



Rent (Agriculture) Act 1976

1976 CHAPTER 80

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1 Interpretation and commencement

(1) In this Act—

(a) "agriculture" includes—

- (i) dairy-farming and livestock keeping and breeding (whether those activities involve the use of land or not);
- (ii) the production of any consumable produce which is grown for sale or for consumption or other use for the purposes of a trade or business or of any other undertaking (whether carried on for profit or not);
- (iii) the use of land as grazing, meadow or pasture land or orchard or osier land;
- (iv) the use of land for market gardens or nursery grounds; and
- (v) forestry;

(b) "forestry" includes—

- (i) the use of land for nursery grounds for trees, and
- (ii) the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the use of land for other agricultural purposes.

(2) For the purposes of the definition in subsection (1)(a) above—

"consumable produce" means produce grown for consumption or other use after severance or separation from the land or other growing medium on or in which it is grown;

"livestock" includes any animal which is kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur, or for the purpose of its use in the carrying on of any agricultural activity, and for the purposes of this definition "animal" includes bird but does not include fish.

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- (3) The expressions listed in column 1 of Schedule 1 to this Act have for the purposes of this Act the meanings given by the provisions shown in column 2 of the Schedule.
- (4) In this Act " relevant licence " and " relevant tenancy " have the meanings given by Schedule 2 to this Act.
- (5) Schedule 3 to this Act, of which—
- (a) Part I is for determining for the purposes of this Act—
 - (i) whether a person is a qualifying worker,
 - (ii) whether a person is incapable of whole-time work in agriculture, or work in agriculture as a permit worker, in consequence of a qualifying injury or disease, and
 - (iii) whether a dwelling-house is in qualifying ownership,
 - (b) Part II postpones the operation of this Act in relation to certain persons employed in forestry, and
 - (c) Part III contains supplementary provisions,
- shall have effect.
- (6) This Act shall, subject to subsection (7) below, come into force on such date as the Secretary of State and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food acting jointly may by order contained in a statutory instrument appoint, and that date is in this Act called "the operative date".
- (7) Subsection (6) above has effect subject to the said Part II of Schedule 3 to this Act.

Protected occupancies

2 Protected occupiers in their own right

- (1) Where a person has, in relation to a dwelling-house, a relevant licence or tenancy and the dwelling-house is in qualifying ownership, or has been in qualifying ownership at any time during the subsistence of the licence or tenancy (whether it was at the time a relevant licence or tenancy or not), he shall be a protected occupier of the dwelling-house if—
- (a) he is a qualifying worker, or
 - (b) he has been a qualifying worker at any time during the subsistence of the licence or tenancy (whether it was at the time a relevant licence or tenancy or not).
- (2) Where a person has, in relation to a dwelling-house, a relevant licence or tenancy and the dwelling-house is in qualifying ownership, or has been in qualifying ownership at any time during the subsistence of the licence or tenancy (whether it was at the time a relevant licence or tenancy or not), he shall be a protected occupier of the dwelling-house if and so long as he is incapable of whole-time work in agriculture, or work in agriculture as a permit worker, in consequence of a qualifying injury or disease.
- (3) A person who has, in relation to a dwelling-house, a relevant licence or tenancy shall be a protected occupier of the dwelling-house if—
- (a) immediately before the licence or tenancy was granted, he was a protected occupier or statutory tenant of the dwelling-house in his own right, or
 - (b) the licence or tenancy was granted in consideration of his giving up possession of another dwelling-house of which he was such an occupier or such a tenant.

(4) In this Act—

" protected occupier in his own right " means a person who is a protected occupier by virtue of subsection (1), (2) or (3) above;

" statutory tenant in his own right " means a person who is a statutory tenant by virtue of section 4(1) below and who, immediately before he became such a tenant, was a protected occupier in his own right.

3 Protected occupiers by succession

(1) Subsection (2) or, as the case may be, subsection (3) below shall have effect for determining what person (if any) is a protected occupier of a dwelling-house after the death of a person ("the original occupier") who, immediately before his death, was a protected occupier of the dwelling-house in his own right.

(2) Where the original occupier was a man who died leaving a widow who was residing with him at his death then, after his death, if the widow has, in relation to the dwelling-house, a relevant licence or tenancy, she shall be a protected occupier of the dwelling-house.

This subsection is framed by reference to the case where the original occupier was a man, but is to be read as applying equally in the converse case where the original occupier was a woman.

(3) Where—

(a) the original occupier was not a person who died leaving a surviving spouse who was residing with him at his death, but

(b) one or more persons who were members of his family were residing with him at the time of and for the period of six months immediately before his death,

then, after his death, if that person or, as the case may be, any of those persons has, in relation to the dwelling-house, a relevant licence or tenancy, that person or, as the case may be, such one of the persons having such a licence or tenancy as may be decided by agreement, or in default of agreement by the county court, shall be a protected occupier of the dwelling-house.

(4) A person who has, in relation to the dwelling-house, a relevant licence or tenancy shall be a protected occupier of the dwelling-house if—

(a) immediately before the licence or tenancy was granted, he was a protected occupier or statutory tenant of the dwelling-house by succession, or

(b) the licence or tenancy was granted in consideration of his giving up possession of another dwelling-house of which he was such an occupier or such a tenant.

(5) In this Act—

" protected occupier by succession " means a person who is a protected occupier by virtue of subsection (2), (3) or (4) above;

" statutory tenant by succession " means a person who is a statutory tenant by virtue of section 4(1) below and who, immediately before he became such a tenant, was a protected occupier by succession, or a person who is a statutory tenant by virtue of section 4(3) or (4) below.

(6) A dwelling-house is, in this Act, referred to as subject to a protected occupancy where there is a protected occupier of it

*Statutory tenancies***4 Statutory tenants and tenancies**

- (1) Subject to section 5 below, where a person ceases to be a protected occupier of a dwelling-house on the termination, whether by notice to quit or by virtue of section 16(3) of this Act or otherwise, of his licence or tenancy, he shall, if and so long as he occupies the dwelling-house as his residence, be the statutory tenant of it.
- (2) Subject to section 5 below, subsection (3), or, as the case may be, subsection (4) below shall have effect for determining what person (if any) is the statutory tenant of a dwelling-house at any time after the death of a person (" the original occupier ") who was, immediately before his death, a protected occupier or statutory tenant of the dwelling-house in his own right.
- (3) If the original occupier was a man who died leaving a widow who was residing with him at his death then, after his death, unless the widow is a protected occupier of the dwelling-house by virtue of section 3(2) above, she shall be the statutory tenant if and so long as she occupies the dwelling-house as her residence.

