



# Acquisition of Land Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 67

### PART I

#### GENERAL

#### 1 Application of Act.

- (1) In this Act “compulsory purchase” means a compulsory purchase of land, being—
- a compulsory purchase to which this Act applies by virtue of any other enactment, whether or not passed or made before this Act, or
  - a compulsory purchase under an enactment specified in subsection (2) below.
- (2) The enactments referred to in subsection (1)(b) above are—
- section 2 of the <sup>M1</sup>Metropolitan Police Act 1886,
  - section 1(3) of the <sup>M2</sup>Military Lands Act 1892,
  - sections 25(1) and 39(1) of the <sup>M3</sup>Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908,
  - section 5(1) of the <sup>M4</sup>Development and Road Improvement Funds Act 1909 as it applies to acquisition by local authorities (as defined in section 7(1) of this Act) or the Secretary of State,
  - <sup>F1</sup> . . . .
  - <sup>F2</sup> . . . .
  - <sup>F3</sup> section 530(1) of the Education Act 1996],
  - <sup>F2</sup> . . . .
- (3) In this section “enactment” includes any statutory instrument.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(2) repealed (22.7.2004) by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), **Sch. 1 Pt. 3**
- F2** Words repealed by Water Act 1989 (c. 15, SIF 130), s. 190, **Sch. 27 Pt. I** (with ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), Sch. 26 paras. 3(1)(2), 17, 40(4), 41(1), 57(6), 58)
- F3** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (1.11.1996) by 1996 c. 56, ss. 582(1), 583(2), **Sch. 37 Pt. I para. 50** (with ss. 1(4))

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**Changes to legislation:** There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Acquisition of Land Act 1981. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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#### **Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1886 c. 22.

**M2** 1892 c. 43.

**M3** 1908 c. 36.

**M4** 1909 c. 47.

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

- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 43\(2\)](#)
- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 50\(13\)](#)
- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 137\(6\)](#)

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

- s. 7(4) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 3\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 13A(1A)-(1I) substituted for s. 13A(2)-(6) by [2023 c. 55 s. 182\(2\)](#)
- s. 13BA inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 183\(2\)](#)
- s. 14A(2A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 190\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 15(4)(ba) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 183\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 15(4B)-(4F) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 183\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 15A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 190\(1\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 26(1A)-(3) substituted for s. 26(1)(2) by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 3\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 4AA inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 19 para. 3\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 6(4)(ba) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 19 para. 3\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 6(4B)-(4D) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 19 para. 3\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 4A(1A)-(1J) substituted for Sch. 1 para. 4A(2)-(8) by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 19 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 2A inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 190\(1\)\(d\)](#)