



Charities Act 1960

1960 CHAPTER 58 8 and 9 Eliz 2

An Act to replace with new provisions the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1939, and other enactments relating to charities, to repeal the mortmain Acts, to make further provision as to the powers exercisable by or with respect to charities or with respect to gifts to charity, and for purposes connected therewith. [29th July 1960]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Act extended by [Pastoral Measure 1983](#) (No. 1, SIF 21:4), ss. 55(1), 94(2)
- C2 Act amended by [Education Reform Act 1988](#) (c. 40, SIF 41:1), ss. 231(7), 235(6), 237(1), Sch. 12 paras. 10, 63, 64(1)(2)

Commencement Information

- II Act partly in force at Royal Assent and wholly in force at 1.1.1961 by s. 49(3) (now repealed)

PART I

THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

1 The Charity Commissioners.

- (1) There shall continue to be a body of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, and they shall have such functions as are conferred on them by this Act in addition to any functions under any other enactment not repealed by this Act.
- (2) The provisions of the First Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Commissioners and other matters relating to the Commissioners and their officers and servants.
- (3) The Commissioners shall (without prejudice to their specific powers and duties under other enactments) have the general function of promoting the effective use of charitable resources by encouraging the development of better methods of administration, by giving charity trustees information or advice on any matter affecting the charity and by investigating and checking abuses.

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- (4) It shall be the general object of the Commissioners so to act in the case of any charity (unless it is a matter of altering its purposes) as best to promote and make effective the work of the charity in meeting the needs designated by its trusts; but the Commissioners shall not themselves have power to act in the administration of a charity.
- (5) The Commissioners shall, as soon as possible after the end of every year, make to the Secretary of State a report on their operations during that year, and he shall lay a copy of the report before each House of Parliament.

2 F1

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 2 repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pt. II & Pt. III

3 The official custodian for charities.

- (1) There shall be an “official custodian for charities”, whose function it shall be to act as trustee for charities in the cases provided for by this Act; and the official custodian for charities shall be by that name a corporation sole having perpetual succession and using an official seal, which shall be officially and judicially noticed.
- (2) Such officer of the Commissioners as they may from time to time designate shall be the official custodian for charities.
- (3) The official custodian for charities shall perform his duties in accordance with such general or special directions as may be given him by the Commissioners, and his expenses (except those re-imbursed to him or recovered by him as trustee for any charity) shall be defrayed by the Commissioners.
- (4) Anything which is required to or may be done by, to or before the official custodian for charities may be done by, to or before any officer of the Commissioners generally or specially authorised by them to act for him during a vacancy in his office or otherwise.
- (5) The official custodian for charities shall not be liable as trustee for any charity in respect of any loss or of the mis-application of any property, unless it is occasioned by or through the wilful neglect or default of the custodian or person acting for him; but the Consolidated Fund shall be liable to make good to a charity any sums for which the custodian may be liable by reason of any such neglect or default.
- (6) The official custodian for charities shall keep such books of account and such records in relation thereto as may be directed by the Treasury, and shall prepare accounts in such form, in such manner and at such times as may be so directed.
- (7) The accounts so prepared shall be examined and certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and the report to be made by the Commissioners to the Secretary of State for any year shall include a copy of the accounts so prepared for any period ending in or with the year, and of the certificate and report of the Comptroller and Auditor General with respect to those accounts.
- (8) F2

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Textual Amendments

F2 S. 3(8) repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pt. III

PART II

PROVISIONS FOR INQUIRING INTO, MAKING KNOWN AND CO-ORDINATING CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Registration of charities