This subsection is framed by reference to the case where the original occupier was a man, but is to be read as applying equally in the converse case where the original occupier was a woman.

- (4) Where—
 - (a) the original occupier was not a person who died leaving a surviving spouse who was residing with him at his death, but
 - (b) one or more persons who were members of his family were residing with him at the time of and for the period of six months immediately before his death,
 then, after his death, unless that person or, as the case may be, one of those persons is a protected occupier of the dwelling-house by virtue of section 3(3) above, that person or, as the case may be, such one of those persons as may be decided by agreement, or in default of agreement by the county court, shall be the statutory tenant if and so long as he occupies the dwelling-house as his residence.
- (5) In subsections (1), (3) and (4) above the phrase " if and so long as he occupies the dwelling-house as his residence " shall be construed in accordance with section 3(2) of the Rent Act 1968 (construction of that phrase in the corresponding provisions of that Act).
- (6) A dwelling-house is, in this Act, referred to as subject to a statutory tenancy where there is a statutory tenant of it.

5 No statutory tenancy where landlord's interest belongs to Crown or to local authority, etc.

- (1) A person shall not at any time be a statutory tenant of a dwelling-house if the interest of his immediate landlord would, at that time,—
 - (a) belong to Her Majesty in right of the Crown or of the Duchy of Lancaster, or to the Duchy of Cornwall, or to a Government department, or
 - (b) be held in trust for Her Majesty for the purposes of a Government department.

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- (2) A person shall not at any time be a statutory tenant of a dwelling-house if the interest of his immediate landlord would, at that time, belong to any of the bodies specified in subsection (3) below.
- (3) The bodies referred to in subsection (2) above are—
- (a) the council of a county or district or, in the application of this Act to the Isles of Scilly, the Council of those Isles;
 - (b) the Greater London Council, the council of a London borough or the Common Council of the City of London;
 - (c) the Commission for the New Towns;
 - (d) the Housing Corporation;
 - (e) a development corporation established by an order made, or having effect as if made, under the New Towns Act 1965; and
 - (f) a housing trust (as defined in section 5(3) of the Rent Act 1968) which is a charity within the meaning of the Charities Act 1960.
- (4) If any of the conditions for the time being specified in section 5(6) of the Rent Act 1968 (conditions for the operation of the corresponding provision of that Act) is fulfilled, a person shall not be a statutory tenant of a dwelling-house at any time if the interest of his immediate landlord would, at that time, belong to a housing association within the meaning of the Housing Act 1957 and that association—
- (a) is for the time being registered in the register of housing associations established under section 13 of the Housing Act 1974; or
 - (b) has made application, before 1st April 1975, for registration in that register, but the application has not been disposed of; or
 - (c) is for the time being specified in an order made by the Secretary of State under section 80 of the Housing Finance Act 1972 or paragraph 23 of Schedule 1 to the Housing Rents and Subsidies Act 1975 ; or
 - (d) is a society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 and its rules restrict membership to persons who are tenants or prospective tenants of the association and preclude the granting or assignment of tenancies to persons other than members.

PART II

SECURITY OF TENURE

Protected occupancies and statutory tenancies

6 Grounds for possession

- (1) A court shall not make an order for possession of a dwelling-house subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy except in the Cases in Schedule 4 to this Act.
- (2) A landlord who obtains an order for possession of a dwelling-house as against a statutory tenant shall not be required to give to the statutory tenant any notice to quit.
- (3) Where in Case IX in the said Schedule a landlord obtains an order for possession of the dwelling-house, and it is subsequently made to appear to the court that the order was obtained by misrepresentation or concealment of material facts, the court may order

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the landlord to pay to the former tenant such sum as appears sufficient as compensation for damage or loss sustained by the tenant as a result of the order.

- (4) In subsection (3) above and in Schedule 4 to this Act "tenant" means a protected occupier or a statutory tenant.
- (5) Section 7 below has effect as regards the Cases in Part I of the said Schedule.
- (6) If, apart from subsection (1) above, the landlord would be entitled to recover possession of a dwelling-house subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy, the court shall make an order for possession if the circumstances of the case are as specified in any of the Cases in Part II of the said Schedule.

7 Discretion of court in giving possession

- (1) This section applies in the Cases in Part I of Schedule 4 to this Act.
- (2) In those Cases the court shall not make an order unless it considers it reasonable to do so.
- (3) On the making of the order for possession, or at any time before execution of the order, the court may—
 - (a) stay or suspend execution of the order, or
 - (b) postpone the date of possession,for such period or periods as the court thinks fit.
- (4) A decision of the court under this section may be made subject to such conditions with regard to payment by the tenant of arrears of rent, rent or payments in respect of occupation after termination of the tenancy (mesne profits), and otherwise, as the court thinks fit.
- (5) If conditions so imposed are complied with, the court may if it thinks fit discharge or rescind the order for possession.
- (6) In this section "tenant" means a protected occupier or a statutory tenant.

8 Restriction on levy of distress for rent

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, no distress for the rent of any dwelling-house subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy shall be levied except with the leave of the county court; and the court shall, with respect to any application for such leave, have the same or similar powers with respect to adjournment, stay, suspension, postponement and otherwise as are conferred by section 7 of this Act, in relation to proceedings for possession of such a dwelling-house.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) above shall apply to distress levied under section 137 of the County Courts Act 1959 (claims for rent where goods seized in execution).

9 Effect of determination of superior tenancy, etc.

- (1) If a court makes an order for possession of a dwelling-house from a protected occupier or statutory tenant, or from a protected or statutory tenant for the purposes of the Rent Act 1968, and the order is made by virtue of Part I of Schedule 4 to this Act or, as the case may be, section 10(1) or 10A(2) of that Act, nothing in the order shall affect the right of any sub-tenant—

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- (a) to whom the dwelling-house or any part of it has been lawfully sublet before the commencement of the proceedings, and
 - (b) who is a protected occupier or statutory tenant thereof,to retain possession by virtue of this Act, nor shall the order operate to give a right to possession against any such subtenant.
- (2) Where a statutorily protected tenancy of a dwelling-house is determined, either as a result of an order for possession or for any other reason, any sub-tenant—
 - (a) to whom the dwelling-house or any part of it has been lawfully sublet, and
 - (b) who is a protected occupier or statutory tenant thereof,shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be deemed to become the tenant of the landlord on the same terms as if the tenant's statutorily protected tenancy had continued.
- (3) Where a dwelling-house—
 - (a) forms part of premises which have been let as a whole on a superior tenancy but do not constitute a dwelling-house let on a statutorily protected tenancy; and
 - (b) is itself subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy,then, from the coming to an end of the superior tenancy, this Act shall apply in relation to the dwelling-house as if, in lieu of the superior tenancy, there had been separate tenancies of the dwelling-house and of the remainder of the premises, for the like purposes as under the superior tenancy, and at rents equal to the just proportion of the rent under the superior tenancy.

