



Water Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 37

PART 1

ABSTRACTION AND IMPOUNDING

Modification of licences

21 Modification of licences

- (1) Section 51 of the WRA (modification of licence on application of licence holder) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1), after “Chapter” there is inserted “to abstract water”.
- (3) After subsection (1) there is inserted—
 - “(1A) The holder of a licence under this Chapter to obstruct or impede the flow of inland waters (an “impounding licence”) may apply to the Agency to revoke the licence and, on any such application, the Agency may revoke the licence accordingly.
 - (1B) The Agency may require conditions to be met to its satisfaction before revocation of the impounding licence takes effect, and those conditions may in particular include conditions—
 - (a) requiring the removal of all or part of the impounding works;
 - (b) as to the restoration of the site of the impounding works to a state which is satisfactory to the Agency;
 - (c) relating to the inland waters the flow of which is obstructed or impeded by means of the impounding works.
 - (1C) The person making an application under subsection (1A) above (“the applicant”) may by notice appeal to the Secretary of State if—
 - (a) he is dissatisfied with the decision of the Agency as to—
 - (i) whether his licence may be revoked; or

Changes to legislation: *Water Act 2003, Section 21 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 July 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*

- (ii) any conditions imposed by virtue of subsection (1B) above;
or
- (b) the Agency fails to give notice of its decision to the applicant within the prescribed period or within such extended period as may be agreed in writing between the Agency and the applicant.
- (1D) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision with respect to—
 - (a) the manner in which notices of appeal under subsection (1C) above shall be served;
 - (b) the period within which such notices shall be served;
 - (c) the procedure on any such appeal.
- (1E) Where an appeal is brought under subsection (1C) above, the Secretary of State may—
 - (a) allow or dismiss the appeal or reverse or vary any part of the decision of the Agency, whether the appeal relates to that part of the decision or not; and
 - (b) may deal with the application as if it had been made to him in the first place.
- (1F) The decision of the Secretary of State on any appeal under subsection (1C) above shall be final.
- (1G) Subsections (1C) to (1F) above are subject to section 114 of the 1995 Act (delegation or reference of appeals).”
- (4) In section 114 of the Environment Act 1995 (c. 25) (power of Secretary of State to delegate or refer in connection with appeals), in subsection (2)(a)(v), after “43,” there is inserted “ 51, ”.
- (5) The amendments made by this section apply (as regards any act or omission after this section comes into force) in respect of impounding licences, regardless of when the impounding works were constructed.

Commencement Information

II [S. 21](#) in force at 1.4.2006 by [S.I. 2006/984](#), [art. 2\(k\)](#)

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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\(3\)](#)