4 Register of charities.

- (1) There shall be a register of charities which shall be established and maintained by the Commissioners and in which there shall be entered such particulars as the Commissioners may from time to time determine of any charity there registered.
- (2) There shall be entered in the register every charity not excepted by subsection (4) below; and a charity so excepted may be entered in the register at the request of the charity, but (whether or not it was excepted at the time of registration) may at any time, and shall at the request of the charity, be removed from the register.
- (3) Any institution which no longer appears to the Commissioners to be a charity shall be removed from the register, with effect, where the removal is due to any change in its purposes or trusts, from the date of that change; and there shall also be removed from the register any charity which ceases to exist or does not operate.
- (4) The following charities are not required to be registered, that is to say,—
 - (a) any charity comprised in the Second Schedule to this Act (in this Act referred to as an “exempt charity”);
 - (b) any charity which is excepted by order or regulations;
 - (c) any charity having neither any permanent endowment, nor any income from property amounting to more than fifteen pounds a year, nor the use and occupation of any land;
 and no charity is required to be registered in respect of any registered place of worship.
- (5) With any application for a charity to be registered there shall be supplied to the Commissioners copies of its trusts (or, if they are not set out in any extant document, particulars of them), and such other documents or information as may be prescribed or as the Commissioners may require for the purpose of the application.
- (6) It shall be the duty—
 - (a) of the charity trustees of any charity which is not registered nor excepted from registration to apply for it to be registered, and to supply the documents and information required by subsection (5) above; and
 - (b) of the charity trustees (or last charity trustees) of any institution which is for the time being registered to notify the Commissioners if it ceases to exist, or if there is any change in its trusts, or in the particulars of it entered in the register, and to supply to the Commissioners particulars of any such change and copies of any new trusts or alterations of the trusts;

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and any person who makes default in carrying out any of the duties imposed by this subsection may be required by order of the Commissioners to make good that default.

- (7) The register (including the entries cancelled when institutions are removed from the register) shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times; and copies (or particulars) of the trusts of any registered charity as supplied to the Commissioners under this section shall, so long as it remains on the register, be kept by them and be open to public inspection at all reasonable times, except in so far as regulations otherwise provide.
- (8) Nothing in the foregoing subsections shall require any person to supply the Commissioners with copies of schemes for the administration of a charity made otherwise than by the court, or to notify the Commissioners of any change made with respect to a registered charity by such a scheme, or require a person, if he refers the Commissioners to a document or copy already in the possession of the Commissioners . . . ^{F3}, to supply a further copy of the document; but where by virtue of this subsection a copy of any document need not be supplied to the Commissioners, a copy of it, if it relates to a registered charity, shall be open to inspection under subsection (7) above as if supplied to the Commissioners under this section.
- (9) In this section “registered place of worship” means any land or building falling within section nine of the ^{M1}Places of Worship Registration Act 1855, as amended by this Act (that is to say, the land and buildings which, if this Act had not been passed, would by virtue of that section as amended by subsequent enactments be partially exempted from the operation of the ^{M2}Charitable Trusts Act 1853), and for the purposes of this subsection “building” includes part of a building.
- (10) ^{F4}

Textual Amendments

F3 Words repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. III](#)

F4 [S. 4\(10\)](#) repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. I](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 [S. 4\(6\)\(b\)](#) excluded by [Charities Act 1985 \(c. 20, SIF 19\)](#), [s. 2\(12\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M1 1855 c. 81.

M2 1853 c. 137.

5 Effect of, and claims and objections to registration.

- (1) An institution shall for all purposes other than rectification of the register be conclusively presumed to be or have been a charity at any time when it is or was on the register of charities.
- (2) Any person who is or may be affected by the registration of an institution as a charity may, on the ground that it is not a charity, object to its being entered by the Commissioners in the register, or apply to them for it to be removed from the register; and provision may be made by regulations as to the manner in which any such objection or application is to be made, prosecuted or dealt with.