In this subsection "premises" includes an agricultural holding within the meaning of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1948.
- (4) In subsections (2) and (3) above "statutorily protected tenancy" means—
 - (a) a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy ;
 - (b) a protected or statutory tenancy for the purposes of the Rent Act 1968 ; or
 - (c) a tenancy of an agricultural holding within the meaning of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1948.
- (5) Subject to subsection (6) below, a long tenancy of a dwelling-house which is also a tenancy at a low rent but which, had it not been a tenancy at a low rent, would have been a protected tenancy for the purposes of the Rent Act 1968, shall be treated for the purposes of subsection (2) above as a statutorily protected tenancy.
- (6) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (5) above, subsection (2) above shall not have effect where the sub-tenancy in question was created (whether immediately or derivatively) out of a long tenancy falling within subsection (5) above and, at the time of the creation of the sub-tenancy,—
 - (a) a notice to terminate the long tenancy had been given under section 4(1) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954; or
 - (b) the long tenancy was being continued by section 3(1) of that Act;unless the sub-tenancy was created with the consent in writing of the person who at the time when it was created was the landlord, within the meaning of Part I of that Act.
- (7) In subsections (5) and (6) above "long tenancy" means a tenancy granted for a term of years certain exceeding 21 years, whether or not subsequently extended by act of the parties or by any enactment; and in determining for the purposes of those subsections

whether a long tenancy is a tenancy at a low rent, there shall be disregarded such part (if any) of the sums payable by the tenant as is expressed (in whatever terms) to be payable in respect of rates, services, repairs, maintenance or insurance, unless it would not have been regarded by the parties as a part so payable.

Statutory tenancies

10 Terms and conditions

- (1) Schedule 5 to this Act contains provisions about the terms of a statutory tenancy.
- (2) Schedule 5 to this Act shall not impose any liability to pay rent under a statutory tenancy (whether the protected occupier was a tenant or a licensee), and accordingly no rent shall be payable under a statutory tenancy until rent becomes payable by virtue of an agreement under section 11 of this Act, or by virtue of a notice of increase under section 12 or 14 of this Act.
- (3) Rent under a statutory tenancy which is a weekly tenancy shall be payable weekly in arrear, except that—
 - (a) if a rent or equivalent payment was payable under the protected occupancy, and was so payable otherwise than in arrear, rent under the statutory tenancy shall be payable in mat other way, and
 - (b) this subsection has effect subject to any agreement between the landlord and the tenant.
- (4) The day on which rent is payable weekly in arrear in accordance with subsection (3) above shall be—
 - (a) where rent or any equivalent payment was payable weekly in arrear under the protected occupancy, the day on which it was so payable,
 - (b) where paragraph (a) does not apply, and at the end of the protected occupancy the protected occupier was being paid weekly wages, the day on which the wages were paid,
 - (c) in any other case such day as the landlord and tenant may agree, or in default of agreement, Friday in each week.
- (5) The covenants implied in the statutory tenancy shall include a covenant to pay rent in accordance with this Part of this Act.

11 Agreed rents

- (1) The landlord and the statutory tenant may by agreement fix the rent payable under a statutory tenancy (or may agree that no rent shall be payable under the statutory tenancy).
- (2) An agreement under this section may be made at any time, including a time before the beginning of the statutory tenancy, or a time when a rent is registered for the dwelling-house.
- (3) The rent so fixed shall not exceed—
 - (a) where a rent is registered for the dwelling-house at the time when the agreement is made, the weekly or other periodical equivalent of the amount of the rent so registered,

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- (b) where a rent is not so registered, the amount of the rent based on rateable value defined in the next following section.
- (4) Where a rent is registered for the dwelling-house at any time after the agreement is made, as from the date from which the registration takes effect the rent payable under the agreement shall not exceed the weekly or other periodical equivalent of the amount of the rent so registered.
- (5) If the rent payable under the agreement exceeds the limit imposed by subsection (3) or (4) above, the amount of the excess shall be irrecoverable from the tenant.
- (6) Unless the contrary intention appears from the agreement, it shall be terminable by the landlord or the tenant by notice in writing served on the other.
- (7) The notice shall specify the date from which the agreement is terminated, which shall be not earlier than four weeks after service of the notice.
- (8) Subject to subsection (3) above, an agreement made under this section may from time to time be varied by a further agreement so made, whether or not there has been a change in the persons who are landlord and tenant.
- (9) If and so long as, in the period following the termination of an agreement under this section, no notice of increase under section 12 or section 14 of this Act takes effect (and no subsequent agreement is in force), the rent payable under the statutory tenancy shall be the same as the rent payable, or last payable, under the agreement, and it shall be payable for equivalent rental periods, and in other respects in the same way as, the rent was payable, or last payable, under the agreement.
- (10) Where a rent is registered for the dwelling-house at any time after the termination of the agreement, as from the date from which the registration takes effect the rent payable under subsection (9) above shall not exceed the weekly or other periodical equivalent of the amount of the rent so registered; and if the rent so payable exceeds the limit imposed by the foregoing provision of this subsection, the amount of the excess shall be irrecoverable from the tenant.
- (11) If the agreement mentioned in subsection (9) above provided that no rent was payable under the statutory tenancy, no rent shall be payable in the period for which that subsection applies.

12 Provisional rents

- (1) This section applies where a rent is not registered for a dwelling-house which is subject to a statutory tenancy.
- (2) If the rent payable for any period of the statutory tenancy would be less than the rent based on rateable value, it may be increased up to the amount of that rent by a notice of increase served by the landlord on the tenant.
- (3) The notice shall specify the amount of the rent based on rateable value, and set out the landlord's calculation of that amount.
- (4) The notice shall also specify the date from which the notice is to take effect, which shall not be earlier than four weeks before service of the notice, and not at a time when an agreement under section 11 of this Act is in force.

