



Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

1997 CHAPTER 8

PART XIV

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

[^{F1}National Scenic Areas

[^{F1}263A National Scenic Areas

- (1) Where it appears to the Scottish Ministers that an area is of outstanding scenic value in a national context and that the special protection measures specified in subsection (2) are appropriate for it, they may by direction designate the area as a National Scenic Area.
- (2) Where any area is for the time being designated as a National Scenic Area, special attention is to be paid to ^{F2}... safeguarding or enhancing its character or appearance in the exercise, with respect to any land in that area, of any powers under this Act.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may issue guidance to a planning authority for the purposes of this section and that authority must have regard to any guidance so issued.
- (4) In deciding whether to designate an area as a National Scenic Area, the Scottish Ministers are to take account of—
 - (a) whether the area is of outstanding natural beauty,
 - (b) the amenity of the area, including—
 - (i) whether it is of historical, cultural or environmental importance; and
 - (ii) the nature of any buildings or other structures within it, and
 - (c) any flora, fauna or physiographical features of the area, whether or not to any extent the product of human intervention in the landscape.
- (5) Any designation under subsection (1) may be varied or cancelled by a subsequent direction.

Changes to legislation: Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, Section 263A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (6) Before issuing a direction under subsection (1) or (5), the Scottish Ministers are to consult with—
- (a) Scottish Natural Heritage, and
 - ^{F3}(aa) [persons resident within, or adjacent to, the area of a proposed designation,
 - (ab) a community body (as defined by section 4(9) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) with an interest in the area of a proposed designation,]
 - (b) such other persons as are prescribed.
- (7) The Scottish Ministers are to compile and make available for inspection free of charge a list containing particulars of any area which has been designated as a National Scenic Area.
- (8) For the purposes of subsection (7), a list may be made available by electronic means.
- (9) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision as to—
- (a) the form of any direction under subsection (1) or (5),
 - (b) the manner in which a National Scenic Area is to be described in such a direction,
 - (c) the publicity to be given to any such direction, and
 - (d) other procedural matters in connection with the making of such a direction.
- (10) Regulations under this section may make different provision for different purposes.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 263A and cross-heading inserted (1.4.2007 for specified purposes, 26.11.2010 in so far as not already in force) by [Planning etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(asp 17\)](#), **ss. 50, 59(2)**; [S.S.I. 2007/130](#), art. 2(2)(3), sch.; [S.S.I. 2010/400](#), art. 2(1)(2)(b)
- F2** Words in s. 263A(2) repealed (1.12.2019) by [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 13\)](#), **ss. 51(2)**, 63(2); [S.S.I. 2019/385](#), reg. 2
- F3** S. 263A(6)(aa)(ab) inserted (1.12.2019) by [Planning \(Scotland\) Act 2019 \(asp 13\)](#), **ss. 51(3)**, 63(2); [S.S.I. 2019/385](#), reg. 2

Changes to legislation:

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, Section 263A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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

- Act applied by [S.S.I. 2008/189 art. 53\(3\)](#)
- Act power to apply (with or without modifications) conferred by [2021 asp 9 s. 45\(3\)\(b\)\(c\)](#)

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

- Pt. 11A inserted by [2006 asp 17 s. 29](#)
- Pt. 12A inserted by [2006 asp 17 s. 30](#)
- Pt. 12A inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 46\(2\)](#)
- s. 3CD inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 20AA(4)(a)(iii) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 14\(6\)](#)
- s. 29(1)(ca) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 36(1)(ca) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 36(5)(6) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 36\(2\)](#)
- s. 40A inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 19\(2\)](#)
- s. 43A-43AD substituted for s. 43A by [2019 asp 13 s. 28\(2\)](#)
- s. 47(2)(aa) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 28\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 47(2A) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 28\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 47(6) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 31\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 54A-54F and cross-heading inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 15\(2\)](#)
- s. 57(2C)(2D) inserted by [2021 asp 9 s. 44\(2\)](#)
- s. 58(4)(fa) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 61(1)(ba) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 75(4A) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 35\(2\)](#)
- s. 75A(5A) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 35\(3\)](#)
- s. 77A inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 39\(2\)](#)
- s. 135(4A) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 43\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 154(1)(c) and word inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 28\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 154(1A) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 28\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 158A(1A) inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 44\(2\)](#)
- s. 158B-158F and cross-heading inserted by [2019 asp 13 s. 43\(3\)](#)
- s. 183(1)(c) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 237(1)(ba) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(8\)](#)
- s. 238(3)(a)-(c) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(9\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 238(5)(ba) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(9\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 238(7) inserted by [2019 asp 13 Sch. 2 para. 5\(9\)\(c\)](#)