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- (3) An appeal against any decision of the Commissioners to enter or not to enter an institution in the register of charities, or to remove or not to remove an institution from the register, may be brought in the High Court by the Attorney General, or by the persons who are or claim to be the charity trustees of the institution, or by any person whose objection or application under subsection (2) above is disallowed by the decision.
- (4) If there is an appeal to the High Court against any decision of the Commissioners to enter an institution in the register, or not to remove an institution from the register, then until the Commissioners are satisfied whether the decision of the Commissioners is or is not to stand, the entry in the register shall be maintained, but shall be in suspense and marked to indicate that it is in suspense; and for the purposes of subsection (1) above an institution shall be deemed not to be on the register during any period when the entry relating to it is in suspense under this subsection.
- (5) Any question affecting the registration or removal from the register of an institution may, notwithstanding that it has been determined by a decision on appeal under subsection (3) above, be considered afresh by the Commissioners and shall not be concluded by that decision, if it appears to the Commissioners that there has been a change of circumstances or that the decision is inconsistent with a later judicial decision, whether given on such an appeal or not.

Powers of Commissioners and Minister to obtain information, etc.

6 General power to institute inquiries.

- (1) The Commissioners may from time to time institute inquiries with regard to charities or a particular charity or class of charities, either generally or for particular purposes: Provided that no such inquiry shall extend to any exempt charity.
- (2) The Commissioners may either conduct such an inquiry themselves or appoint a person to conduct it and make a report to them.
- (3) For the purposes of any such inquiry the Commissioners may by order, and a person appointed by them to conduct the inquiry may by precept, require any person (subject to the provisions of this section)—
 - (a) to furnish accounts and statements in writing with respect to any matter in question at the inquiry, being a matter on which he has or can reasonably obtain information, or to return answers in writing to any questions or inquiries addressed to him on any such matter, and to verify any such accounts, statements or answers by statutory declaration;
 - (b) to attend at a specified time and place and give evidence or produce documents in his custody or control which relate to any matter in question at the inquiry.
- (4) For the purposes of any such inquiry evidence may be taken on oath, and the person conducting the inquiry may for that purpose administer oaths, or may instead of administering an oath require the person examined to make and subscribe a declaration of the truth of the matters about which he is examined.
- (5) The Commissioners may pay to any person the necessary expenses of his attendance to give evidence or produce documents for the purpose of an inquiry under this section, and a person shall not be required in obedience to an order or precept under

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paragraph (b) of subsection (3) above to go more than ten miles from his place of residence unless those expenses are paid or tendered to him.

- (6) No person claiming to hold any property adversely to a charity, or freed or discharged from any charitable trust or charge, shall be required under this section to furnish any information or produce any document relating to that property or any trust or charge alleged to affect it.
- (7) Where the Commissioners propose to take any action in consequence of an inquiry under this section, they may publish the report of the person conducting the inquiry, or such other statement of the results of the inquiry as they think fit, in any manner calculated in their opinion to bring it to the attention of persons who may wish to make representations to them about the action to be taken.
- (8) The council of a county, . . . ^{F5}, county district . . . ^{F5} . . . ^{F6}, the Common Council of the City of London and the council of a ^{F5} borough may contribute to the expenses of the Commissioners in connection with inquiries under this section into local charities in the council's area.
- (9) If any person wilfully alters, suppresses, conceals or destroys any document which he may be required to produce under this section, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [^{F7}level 3 on the standard scale], or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

Textual Amendments

- F5** Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\)](#), [Sch. 30](#)
F6 Words repealed by [London Government Act 1963 \(c. 33\)](#), [Sch. 18 Pt. II](#)
F7 Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [ss. 38, 46](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4** [S. 6](#) extended (*prosp.*) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), [ss. 12\(1\)\(a\)](#), 79(2)
C5 [S. 6](#) amended (*prosp.*) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), [ss. 18\(9\)](#), 79(2)

7 Power to call for documents, and search records.

- (1) The Commissioners may by order require any person having in his possession or control any books, records, deeds or papers relating to a charity to furnish them with copies of or extracts from any of those documents or, unless the document forms part of the records or other documents of a court or of a public or local authority, require him to transmit the document itself to them for their inspection.
- (2) Any officer of the Commissioners, if so authorised by them, shall be entitled without payment to inspect and take copies of or extracts from the records or other documents of any court, or of any public registry or office of records, for any purpose connected with the discharge of the functions of the Commissioners or of the official custodian for charities.
- (3) The Commissioners shall be entitled without payment to keep any copy or extract furnished to them under subsection (1) above; and where a document transmitted to them under that subsection for their inspection relates only to one or more charities and is not held by any person entitled as trustee or otherwise to the custody of it, the Commissioners may keep it or may deliver it to the charity trustees or to any other person who may be so entitled.