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- (5) If the notice takes effect from the termination of an agreement under section 11 of this Act, it shall state that fact, and specify the rent payable, or last payable, under that agreement.
- (6) If a notice is served under this section at a time when an agreement under section 11 of this Act is in force, and the date stated in the notice as that from which it is to take effect is—
- (a) a date after service of the notice, and
 - (b) a date as at which the landlord could by notice served with the first-mentioned notice terminate the agreement,
- the first-mentioned notice shall operate as a notice to terminate the agreement as at that date.
- (7) Where a rent is registered for the dwelling-house at any time after notice is served, as from the date from which the registration takes effect the rent payable in accordance with the notice shall not exceed the weekly or other periodical equivalent of the amount of the rent so registered.
- (8) If the rent payable in accordance with the notice exceeds the limit imposed by subsection (7) above, the amount of the excess shall be irrecoverable from the tenant.
- (9) In this section—
- (a) "rent based on rateable value" means the weekly or other periodical equivalent of an annual amount equal to the prescribed multiple of the rateable value of the dwelling-house, and
 - (b) the "prescribed multiple" is 1.5, or such other number (whole or with a fraction) as the Secretary of State may by order prescribe.
- (10) An order made under subsection (9) above—
- (a) may contain such transitional and other supplemental and incidental provisions as appear to the Secretary of State expedient,
 - (b) may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order so made, and
 - (c) shall be contained in a statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament
- (11) The date as at which the rateable value is to be determined for the purposes of this section, and for the purposes of any agreement made under section 11 of this Act, shall be the date on which the notice is served, or as the case may be the date when the agreement was made.
- (12) If there is no separate rateable value for the dwelling-house the rateable value shall be ascertained by a proper apportionment or aggregation of the rateable value or values of the relevant hereditaments; and until the rateable value is so ascertained references in this section to the amount of the rent based on rateable value shall be construed as references to the amount of the rent based on the landlord's estimate of that value.
- (13) Any question as to the proper apportionment or aggregation under subsection (12) above shall be determined by the county court, and the decision of the county court shall be final.

13 Application for registration of rent

- (1) There shall be a part of the register under Part IV of the Rent Act 1968 in which rents may be registered for dwelling-houses which are subject to statutory tenancies (as defined in this Act).
- (2) In relation to that part of the register the following provisions of the Rent Act 1968, that is—
 - (a) sections 44 and 46,
 - (b) section 47, except subsection (3), and
 - (c) Part I of Schedule 6,shall have effect as if for any reference in those provisions to a regulated tenancy there were substituted a reference to a statutory tenancy (as defined in this Act).
- (3) The preceding provisions of this section shall not be taken as applying sections 44A, 45, 47(3), 48 or 48A of the Rent Act 1968, or Part II of Schedule 6 or Schedule 7 to that Act.
- (4) Registration in the said part of the register shall take effect as from the date of the application unless the rent officer or, as the case may be, the rent assessment committee determine that it shall take effect as from a later date.
- (5) Where, by virtue of subsection (3A) of section 44 of the Rent Act 1968 as applied by subsection (2) above, an application is made before the expiry of the period of three years referred to in subsection (3) of the said section 44, subsection (4) above shall have effect as if for the reference to the date of the application there were substituted a reference to the first day after the expiry of that period of three years.
- (6) The date from which the registration takes effect shall be entered in the register and as from that date any previous registration of a rent of a dwelling-house shall cease to have effect.
- (7) A rent registered in any part of the register for a dwelling-house which becomes, or ceases to be, one subject to a statutory tenancy shall be as effective as if it were registered in any other part of the register; but section 44(3) of the Rent Act 1968 (no application for registration of a different rent to be made within three years of the last registration) shall not apply to an application for the registration, as respects a dwelling-house which is subject to a statutory tenancy, of a rent different from one which is registered in a part of the register other than the part mentioned in subsection (1) above.

14 Registered rents

- (1) This section applies where a rent is registered for a dwelling-house subject to a statutory tenancy.
- (2) If the rent payable for any period of the statutory tenancy beginning on or after the date of registration would be less than the registered rent, it may be increased up to the amount of that rent by a notice of increase served by the landlord on the tenant.
- (3) The notice shall specify the amount of the registered rent, and the date from which the notice is to take effect, which shall not be earlier than four weeks before service of the notice, and not at a time when an agreement under section 11 of this Act is in force.

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- (4) If the notice takes effect from the termination of an agreement under section 11 of this Act, it shall state that fact, and specify the rent payable, or last payable, under that agreement.
- (5) If a notice is served under this section at a time when an agreement under section 11 of this Act is in force, and the date stated in the notice as that from which it is to take effect is—
- (a) a date after service of the notice, and
 - (b) a date as at which the landlord could by notice served with the first-mentioned notice terminate the agreement,
- the first-mentioned notice shall operate as a notice to terminate the agreement as at that date.

15 Phasing of rent increases

- (1) The rent of a dwelling-house which is subject to a statutory tenancy qualifies for phasing under this section if—
- (a) a rent is registered for that dwelling-house in the part of the register in which rents may be registered for dwelling-houses which are subject to statutory tenancies, and
 - (b) that rent is not the first rent to be registered for that dwelling-house in that part of that register during the subsistence of the statutory tenancy or, in the case of a statutory tenancy by succession, during the subsistence of any statutory tenancy which immediately preceded it.
- (2) Where the rent of a dwelling-house qualifies for phasing under this section, and a provision of Schedule 6 to this Act imposes a rent limit for any period of the statutory tenancy falling within the period of delay imposed by that Schedule, sections 11(3) and (4) and 14(2) of this Act shall have effect, in relation to that period of the statutory tenancy, as if for the references to the registered rent there were substituted references to the said rent limit.
- (3) A notice of increase under section 14 of this Act which purports to increase a rent which qualifies for phasing under this section further than permitted by Schedule 6 to this Act shall have effect to increase it to the extent permitted by that Schedule and no further.
- (4) Nothing in this section or in Schedule 6 to this Act shall prevent or limit any increase in rent by virtue of section 47(4) of the Rent Act 1968 (variable rents).

16 Notices of increase

- (1) Any reference in the following provisions of this section to a notice is a reference to a notice of increase under section 12 or section 14 of this Act.
- (2) Notwithstanding that a notice relates to periods of a statutory tenancy it may be served before the statutory tenancy begins.
- (3) Where a notice is served before the statutory tenancy begins, and the protected occupancy could, by a notice to quit served at the same time, be brought to an end before the date specified in the notice of increase, the notice shall operate to terminate the protected occupancy as from that date.

