



Town and Country Planning Act 1990

1990 CHAPTER 8

PART III

CONTROL OVER DEVELOPMENT

Duration of planning permission

91 General condition limiting duration of planning permission.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, every planning permission granted or deemed to be granted shall be granted or, as the case may be, be deemed to be granted, subject to the condition that the development to which it relates must be begun not later than the expiration of—
 - (a) [^{F1}the applicable period,] beginning with the date on which the permission is granted or, as the case may be, deemed to be granted; or
 - (b) such other period (whether longer or shorter) beginning with that date as the authority concerned with the terms of planning permission may direct.
- (2) The period mentioned in subsection (1)(b) shall be a period which the authority consider appropriate having regard to the provisions of the development plan and to any other material considerations.
- (3) If planning permission is granted without the condition required by subsection (1), it shall [^{F2}(subject to subsections (3ZA) and (3ZB))] be deemed to have been granted subject to the condition that the development to which it relates must be begun not later than the [^{F3}expiration of the applicable period, beginning with the date of the grant].

[^{F4}(3ZA) Subsection (3ZB) applies if—

- (a) a section 73 permission is granted for the development of land in Wales, but without the condition required by subsection (1), and
- (b) the previous permission was granted, or deemed to have been granted (whether by virtue of this section or otherwise) subject to a condition as to the time within which development was to be begun.

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- (3ZB) The section 73 permission shall be deemed to have been granted subject to the condition that the development to which it relates must be begun not later than the date on or before which the previous permission required development to be begun.
- (3ZC) The previous permission, in relation to a section 73 permission, is the previous planning permission referred to in section 73(1).
- (3ZD) References in subsections (3ZA) to (3ZC) to a section 73 permission are to a planning permission granted under section 73.]
- [^{F5}(3A) Subsection (3B) applies if any proceedings are begun to challenge the validity]^{F6}, in respect of the development of land in England,] of a grant of planning permission or of a deemed grant of planning permission.
- (3B) The period before the end of which the development to which the planning permission relates is required to be begun in pursuance of subsection (1) or (3) must be taken to be extended by one year.
- (3C) Nothing in this section prevents the development being begun from the time the permission is granted or deemed to be granted.]
- (4) Nothing in this section applies—
- (a) to any planning permission granted by a development order [^{F7}, a local development order or a neighbourhood development order];
 - (b) to any planning permission [^{F8}granted for development carried out before the grant of that permission];
 - (c) to any planning permission granted for a limited period;
 - ^{F9}[(d) to any planning permission for development consisting of the winning and working of minerals or involving the depositing of mineral waste which is granted (or deemed to be granted) subject to a condition that the development to which it relates must be begun before the expiration of a specified period after—
 - (i) the completion of other development consisting of the winning and working of minerals already being carried out by the applicant for the planning permission; or
 - (ii) the cessation of depositing of mineral waste already being carried out by the applicant for the planning permission;]
 - (e) to any planning permission granted by an enterprise zone scheme;
 - (f) to any planning permission granted by a simplified planning zone scheme; or
 - (g) to any outline planning permission, as defined by section 92.
- [^{F10}(5) The applicable period—
- (a) in relation to England, is three years;
 - (b) in relation to Wales, is five years.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 91(1)(a) substituted (6.9.2015 for specified purposes, 16.3.2016 in so far as not already in force) by [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(anaw 4\)](#), **ss. 35(2), 58(2)(b)(4)(b)**; S.I. 2016/52, **art. 5(b)** (with **art. 13**)