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- (4) No person claiming to hold any property adversely to a charity, or freed or discharged from any charitable trust or charge, shall be required under subsection (1) above to transmit to the Commissioners any document relating to that property or any trust or charge alleged to affect it, or to furnish any copy of or extract from any such document.
- (5) No person properly having the custody of documents relating only to an exempt charity shall be required under subsection (1) above to transmit to the Commissioners any of those documents, or to furnish any copy of or extract from any of them.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C6 S. 7 extended (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), ss. 12(1)(a) 79(2)

C7 S. 7 amended (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), ss. 18(9), 79(2)

8 Receipt and audit of accounts of charities.

- (1) Statements of account giving the prescribed information about the affairs of a charity shall be transmitted to the Commissioners by the charity trustees on request; and, in the case of a charity having a permanent endowment, such a statement relating to the permanent endowment shall be transmitted yearly without any request, unless the charity is excepted by order or regulations.
- (2) Any statement of account transmitted to the Commissioners in pursuance of subsection (1) above shall be kept by them for such period as they think fit; and during that period it shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times.
- (3) The Commissioners may by order require that the condition and accounts of a charity for such period as they think fit shall be investigated and audited by an auditor appointed by them, being a member of one of the following bodies:—
 - The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales;
 - The Society of Incorporated Accountants;
 - The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland;
 - The Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants;
 - The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland;
 - Any other body of accountants established in the United Kingdom and for the time being recognised for the purposes of [F8section 389(1)(a) of the Companies Act 1985 by the Secretary of State].
- (4) An auditor acting under subsection (3) above—
 - (a) shall have a right of access to all books, accounts and documents relating to the charity which are in the possession or control of the charity trustees or to which the charity trustees have access;
 - (b) shall be entitled to require from any charity trustee, past or present, and from any past or present officer or servant of the charity such information and explanation as he thinks necessary for the performance of his duties;
 - (c) shall at the conclusion or during the progress of the audit make such reports to the Commissioners about the audit or about the accounts or affairs of the charity as he thinks the case requires, and shall send a copy of any such report to the charity trustees.

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- (5) The expenses of any audit under subsection (3) above, including the remuneration of the auditor, shall be paid by the Commissioners.
- (6) If any person—
- (a) fails to transmit to the Commissioners any statement of account required by subsection (1) above; or
 - (b) fails to afford an auditor any facility to which he is entitled under subsection (4) above;
- the Commissioners may by order give to that person or to the charity trustees for the time being such directions as the Commissioners think appropriate for securing that the default is made good.
- (7) This section shall not apply to an exempt charity.

Textual Amendments

- F8** Words substituted by [Companies Consolidation \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1985 \(c. 9, SIF 27\)](#), s. 30, [Sch. 2](#)

9 Exchange of information, etc.

- (1) The Commissioners may furnish the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and other government departments and local authorities, and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and other government departments and local authorities may furnish the Commissioners, with the names and addresses of institutions which have for any purpose been treated by the person furnishing the information as established for charitable purposes or, in order to give or obtain assistance in determining whether an institution ought to be treated as so established, with information as to the purposes of the institution and the trusts under which it is established or regulated.
- (2) The Commissioners shall supply any person, on payment of such fee as they think reasonable, with copies of or extracts from any document in their possession which is for the time being open to public inspection under this Act.
- [^{F9}(3) Without prejudice to subsection (1) above, no obligation as to secrecy or other restriction upon the disclosure of information shall prevent the Commissioners of Inland Revenue from disclosing to the Commissioners information with respect to any institution which has for any purpose been treated as established for charitable purposes but which appears to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to be or to have been carrying on activities which are not charitable or to be or to have been applying any of its funds for purposes which are not charitable.]