- (4) If the county court is satisfied that any error or omission in a notice is due to a bona fide mistake on the part of the landlord, the court may by order amend the notice by correcting any errors or supplying any omission therein which, if not corrected or supplied, would render the notice invalid and if the court so directs, the notice as so amended shall have effect and be deemed to have had effect as a valid notice.
- (5) If the county court is satisfied that—
- (a) at the time when a notice under section 12 of this Act was served there was no separate rateable value for the dwelling-house, and
 - (b) the amount specified in the notice is the amount of the rent based on the landlord's estimate of the rateable value,
- the court may by order amend the notice by substituting for the amount so specified the amount of the rent based on rateable value and, if the court so directs, the notice shall have effect and be deemed to have had effect as so amended.
- (6) Any amendment of a notice under subsection (4) or (5) above may be made on such terms and conditions with respect to arrears of rent or otherwise as appear to the court to be just and reasonable.
- (7) No increase of rent which becomes payable by reason of an amendment of a notice under subsection (4) or (5) above shall be recoverable in respect of any period of the statutory tenancy which ended more than six months before the date of the order making the amendment.

General provisions

17 Adjustment for differences in lengths of rental periods

In ascertaining for the purposes of this Part of this Act the weekly or other periodical equivalent of a registered rent, or of the annual amount mentioned in section 12(9) of this Act, a period of one month shall be treated as equivalent to one-twelfth of a year, and a period of a week as equivalent to one fifty-second of a year.

18 Regulations

- (1) The Secretary of State may make regulations prescribing the form of any notice or other document to be given or used in pursuance of this Part of this Act.
- (2) Any such regulations shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

19 Interpretation of Part II

In this Part of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

" registered " means registered in the register under Part IV of the Rent Act 1968.

" rent based on rateable value " has the meaning given by section 12(9) of this Act,

" rental period " means a period in respect of which a payment of rent, or in the case of a licence the equivalent of rent, falls to be made.

PART III

PROTECTED OCCUPANCIES AND STATUTORY TENANCIES : SUPPLEMENTAL

Recovery of rent

20 Avoidance of requirements for advance payment of rent

- (1) Any requirement that rent under a protected occupancy, or under a statutory tenancy, shall be payable—
 - (a) before the beginning of the rental period in respect of which it is payable, or
 - (b) earlier than 6 months before the end of the rental period in respect of which it is payable (if that period is more than 6 months),shall be void, and any requirement avoided by this section is referred to in this section as a "prohibited requirement".
- (2) Rent for any rental period to which a prohibited requirement relates shall be irrecoverable from the tenant.
- (3) A person who purports to impose a prohibited requirement shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100 and the court by which he is convicted may order the amount of rent paid in compliance with the prohibited requirement to be repaid to the person by whom it was paid.
- (4) In this section "rental period" means a period in respect of which a payment of rent falls to be made.
- (5) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that this section does not render any amount recoverable more than once.

21 Recovery from landlord of sums paid in excess of recoverable rent

- (1) Where a tenant has paid on account of rent any amount which, by virtue of Part II of this Act or this Part, is irrecoverable by the landlord, then, subject to subsection (3) below, the tenant who paid it shall be entitled to recover that amount from the landlord who received it or his personal representatives.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, any amount which a tenant is entitled to recover under subsection (1) above may, without prejudice to any other method of recovery, be deducted by the tenant from any rent payable by him to the landlord.
- (3) No amount which a tenant is entitled to recover under subsection (1) above shall be recoverable at any time after the expiry of two years from the date of payment.
- (4) Any person who, in any rent book or similar document, makes an entry showing or purporting to show any tenant as being in arrears in respect of any sum on account of rent which is irrecoverable by virtue of Part II of this Act or this Part shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50, unless he proves that, at the time of the making of the entry, the landlord had a bona fide claim that the sum was recoverable.
- (5) If, where any such entry has been made by or on behalf of any landlord, the landlord on being requested by or on behalf of the tenant to do so, refuses or neglects to cause the entry to be deleted within seven days, the landlord shall be liable on summary

conviction to a fine not exceeding £50, unless he proves that, at the time of the neglect or refusal to cause the entry to be deleted, he had a bona fide claim that the sum was recoverable.

22 Rectification of rent books in light of determination of recoverable rent

Where, in any proceedings, the recoverable rent of a dwelling-house subject to a statutory tenancy is determined by a court, then, on the application of the tenant (whether in those or in any subsequent proceedings) the court may call for the production of the rent book or any similar document relating to the dwelling-house and may direct the registrar or clerk of the court to correct any entries showing, or purporting to show, the tenant as being in arrears in respect of any sum which the court has determined to be irrecoverable.

Miscellaneous

23 Tenant sharing accommodation with persons other than landlord

- (1) Where a tenant has the exclusive occupation of any accommodation (" the separate accommodation "), and
 - (a) the terms as between the tenant and his landlord on which he holds the separate accommodation include the use of other accommodation (in this section referred to as " the shared accommodation ") in common with another person or other persons, not being or including the landlord, and
 - (b) by reason only of the circumstances mentioned in paragraph (a) above, the separate accommodation would not, apart from this section, be a dwelling-house subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy,then, subject to subsection (2) below, the separate accommodation shall be deemed to be a dwelling-house subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy as the case may be, and subsections (3) to (8) below shall have effect.
- (2) Subsection (1) above shall not apply in relation to accommodation which would, apart from this subsection, be deemed to be a dwelling-house subject to a protected occupancy if—
 - (a) the accommodation consists of only one room, and
 - (b) at the time when the tenancy was granted, not less than three other rooms in the same building were let, or were available for letting, as residential accommodation to separate tenants on such terms as are mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that where, for the purpose of determining the rateable value of the separate accommodation, it is necessary to make an apportionment under this Act, regard is to be had to the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5) below, while the tenant is in possession of the separate accommodation (whether as a protected occupier or statutory tenant), any term or condition of the contract of tenancy terminating or modifying, or providing for the termination or modification of, his right to the use of any of the shared accommodation which is living accommodation shall be of no effect.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (5) Where the terms and conditions of the contract of tenancy are such that at any time during the tenancy the persons in common with whom the tenant is entitled to the use of the shared accommodation could be varied, or their number could be increased, nothing in subsection (4) above shall prevent those terms and conditions from having effect so far as they relate to any such variation or increase.
- (6) Subject to subsection (7) below and without prejudice to the enforcement of any order made thereunder, while the tenant is in possession of the separate accommodation, no order shall be made for possession of any of the shared accommodation, whether on the application of the immediate landlord of the tenant or on the application of any person under whom that landlord derives title, unless a like order has been made, or is made at the same time, in respect of the separate accommodation; and the provisions of section 6 of this Act shall apply accordingly.
- (7) On the application of the landlord, the county court may make such order, either terminating the right of the tenant to use the whole or any part of the shared accommodation other than living accommodation, or modifying his right to use the whole or any part of the shared accommodation, whether by varying the persons or increasing the number of persons entitled to the use of that accommodation, or otherwise, as the court thinks just:
- Provided that no order shall be made under this subsection so as to effect any termination or modification of the rights of the tenant which, apart from subsection (4) above, could not be effected by or under the terms of the contract of tenancy.
- (8) In this section the expression " living accommodation " means accommodation of such a nature that the fact that it constitutes or is included in the shared accommodation is (or, if the tenancy has ended, was) sufficient, apart from this section, to prevent the tenancy from constituting a protected occupancy of a dwelling-house.

