



Housing Act 1985

1985 CHAPTER 68

PART II

PROVISION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Acquisition of land, etc.

17 Acquisition of land for housing purposes.

- (1) A local housing authority may for the purposes of this Part—
 - (a) acquire land as a site for the erection of houses,
 - (b) acquire houses, or buildings which may be made suitable as houses, together with any land occupied with the houses or buildings,
 - (c) acquire land proposed to be used for any purpose authorised by sections 11, 12 and 15(1) (facilities provided in connection with housing accommodation), and
 - (d) acquire land in order to carry out on it works for the purpose of, or connected with, the alteration, enlarging, repair or improvement of an adjoining house.
- (2) The power conferred by subsection (1) includes power to acquire land for the purpose of disposing of houses provided, or to be provided, on the land or of disposing of the land to a person who intends to provide housing accommodation on it [^{F1}or facilities which serve a beneficial purpose in connection with the requirements of persons for whom housing accommodation is provided].
- (3) Land may be acquired by a local housing authority for the purposes of this Part by agreement, or they may be authorised by the Secretary of State to acquire it compulsorily.
- (4) A local housing authority may, with the consent of, and subject to any conditions imposed by, the Secretary of State, acquire land for the purposes of this Part notwithstanding that the land is not immediately required for those purposes; but an authority shall not be so authorised to acquire land compulsorily unless it appears to

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the Secretary of State that the land is likely to be required for those purposes within ten years from the date on which he confirms the compulsory purchase order.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 17(2) inserted (24.9.1996) by 1996 c. 52, ss. 222, 232(2), **Sch. 18 Pt. IV para. 24(1)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 17 applied (23.12.2016) by [The Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(Functions and Amendment\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/1267\)](#), arts. 1(2), **8(2)**
- C2** S. 17 functions made exercisable concurrently (23.12.2016) by [The Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(Functions and Amendment\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/1267\)](#), arts. 1(2), **6(1)(m)(2)**, 15(1)(a)(i)(3) (with arts. 7, 8(3))
- C3** S. 17 functions made exercisable concurrently (9.2.2017) by [The West of England Combined Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/126\)](#), arts. 1(3), **19(1)(m)**
- C4** S. 17 applied (9.2.2017) by [The West of England Combined Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/126\)](#), arts. 1(3), **21(2)**
- C5** S. 17 functions made exercisable concurrently (2.11.2018) by [The Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority \(Establishment and Functions\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1133\)](#), arts. 1, **13** (with art. 28)
- C6** S. 17 applied (30.1.2021) by [The West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(Election of Mayor and Functions\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/112\)](#), arts. 1(2), **13(2)**
- C7** S. 17: functions made exercisable concurrently (30.1.2021) by [The West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(Election of Mayor and Functions\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/112\)](#), arts. 1(2), **11(1)(d)(2)(3)** (with art. 12)
- C8** S. 17: functions made exercisable concurrently (20.12.2023) by [The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1432\)](#), arts. 1(2), **8** (with art. 9(3), Sch. 1 para. 4(14))
- C9** S. 17 applied (20.12.2023) by [The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1432\)](#), arts. 1(2), **9(2)**
- C10** S. 17 applied (28.2.2024) by [The East Midlands Combined County Authority Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/232\)](#), regs. 1(2), **10(2)**
- C11** S. 17: functions made exercisable concurrently (28.2.2024) by [The East Midlands Combined County Authority Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/232\)](#), regs. 1(2), **8** (with reg. 9)

18 Duties with respect to buildings acquired for housing purposes.

- (1) Where a local housing authority acquire a building which may be made suitable as a house, they shall forthwith proceed to secure that the building is so made suitable either by themselves executing any necessary works or by leasing it or selling it to some person subject to conditions for securing that he will so make it suitable.
- (2) Where a local housing authority—
- (a) acquire a house, or
 - (b) acquire a building which may be made suitable as a house and themselves carry out any necessary work as mentioned in subsection (1),
- they shall, as soon as practicable after the acquisition or, as the case may be, after the completion of the necessary works, secure that the house or building is used as housing accommodation.