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- F2** Words in s. 91(3) inserted (6.9.2015 for specified purposes, 16.3.2016 in so far as not already in force) by [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(anaw 4\)](#), **ss. 35(3)(a)**, 58(2)(b)(4)(b); S.I. 2016/52, art. 5(b) (with art. 13)
- F3** Words in s. 91(3) substituted (6.9.2015 for specified purposes, 16.3.2016 in so far as not already in force) by [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(anaw 4\)](#), **ss. 35(3)(b)**, 58(2)(b)(4)(b); S.I. 2016/52, art. 5(b) (with art. 13)
- F4** S. 91(3ZA)-(3ZD) inserted (6.9.2015 for specified purposes, 16.3.2016 in so far as not already in force) by [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(anaw 4\)](#), **ss. 35(4)**, 58(2)(b)(4)(b); S.I. 2016/52, art. 5(b) (with art. 13)
- F5** S. 91(3A)-(3C) inserted (24.8.2005 for E., 22.6.2015 for W. for specified purposes) by [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(c. 5\)](#), **s. 51(1)(b)**, **s. 121(1)-(3)** (with ss. 51(6), 111); S.I. 2005/2081, art. 2(c); S.I. 2015/340, art. 3
- F6** Words in s. 91(3A) inserted (6.9.2015 for specified purposes, 16.3.2016 in so far as not already in force) by [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(anaw 4\)](#), **ss. 35(5)**, 58(2)(b)(4)(b); S.I. 2016/52, art. 5(b) (with art. 13)
- F7** Words in s. 91(4)(a) substituted (15.11.2011 for specified purposes, 15.1.2012 for specified purposes, 6.4.2012 for specified purposes, 3.8.2012 for specified purposes, 6.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Localism Act 2011 \(c. 20\)](#), s. 240(5)(j), **Sch. 12 para. 13**; S.I. 2012/57, art. 4(1)(h) (with arts. 6, 7, 9-11); S.I. 2012/628, art. 8(a) (with arts. 9, 12, 13, 16, 18-20) (as amended (3.8.2012) by S.I. 2012/2029, arts. 2, 4); S.I. 2012/2029, arts. 2, 3(a) (with art. 5) (as amended (6.4.2013) by S.I. 2013/797, art. 4); S.I. 2013/797, arts. 1(2), 2
- F8** Words in s. 91(4)(b) substituted (2.1.1992) by [Planning and Compensation Act 1991 \(c. 34, SIF 123:1\)](#), s. 32, **Sch. 7 para.20** (with s. 84(5)); S.I. 1991/2905, art. 3, **Sch.1**
- F9** S. 91(4)(d) substituted (25.9.1991) by [Planning and Compensation Act 1991 \(c. 34, SIF 123:1\)](#), s. 21, **Sch. 1 para. 3**; S.I. 1991/2067, **art. 3** (subject to art. 4)
- F10** S. 91(5) inserted (6.9.2015 for specified purposes, 16.3.2016 in so far as not already in force) by [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(anaw 4\)](#), **ss. 35(6)**, 58(2)(b)(4)(b); S.I. 2016/52, art. 5(b) (with art. 13)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 91 excluded (5.11.1993) by [1993 c. 42](#), **s. 24(2)** (with ss. 2, 30(1), Sch. 2 para.9)
S. 91 excluded (18.12.1996) by [1996 c. 61](#), **s. 10(4)**
- C2** S. 91 excluded (22.7.2008) by [Crossrail Act 2008 \(c. 18\)](#), **ss. 11(4)**
- C3** S. 91 excluded (23.2.2017) by [High Speed Rail \(London - West Midlands\) Act 2017 \(c. 7\)](#), **ss. 21(4)**, 70(1)
- C4** S. 91 excluded (11.2.2021) by [High Speed Rail \(West Midlands - Crewe\) Act 2021 \(c. 2\)](#), **ss. 18(4)**, 64(1)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 91(2) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 6
- s. 91(4)(a) words inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 14
- s. 91(4)(a) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(14)

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

- Act applied by 2023 asc 3 s. 79(2)
- Act applied by 2023 asc 3 s. 83(4)
- Act excluded by 2023 asc 3 s. 140(4)(b)

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

- s. 7(3) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2(2)
- s. 7A(6) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2(4)
- s. 7ZA inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2(3)
- s. 58B and cross-heading inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 102(1)
- s. 59A(3)(ba) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 4(b)
- s. 62(2A)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(2)
- s. 62B(5)(ca) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2(5)
- s. 70(2)(azb) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 3(a)
- s. 70(3)(ca) inserted in earlier affecting provision 2016 c. 22, s. 5(8) by 2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 194
- s. 70(3A) inserted by 2017 c. 20 Sch. 3 para. 2
- s. 70A(5A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 4(a)
- s. 70A(10)(11) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 110(4)(b)
- s. 70B(5A)(5B) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 110(5)(b)
- s. 73B inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 110(2)
- s. 74(1C)(aa) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 5(b)
- s. 75ZA and cross-heading inserted by 2016 c. 22 s. 155
- s. 83(1A)-(1C) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2004 c. 5, s. 45(2) by 2011 c. 20 Sch. 8 para. 14(4)(5) Sch. 25 Pt. 16
- s. 83(1A)-(1C) inserted by 2004 c. 5 s. 45(2)
- s. 83(2)-(2B) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2004 c. 5, s. 45(3) by 2011 c. 20 Sch. 8 para. 14(4)(5) Sch. 25 Pt. 16
- s. 83(2)-(2B) substituted for s. 83(2) by 2004 c. 5 s. 45(3)
- s. 83(4) inserted by 2004 c. 5 s. 45(4)
- s. 85(1A) inserted by 2004 c. 5 s. 45(6)
- s. 93(5)(6) inserted by 2017 c. 20 Sch. 3 para. 6
- s. 94(1)(e) and word inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(15)
- s. 102(1A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 9(b)
- s. 106A(9A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 125
- s. 106ZA inserted by 2016 c. 22 s. 158(1)
- s. 106ZB inserted by 2016 c. 22 s. 159(1)
- s. 106ZB(2)(a) omitted by 2023 c. 55 s. 130(3)(b)
- s. 108(1A)(1B) inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 15(4)
- s. 108(3A) inserted by 2004 c. 5 Sch. 6 para. 6
- s. 108(3B)(ba) inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 15(6)
- s. 108(3B)(ba) word omitted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(16)(d)(i)
- s. 108(3B)(bb) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(16)(d)(ii)
- s. 108(3DA) inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 15(7)