Textual Amendments

- F9** [S. 9\(3\)](#) added by [Finance Act 1986 \(c. 41, SIF 63:1\)](#), s. 33

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C8** [S. 9](#) extended (*prosp.*) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), ss. [25\(2\)](#), [79\(2\)](#)

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Powers of local authorities and of charity trustees

10 Local authority's index of local charities.

- (1) The council of a county or of a [^{F10}district or London borough] may maintain an index of local charities or of any class of local charities in the council's area, and may publish information contained in the index, or summaries or extracts taken from it.
- (2) A council proposing to establish or maintaining under this section an index of local charities or of any class of local charities shall, on request, be supplied by the Commissioners free of charge with copies of such entries in the register of charities as are relevant to the index or with particulars of any changes in the entries of which copies have been supplied before; and the Commissioners may arrange that they will without further request supply a council with particulars of any such changes.
- (3) An index maintained under this section shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times.
- (4) A council may employ any voluntary organisation, . . . ^{F11}, as their agent for the purposes of this section, on such terms and within such limits (if any) or in such cases as they may agree; and for this purpose "voluntary organisation" means any body of which the activities are carried on otherwise than for profit, not being a public or local authority.
- (5) A joint board discharging any of a council's functions shall have the same powers under this section as the council as respects local charities in the council's area which are established for purposes similar or complementary to any services provided by the board.
- (6) ^{F12}
- (7) ^{F12}

Textual Amendments

F10 Words substituted by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), s. 210\(9\)\(a\)](#)

F11 Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), Sch. 30](#)

F12 [S. 10\(6\)\(7\)](#) repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), Sch. 30](#)

11 Reviews of local charities by local authority.

- (1) The council of a county or of a [^{F13}district or London borough] may, subject to the following provisions of this section, initiate, and carry out in co-operation with the charity trustees, a review of the working of any group of local charities with the same or similar purposes in the council's area, and may make to the Commissioners such report on the review and such recommendations arising from it as the council after consultation with the trustees think fit.
- (2) A council having power to initiate reviews under this section may co-operate with other persons in any review by them of the working of local charities in the council's area (with or without other charities), or may join with other persons in initiating and carrying out such a review.

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- (3) No review initiated by a council under this section shall extend to any charity without the consent of the charity trustees, nor to any ecclesiastical charity.
- (4) No review initiated under this section by the council of a [^{F13}district or London borough] shall extend to the working in any county of a local charity established for purposes similar or complementary to any services provided by county councils, unless the review so extends with the consent of the council of that county . . . ^{F14}
- (5) Subsections (4) [^{F13}and (5)] of the last foregoing section shall apply for the purposes of this section as they apply for the purposes of that.

Textual Amendments

F13 Words substituted by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), s. 210\(9\)\(b\)](#)

F14 Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), Sch. 30](#)

12 Co-operation between charities, and between charities and local authorities.

- (1) Any local council and any joint board discharging any functions of such a council may make, with any charity established for purposes similar or complementary to services provided by the council or board, arrangements for co-ordinating the activities of the council or board and those of the charity in the interests of persons who may benefit from those services or from the charity, and shall be at liberty to disclose to any such charity in the interests of those persons any information obtained in connection with the services provided by the council or board, whether or not arrangements have been made with the charity under this subsection.

In this subsection “local council” means the council of a county, of a [^{F15}London borough], of a county district, . . . ^{F16} or of a rural parish, and includes also the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

- (2) Charity trustees shall, notwithstanding anything in the trusts of the charity, have power by virtue of this subsection to do all or any of the following things, where it appears to them likely to promote or make more effective the work of the charity, and may defray the expense of so doing out of any income or moneys applicable as income of the charity, that is to say,—
 - (a) they may co-operate in any review undertaken under the last foregoing section or otherwise of the working of charities or any class of charities;
 - (b) they may make arrangements with an authority acting under subsection (1) above or with another charity for co-ordinating their activities and those of the authority or of the other charity;
 - (c) they may publish information of other charities with a view to bringing them to the notice of those for whose benefit they are intended.