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C12** S. 18 functions made exercisable concurrently (23.12.2016) by [The Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(Functions and Amendment\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/1267\)](#), arts. 1(2), **6(1)(n)(2)** (with art. 8(3))
- C13** S. 18 functions made exercisable concurrently (9.2.2017) by [The West of England Combined Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/126\)](#), arts. 1(3), **19(1)(n)**
- C14** S. 18 functions made exercisable concurrently (2.11.2018) by [The Newcastle Upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority \(Establishment and Functions\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1133\)](#), arts. 1, **13** (with art. 28)
- C15** S. 18: functions made exercisable concurrently (30.1.2021) by [The West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(Election of Mayor and Functions\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/112\)](#), arts. 1(2), **11(1)(m)(2)**
- C16** S. 18: functions made exercisable concurrently (20.12.2023) by [The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1432\)](#), arts. 1(2), **8** (with art. 9(3))
- C17** S. 18: functions made exercisable concurrently (28.2.2024) by [The East Midlands Combined County Authority Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/232\)](#), regs. 1(2), **8**

19 Appropriation of land.

- (1) A local housing authority may appropriate for the purposes of this Part any land for the time being vested in them or at their disposal; and the authority have the same powers in relation to land so appropriated as they have in relation to land acquired by them for the purposes of this Part.
- (2) Where a local housing authority have acquired or appropriated land for the purposes of this Part, they shall not, without the consent of the Secretary of State, appropriate any part of the land consisting of a house or part of a house for any other purpose.
- (3) The Secretary of State's consent may be given—
 - (a) either generally to all local housing authorities or to a particular authority or description of authority, and
 - (b) either in relation to particular land or in relation to land of a particular description;and it may be given subject to conditions.
- [^{F2}(4) The Secretary of State shall consult the Regulator of Social Housing before deciding whether to consent under this section to anything within the Regulator's remit.]

Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 19(4) inserted (1.4.2010) by [The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(Registration of Local Authorities\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/844\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 5**

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) savings for amendments by 2018 anaw 1, s. 6, Sch. 6 by [S.I. 2019/110 reg. 5](#)

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

- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by S.I. 2022/1166 by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

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

- s. 81A-81D and cross-heading inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 4](#) (This provision is amended by 2021 c. 7, ss. 79(3), 90(6); S.I 2021/1038, reg. 3(c))
- s. 81B(1)(b) words inserted by [2018 c. 11 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 81B(2A)-(2C) inserted by [2018 c. 11 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 81B(2C) words substituted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 81B by 2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4 is still prospective)
- s. 81B(2C) words substituted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 81B by 2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4 is still prospective)
- s. 81B(2D) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 81B by 2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4 is still prospective)
- s. 82(A1)(A2) inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 119\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 82A(4A)(4B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 7\(2\)](#)
- s. 86(1A)(1B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 10\(3\)](#)
- s. 86(1C) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 2](#)
- s. 86A-86F and cross-headings inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 11](#)
- s. 86G s. 86A renumbered as s. 86G by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 3\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 86G(8) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 3\(2\)](#)
- s. 88(1)(ba) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 4](#)
- s. 89(2A)-(2D) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 5\(3\)](#)
- s. 97(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 99A(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 13\(3\)](#)
- s. 115B115C inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 15](#)
- s. 115B115C inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 15](#)
- s. 305(1A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 68\(b\)](#)
- s. 306(1A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 69\(b\)](#)
- s. 353A inserted by [1996 c. 52 s. 73\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 73 repealed (6.4.2006 for E., 16.6.2006 for W.) by 2004 c. 34, Sch. 16; S.I. 2006/1060, art. 2(1)(e), Sch.; S.I. 2006/1535, art. 2(c), Sch.)
- s. 582(6)(aa)-(ac) substituted for s. 582(6)(a) by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 1ZA and cross-heading inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 17\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 5A para. 3(3)(aa) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 5A para. 3(6A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(3\)\(d\)](#)