



# National Heritage Act 1983

## 1983 CHAPTER 47

### *Armouries*

#### **17 Establishment of Board of Trustees**

- (1) There shall be a body known as the Board of Trustees of the Armouries.
- (2) Part III of Schedule 1 shall have effect with respect to the Board.

#### **18 The Board's general functions**

- (1) The Board shall perform their functions for the general purpose of maintaining and exhibiting a national collection of arms, armour and associated objects, and of maintaining a record relating to arms and armour and to the Tower of London.
- (2) So far as practicable and subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board shall—
  - (a) care for, preserve and add to the objects in their collection of arms, armour and associated objects,
  - (b) secure that the objects are exhibited to the public,
  - (c) secure that the objects are available to persons seeking to inspect them in connection with study or research,
  - (d) maintain a record (which may include books, pictures and other articles) relating to their collection, to arms and armour generally and to the Tower, and
  - (e) generally promote the public's enjoyment and understanding of arms and armour, both by means of the Board's collection and by such other means as they consider appropriate.
- (3) For the purpose of fulfilling their duties under subsection (2) the Board may, subject to the provisions of this Act—
  - (a) provide education, instruction and advice and carry out research,
  - (b) enter into contracts and other agreements (including agreements for the Board's occupation or management of premises in the Tower or elsewhere), and
  - (c) acquire and dispose of land and other property.

- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board may do such things as they think necessary or expedient—
  - (a) for preserving, and increasing the utility of, their collection,
  - (b) for securing the due administration of anything vested in or acquired by them, and any premises occupied or managed by them, under or by virtue of this Act, and
  - (c) otherwise for the purposes of their functions.
- (5) For so long as the Board have a right to occupy premises in the Tower, and so far as otherwise practicable, they shall secure that an exhibition of arms, armour and associated objects from among their collection is maintained and open to the public in those premises.
- (6) The Board shall not acquire or dispose of land without the Secretary of State's consent.
- (7) The power mentioned in subsection (4) includes power to require payment for admission to objects in the Board's collection and objects exhibited with them, but only while the objects are exhibited at a place other than the Tower, and includes power to require payment for goods or for services other than admission provided by the Board.

## **19 Initial vesting in Board**

- (1) Subject to subsection (4), where the property in an object was vested in the Secretary of State for the Environment immediately before the vesting day, and the object—
  - (a) then formed part of the collection of arms, armour and associated objects of the institution known as the Armouries or of their record (including books, pictures and other articles), or
  - (b) was then in use in respect of the collection or solely for the purposes of the administration of the institution,then the property shall on that day become vested instead in the Board.
- (2) In the case of an object mentioned in subsection (1)(a), it is immaterial that, immediately before the vesting day, it was situated elsewhere than at premises managed for the purposes of the institution (as where it was on loan).
- (3) On the vesting day any right, power, duty or liability which was immediately before that day exercisable by or incumbent on the Secretary of State for the Environment in relation to any object mentioned in subsection (1) shall instead become exercisable by or incumbent on the Board.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (3) do not apply as regards an object excepted from those provisions by an order made by the Secretary of State and coming into force before the vesting day.
- (5) The power to make an order under subsection (4) shall be exercisable by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (6) In this section " the vesting day " means the day appointed under section 41(1) for the coming into force of this section (other than subsections (4) and (5)).

## **20 Acquisition and disposal of objects**

- (1) The Board may acquire (whether by purchase, exchange or gift) any objects which in their opinion it is desirable to add to their collection.
- (2) Without prejudice to any power apart from this subsection, a Minister of the Crown may transfer to the Board any object (whether or not he acquired it before the Board's establishment) if in his opinion it would appropriately form part of their collection.
- (3) The Board may not dispose of an object the property in which is vested in them and which is comprised in their collection unless—
  - (a) the disposal is by way of sale, exchange or gift of an object which is a duplicate of another object the property in which is so vested and which is so comprised, or
  - (b) the disposal is by way of sale, exchange or gift of an object which in the Board's opinion is unsuitable for retention in their collection and can be disposed of without detriment to the interests of students or other members of the public, or
  - (c) the disposal is by way of sale or gift made to, or exchange made with, any institution mentioned in subsection (4), or
  - (d) the disposal (by whatever means, including destruction) is of an object which the Board are satisfied has become useless for the purposes of their collection by reason of damage, physical deterioration, or infestation by destructive organisms.
- (4) The institutions mentioned in subsection (3)(c) are the institutions for the time being listed in Schedule 1 to the National Gallery and Tate Gallery Act 1954 (ignoring the words " The Armouries "), the National Gallery Trustees and the Tate Gallery Trustees.
- (5) Money accruing to the Board by virtue of a disposal mentioned in this section shall be applied by the Board in the acquisition of objects to be added to their collection.

## **21 Lending and borrowing of objects**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Board may lend any object the property in which is vested in them and which is comprised in their collection (whether or not the loan is for purposes of public exhibition, and whether or not under the terms of the loan the object is to remain in the United Kingdom).
- (2) In deciding whether or not to lend an object, and in determining the time for which and the conditions subject to which an object is to be lent, the Board—
  - (a) shall give special consideration to a request for the loan of an object for public exhibition, and
  - (b) subject to that, shall have regard to the interests of students and other persons visiting the Board's collection, the suitability of the prospective borrower, the purpose of the loan, the physical condition and degree of rarity of the object, and any risks to which it is likely to be exposed.
- (3) Where the property in an object has become vested in the Board subject to a condition, the power conferred by subsection (1) is exercisable in a manner inconsistent with the condition if either—
  - (a) 25 years have elapsed since the date on which the condition was first imposed on any person, or

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

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- (b) the person who first imposed the condition or his personal representatives have consented in writing to the exercise of the power in that manner.
- (4) The Board may accept loans of objects for the purpose (depending on the terms of the loan) of exhibiting them, or of study or research by the Board or by persons seeking to inspect them.

## **22 Finance**

- (1) The Secretary of State may out of money provided by Parliament pay to the Board such sums towards their expenditure as the Treasury may approve.
- (2) The payment may be made on such conditions as the Secretary of State imposes with the Treasury's approval.