- s. 108(3DB) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(16)(e)
- s. 141(6) inserted by 2017 c. 20 Sch. 3 para. 7
- s. 169(1)(a) words renumbered as s. 169(1)(a) by 2017 c. 20 s. 26(5)(a)
- s. 169(1)(b) inserted by 2017 c. 20 s. 26(5)(b)
- s. 170(8BA) inserted by 2017 c. 20 s. 26(6)
- s. 171A(2)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 117(2)(a)
- s. 171B(1)(a)(b) substituted for words by 2023 c. 55 s. 115(1)
- s. 171B(2)(a)(b) substituted for words by 2023 c. 55 s. 115(2)
- s. 171E(8) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 116(3)
- s. 172ZA inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 117(3)
- s. 174(2AA)(b) words substituted by 2023 c. 55 s. 113(6)
- s. 176(6) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 119(2)
- s. 188(1)(zb) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 117(4)(a)
- s. 195(3A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 119(3)
- s. 196(1A) inserted by 2008 c. 29 Sch. 10 para. 8(2)
- s. 208(5A) inserted by 2008 c. 29 Sch. 10 para. 9(2)
- s. 216(2)(a)(b) substituted for words by 2023 c. 55 s. 120(2)(a)
- s. 216(6A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 120(2)(c)
- s. 303(1ZZA) inserted by 2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 87
- s. 303(10A) inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 19(3)
- s. 303(12) inserted by 2015 c. 7 Sch. 4 para. 19(4)
- s. 303A(1A)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(2)(a)
- s. 303A(9B) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(4)
- s. 303A(10)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(5)
- s. 303A(12) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 7(6)
- s. 303ZB inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 134
- s. 314A inserted by 2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 90
- s. 324(1A)(a) words in s. 324(1A) renumbered as s. 324(1A)(a) by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(20)(a)
- s. 324(1A)(b) and word inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(20)(b)
- s. 327ZA applied (with modifications) by 1990 c. 10, s. 37 (as amended) by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(7)(a)
- s. 327ZA applied by 1990 c. 9, s. 89(1) (as amended) by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(5)(a)
- s. 327ZA inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(1)
- s. 327ZA modified by 1990 c. 9, s. 89(1ZC) (as inserted) by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(5)(b)
- s. 333(3ZZAA) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(21)(b)
- s. 333(3ZB) inserted by 2016 c. 22 s. 159(2)
- s. 333(3ZZA) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 9 para. 1(21)(a)
- Sch. 1 para. 5(4) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 17 para. 2(7)(c)
- Sch. 1 para. 7(10)(10A) substituted for Sch. 1 para. 7(10) by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 8 para. 11(2)
- Sch. 4B para. 11(3)-(5) inserted by 2017 c. 20 s. 7
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(fa) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 99(1)(b)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(ca) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 102(2)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(4A)(4B) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 102(2)(b)
- Sch. 4B para. 5(5)(za) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 12(a)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(da) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 12(b)
- Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(ea) substituted for Sch. 4B para. 8(2)(e) by 2023 c. 55 s. 99(1)(a)
- Sch. 7 para. 12(1)-(1C) amendment to earlier affecting provision 2004 c. 5 s. 45(9) by 2011 c. 20 Sch. 8 para. 14(7)
- Sch. 7 para. 12(1)-(1C) substituted for Sch. 7 para. 12(1) by 2004 c. 5 s. 45(9)
- Sch. 7A para. 14(4) inserted by 2023 c. 55 s. 124(3)
- Sch. 9 para. 1(1A) inserted by 2023 c. 55 Sch. 6 para. 13(b)
- Sch. 9A inserted by 2016 c. 22 Sch. 13
- Sch. 13 para. 24A inserted by 2017 c. 20 s. 26(7)