24 Certain sublettings not to exclude any part of the sublessor's premises from protection

- (1) Where the tenant of any premises, consisting of a house or part of a house, has sublet a part, but not the whole, of the premises, then, as against his landlord or any superior landlord, no part of the premises shall be treated as not being a dwelling-house subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy by reason only that—
- (a) the terms on which any person claiming under the tenant holds any part of the premises include the use of accommodation in common with other persons; or
 - (b) part of the premises is let to any such person at a rent which includes payments in respect of board or attendance.
- (2) Nothing in this section affects the rights against, and liabilities to, each other of the tenant and any person claiming under him, or of any two such persons.

25 Service of notices on landlord's agents

- (1) For the purposes of any proceedings arising out of Part I or II of this Act or this Part, a document shall be deemed to be duly served on the landlord of a dwelling-house if it is served—
- (a) on any agent of the landlord named as such in the rent book or other similar document; or
 - (b) on the person who receives the rent of the dwelling-house.

- (2) If for the purpose of any proceedings (whether civil or criminal) arising out of Part I or II of this Act, or this Part, any person serves upon any such agent or other person as is referred to in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of subsection (1) above a notice in writing requiring the agent or other person to disclose to him the full name and place of abode or place of business of the landlord, that agent or other person shall forthwith comply with the notice.
- (3) If any such agent or other person as is referred to in subsection (2) above fails or refuses forthwith to comply with a notice served on him under that subsection, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5 unless he shows to the satisfaction of the court that he did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained, such of the facts required by the notice to be disclosed as were not disclosed by him.

26 Jurisdiction and procedure

- (1) A county court shall have jurisdiction to determine—
 - (a) whether any person is or is not a protected occupier or a statutory tenant, or
 - (b) any question concerning the subject matter, terms or conditions of a statutory tenancy,or any matter which is or may become material for determining a question under paragraph (a) or (b).
- (2) A county court shall have jurisdiction to deal with any claim or other proceedings arising out of Part I of this Act, or Part II of this Act except Part II of Schedule 4, or this Part, notwithstanding that the case would not, apart from this subsection, be within the jurisdiction of a county court.
- (3) If, on a claim arising under Part I of this Act, or Part II of this Act except Part II of Schedule 4, or this Part, a person takes proceedings in the High Court which he could have taken in the county court, he shall not be entitled to any costs.
- (4) The jurisdiction conferred by subsection (1) above is exercisable either in the course of any proceedings relating to the dwelling-house, or on an application made for the purpose by the landlord or tenant.
- (5) The Lord Chancellor may make such rules and give such directions as he thinks fit for the purpose of giving effect to Part I or II of this Act, or this Part, and may, by those rules or directions, provide for the remission of any fees.

The power vested in the Lord Chancellor by this subsection may, when the Great Seal is in commission, be exercised by any Lord Commissioner.

PART IV

REHOUSING

27 Applications to housing authority concerned

- (1) An application may be made by the occupier of land used for agriculture to the housing authority concerned (" the authority ") on the ground that—

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (a) vacant possession is or will be needed of a dwelling-house which is subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy, or which is let on or subject to a tenancy to which subsection (2) below applies, in order to house a person who is or is to be employed in agriculture by the applicant, and that person's family,
 - (b) the applicant is unable to provide, by any reasonable means, suitable alternative accommodation for the occupier of the dwelling-house, and
 - (c) the authority ought, in the interests of efficient agriculture, to provide the suitable alternative accommodation.
- (2) This subsection applies to any tenancy which is a protected or statutory tenancy for the purposes of the Rent Act 1968 and which—
- (a) if it were a tenancy at a low rent, and
 - (b) if (where relevant) any earlier tenancy granted to the tenant, or to a member of his family, had been a tenancy at a low rent,
- would be a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy.
- (3) In this Act " the housing authority concerned " means—
- (a) where the dwelling-house of which vacant possession is required is in a London borough, the council of that borough or the Greater London Council if they have agreed with them to discharge their functions under this Act,
 - (b) in the Isles of Stilly, the Council of those Isles,
 - (c) in any other area, the local authority having functions under Part V of the Housing Act 1957 in relation to that area.

28 Duty of housing authority concerned

- (1) An application to the authority shall be in writing and, if the authority so direct, shall be in such form as the authority direct; and there shall be a sufficient compliance with a direction under this subsection if the application is in a form substantially to that same effect as the form specified in the direction.
- (2) The authority shall, within seven days of their receiving the application, notify the occupier of the dwelling-house of which possession is sought ("the dwelling-house") that the application has been made.
- (3) The authority, or the applicant, or the occupier of the dwelling-house, may obtain advice on the case made by the applicant concerning the interests of efficient agriculture, and regarding the urgency of the application, by applying for the services of a committee under section 29 of this Act.
- (4) The committee shall tender its advice in writing to the authority, and make copies of it available for the applicant and the occupier of the dwelling-house.
- (5) In assessing the case made by the applicant and in particular the importance and degree of urgency of the applicant's need, the authority shall take full account of any advice tendered to them by the committee in accordance with section 29 of this Act, and in any legal proceedings relating to the duty imposed on the authority by this section evidence shall be admissible of the advice so given.
- (6) The authority shall notify their decision on the application in writing to the applicant, and to the occupier of the dwelling-house, stating—
 - (a) if they are satisfied that the applicant's case is substantiated in accordance with section 27 above, what action they propose to take on the application;

