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**Commencement Information**

**II** [S. 1](#) in force at 1.4.2006 by [S.I. 2006/984](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch. para. 12](#))

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

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

- s. 52(9) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 7 para. 133\(3\)](#)