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (b) if they are not so satisfied, the reasons for their decision.
- (7) If the authority are satisfied that the applicant's case is substantiated in accordance with section 27 above, they shall use their best endeavours to provide the suitable alternative accommodation; and in assessing under this subsection the priority to be given to meet the applicant's case, the authority shall take into account the urgency of the case, the competing claims on the accommodation which they can provide and the resources at their disposal.
- (8) Without prejudice to any other means of enforcing the duty imposed by subsection (7) above, that duty shall be enforceable, at the suit of the applicant, by an action against the authority for damages for breach of statutory duty.
- (9) The authority shall not be obliged to provide suitable alternative accommodation if, at the time when the accommodation becomes available, the person for whom it is to be provided is employed by the applicant in the same capacity as that in which he was employed by the applicant at the time when the application was made, and he will continue to be so employed if provided with the alternative accommodation.
- (10) The continuance of the obligation imposed on the authority by this section shall depend on compliance by the applicant with any reasonable request made by the authority for information about any change in circumstances which takes place after the making of the application, and which might affect the merits of the applicant's case.
- (11) Any material change of facts which have been stated to the authority, or to the committee, by the applicant or, in relation to the application, by the occupier of the dwelling-house, shall be notified to the authority as soon as practicable by the person making the statement unless before the change accommodation has been provided in accordance with the application, or the authority have decided that the applicant's case is not substantiated.
- A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with this subsection shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400.
- (12) An application under this section shall lapse if the applicant ceases to be the occupier of the land used for agriculture, but without prejudice to the making of an application by any other person who is or becomes the occupier.
- (13) In this section and section 27 of this Act references to the authority providing housing accommodation are references to its provision by any means open to the authority, whether direct or indirect.
- (14) If in or in connection with an application under this section the applicant or any other person knowingly or recklessly makes a false statement for the purpose of inducing the authority to provide housing accommodation, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400.

29 Agricultural dwelling-house advisory committees

- (1) In the area of each agricultural wages committee established under the Agricultural Wages Act 1948 there shall be one or more agricultural dwelling-house advisory committees (in this section called "committees") to perform the functions given them under section 28 of this Act.

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- (2) An application under section 28 of this Act for advice may be made to the chairman of the agricultural wages committee for the area in question for the appointment or designation of a committee to give the advice.
- (3) Each committee shall be appointed by the chairman of the agricultural wages committee, and he may include persons who are not members of the agricultural wages committee.
- (4) If there is no chairman, or if the chairman is unable to act, a vice-chairman of the agricultural wages committee may act in his place under this section.
- (5) Each committee shall be composed of an independent member, who is the chairman, a member representing employers and a member representing workers in agriculture.
- (6) The chairman of the committee shall be appointed from a panel of persons approved by the Minister.
- (7) All three members of a committee must be present at any meeting of the committee, and no meeting shall be held during a vacancy in the membership.
- (8) In carrying out their functions under section 28 of this Act committees shall act in accordance with any directions, whether general or specific, given to them by the Minister.
- (9) The Minister may, if he thinks fit, make regulations contained in a statutory instrument regulating the procedure and meetings of committees, and may from time to time give directions, whether specific or general, regarding their procedure.
- (10) Subject to regulations, or any direction, under subsection (9) above the procedure of any committee shall be such as the chairman of that committee may direct.
- (11) The Minister may appoint a secretary for a committee, and there shall be paid to the members of a committee, and to the person who appoints or designates a committee, such fees and allowances by way of compensation for expenses incurred and time lost by them in the performance of their duties as the Minister may sanction with the consent of the Minister for the Civil Service.
- (12) The Minister may with the consent of the Minister for the Civil Service make payments to persons other than members of a committee by way of fees or compensation for expenses incurred and time lost by them in or in connection with their giving, at the request of the committee, any advice or information.
- (13) Payments made by the Minister under this section shall be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament.
- (14) In this section "the Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PART V

POWER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION

30 Information about housing accommodation

- (1) The Minister may exercise the powers conferred on him by section 31 of this Act for the purpose of obtaining information about the housing accommodation which is on, or held in connection with, or used for, agricultural or forestry land.
- (2) The Minister may give information so obtained—
 - (a) to the housing authority concerned for any part of the area to which the information relates, and
 - (b) where, since the giving of the information, other land has come into common ownership or occupation with the first-mentioned land, to the housing authority concerned for any part of the other land,and information so given may be transmitted to any other authority to whom the Minister may give it under this subsection.
- (3) The Minister may also give the information so obtained to any agricultural dwelling-house advisory committee which is to give advice under section 29 of this Act concerning any part of the area to which the information relates.
- (4) No information relating to any particular land or business which has been obtained under section 31 of this Act shall be published or otherwise disclosed without the previous consent in writing—
 - (a) of the person giving the information, or
 - (b) (if different) of any person who at the time of the disclosure is the owner or occupier of the land, or as the case may be, the owner of the business.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply—
 - (a) to disclosure under subsection (2) or (3) (but does apply to those to whom disclosure is so made),
 - (b) to disclosure for the purposes of any criminal proceedings, or of any report of those proceedings.
- (6) A person who contravenes subsection (4) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400.
- (7) In this section and in section 31 of this Act—
 - " agricultural land " means land used for agriculture as defined in section 109 of the Agriculture Act 1947,
 - " forestry land " does not include agricultural land,
 - " occupier " includes a person responsible for the carrying on of any activity on agricultural or forestry land as servant or agent of the occupier,
 - " owner " includes a person exercising, as servant or agent of the owner, functions of estate management in relation to the land.
- (8) In this section and in section 31 of this Act reference to the Minister are references to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and, so far as the reference relates to forestry land, to the Forestry Commissioners.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

31 Kinds of information obtainable

- (1) The Minister may serve on any owner or occupier of agricultural or forestry land a notice requiring him to give such information as is specified in the notice concerning housing accommodation on, or held in connection with, or used for, the land, being information within section 30 of this Act.
- (2) The notice shall be complied with within such period, being not less than four weeks from service of the notice, as may be specified in the notice.
- (3) The notice may in particular require information about—
 - (a) the extent and nature of the accommodation,
 - (b) the condition and location of the accommodation, including the state of repair of any dwelling-house, and the means of access to it,
 - (c) whether any accommodation is wholly or partly occupied by a person who is or has been employed in agriculture or by a person who has been married to such a person, or whether the accommodation is vacant, and any impending change in the state of occupation,
 - (d) so far as it lies within the knowledge of the person on whom the notice is served, facts about, or related to, housing accommodation on, or held in connection with, or used for, the land at some time or times prior to the service of the notice, or even prior to the operative date, but not at a time more than 5 years before the service of the notice.
- (4) If the person served is not the owner or occupier of the land, the notice may require him to give any information in his possession which may identify the true owner or occupier and his address, or to state that he has no such information.
- (5) The notice may be served either—
 - (a) by delivering it to the person on whom it is to be served, or
 - (b) by leaving it at the usual or last known place of abode of that person, or
 - (c) by sending it by the recorded delivery service or by registered post in a prepaid letter addressed to that person at his usual or last known place or abode, or
 - (d) in the case of an incorporated company or body, by delivering it to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at their registered or principal office or sending it, by the recorded delivery service or by registered post, in a prepaid letter addressed to the secretary or clerk of the company or body at that office, or
 - (e) if it is not practicable after reasonable inquiry to ascertain the name or address of an owner or occupier of the land, as being a person having any interest in the land or having particular functions or responsibilities, by addressing it to him by the description of the person having that interest in the land (naming it), or as the case may be having that function or responsibility (naming it), and delivering the notice to some responsible person on the land, or by affixing it, or a copy of it, to some conspicuous object on the land.
- (6) If any person—
 - (a) without reasonable excuse fails in any respect to comply with a notice under this section, or
 - (b) in purported compliance with a notice under this section knowingly or recklessly furnishes any information which is false in a material particular,he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400.

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL

32 Rent allowances

- (1) The Housing Finance Act 1972 shall have effect subject to the amendments set out in Schedule 7 to this Act.
- (2) On the prescribed date local authorities shall under Part II of the Housing Finance Act 1972 bring into operation schemes varying or replacing their existing rent allowance schemes so as to take account of the amendments set out in Schedule 7 to this Act.
- (3) Until the prescribed date nothing in this section or in that Schedule shall invalidate the existing allowance scheme of a local authority or cause the authority to be regarded as being in breach of section 20(1) of the Housing Finance Act 1972 (which requires allowance schemes to conform with Schedules 3 and 4 thereto), and that Act shall continue to apply in relation to the existing scheme as if this Act had not passed.
- (4) In this section " the prescribed date " means such date as the Secretary of State may by order contained in a statutory instrument appoint.
- (5) There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament any increase in the sums payable out of money so provided under any Act other than this Act which is attributable to any provision of this section or Schedule 7 to this Act.
- (6) There shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund any increase in the payments to be made to, or to be recoverable by, the Secretary of State under any Act other than this Act which is attributable to any provision of this section or Schedule 7 to this Act.

33 Suspension of condition attached to planning permission

- (1) This section applies where planning permission as respects a dwelling-house is or has been granted subject to a condition that the occupation of the dwelling-house is limited to a person employed in agriculture or forestry.
- (2) If and so long as the dwelling-house is subject to a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy, or is let on or subject to a tenancy to which subsection (3) below applies, the condition shall be suspended.
- (3) This subsection applies to any tenancy which is a protected or statutory tenancy for the purposes of the Rent Act 1968 and which—
 - (a) if it were a tenancy at a low rent, and
 - (b) if (where relevant) any earlier tenancy granted to the tenant, or to a member of his family, had been a tenancy at a low rent,would be a protected occupancy or statutory tenancy.
- (4) Suspension of the condition shall not affect the operation of section 32(1)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 (application for continuance of planning permission without compliance with a condition subject to which permission was granted).
- (5) Subsection (1) applies irrespective of the degree to which the condition circumscribes the employment in agriculture or forestry, irrespective of the other persons covered by the condition, and irrespective of the way in which agriculture or forestry is defined.

34 Interpretation

- (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
- " landlord " includes any person from time to time deriving title under the original landlord and also includes, in relation to any dwelling-house, any person other than the tenant who is, or but for Part II of this Act would be, entitled to possession of the dwelling-house,
 - " licence " means any contract whereby (whether or not the contract contains other terms) one person grants to another, whether or not for any consideration, the right to occupy a dwelling-house as a residence, and references to the granting of a licence shall be construed accordingly,
 - " rates " includes water rates and charges and an occupier's drainage rate,
 - " tenancy " includes sub-tenancy,
 - " tenancy at a low rent " means a tenancy under which either no rent is payable or the rent payable is less than two-thirds of the rateable value which is or was the rateable value of the dwelling-house on the appropriate day for the purposes of the Rent Act 1968,
 - " tenant " includes statutory tenant and also includes a sub tenant and any person deriving title under the original tenant or sub-tenant.
- (2) In this Act reference to tenancies include, unless the context otherwise requires, references to licences, and cognate expressions, including those in subsection (1) above, shall be construed accordingly.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act a dwelling-house may be a house or part of a house.
- (4) It is hereby declared that any power of giving directions conferred by this Act includes power to vary or revoke directions so given.
- (5) Except in so far as the context otherwise requires, any reference in this Act to any other enactment shall be taken as referring to that enactment as amended by or under any other enactment, including this Act.

35 Isles of Scilly

- (1) The Secretary of State and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food acting jointly may by order direct that any of the provisions of this Act shall, in their application to the Isles of Scilly, have effect subject to such exceptions, adaptations and modifications as may be specified in the order.
- (2) An order under this section shall be made by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament and may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order so made.

36 Application to Crown property

- (1) Subject to section 5(1) of this Act, this Act shall apply in relation to premises in which there subsists, or at any material time subsisted, a Crown interest as it applies in relation to premises in which no such interest subsists or ever subsisted.
- (2) In this section " Crown interest " means an interest which belongs to Her Majesty in right of the Crown or of the Duchy of Lancaster or to the Duchy of Cornwall or to a government department, or which is held in trust for Her Majesty for the purposes of a Government department.

37 Offences by bodies corporate

- (1) Where an offence under this Act which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of that offence and be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
- (2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) above shall apply in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with his functions of management as if he were a director of the body corporate.

38 Prosecution of offences

Without prejudice to section 222 of the Local Government Act 1972 (power of local authorities to prosecute or defend legal proceedings), proceedings for an offence under any provision of this Act except section 31(6) may be instituted by the housing authority concerned.

39 Expenses

There shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament—

- (a) any expenses incurred by a Minister, or Government department, in consequence of the provisions of this Act, and
- (b) any increase in sums so payable under any other Act which is attributable to the provisions of this Act.

40 Short title, etc.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Rent (Agriculture) Act 1976.
- (2) Schedule 8 to this Act contains consequential and minor amendments of other Acts.
- (3) Schedule 9 to this Act contains transitional provisions.
- (4) In Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1968, the entry relating to section 75(3) of the Housing Act 1964 (which is superseded by paragraph 11 of Schedule 8 to this Act) is hereby repealed.
- (5) This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Northern Ireland.