Textual Amendments

F15 Words substituted by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), s. 210\(9\)\(c\)](#)

F16 Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), Sch. 30](#)

PART III

APPLICATION OF PROPERTY CY-PRES, AND ASSISTANCE AND SUPERVISION OF CHARITIES BY COURT AND CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

Extended powers of court, and variation of charters

13 Occasions for applying property cypres.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the circumstances in which the original purposes of a charitable gift can be altered to allow the property given or part of it to be applied cy-pres shall be as follows:—
 - (a) where the original purposes, in whole or in part,—
 - (i) have been as far as may be fulfilled; or
 - (ii) cannot be carried out, or not according to the directions given and to the spirit of the gift; or
 - (b) where the original purposes provide a use for part only of the property available by virtue of the gift; or
 - (c) where the property available by virtue of the gift and other property applicable for similar purposes can be more effectively used in conjunction, and to that end can suitably, regard being had to the spirit of the gift, be made applicable to common purposes; or
 - (d) where the original purposes were laid down by reference to an area which then was but has since ceased to be a unit for some other purpose, or by reference to a class of persons or to an area which has for any reason since ceased to be suitable, regard being had to the spirit of the gift, or to be practical in administering the gift; or
 - (e) where the original purposes, in whole or in part, have, since they were laid down,—
 - (i) been adequately provided for by other means; or
 - (ii) ceased, as being useless or harmful to the community or for other reasons, to be a law charitable; or
 - (iii) ceased in any other way to provide a suitable and effective method of using the property available by virtue of the gift, regard being had to the spirit of the gift.
- (2) Subsection (1) above shall not affect the conditions which must be satisfied in order that property given for charitable purposes may be applied cy-pres, except in so far as those conditions require a failure of the original purposes.
- (3) References in the foregoing subsections to the original purposes of a gift shall be construed, where the application of the property given has been altered or regulated by a scheme or otherwise, as referring to the purposes for which the property is for the time being applicable.
- (4) Without prejudice to the power to make schemes in circumstances falling within subsection (1) above, the court may by scheme made under the court's jurisdiction with respect to charities, in any case where the purposes for which the property is held are laid down by reference to any such area as is mentioned in the first column in the Third Schedule to this Act, provide for enlarging the area to any such area as is mentioned in the second column in the same entry in that Schedule.

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- (5) It is hereby declared that a trust for charitable purposes places a trustee under a duty, where the case permits and requires the property or some part of it to be applied cy-pres, to secure its effective use for charity by taking steps to enable it to be so applied.

14 Application cy-pres of gifts of donors unknown or disclaiming.

- (1) Property given for specific charitable purposes which fail shall be applicable cy-pres as if given for charitable purposes generally, where it belongs—
 - (a) to a donor who, after such advertisements and inquiries as are reasonable, cannot be identified or cannot be found; or
 - (b) to a donor who has executed a written disclaimer of his right to have the property returned.
- (2) For the purposes of this section property shall be conclusively presumed (without any advertisement or inquiry) to belong to donors who cannot be identified, in so far as it consists—
 - (a) of the proceeds of cash collections made by means of collecting boxes or by other means not adapted for distinguishing one gift from another; or
 - (b) of the proceeds of any lottery, competition, entertainment, sale or similar money-raising activity, after allowing for property given to provide prizes or articles for sale or otherwise to enable the activity to be undertaken.
- (3) The court may by order direct that property not falling within subsection (2) above shall for the purposes of this section be treated (without any advertisement or inquiry) as belonging to donors who cannot be identified, where it appears to the court either—
 - (a) that it would be unreasonable, having regard to the amounts likely to be returned to the donors, to incur expense with a view to returning the property; or
 - (b) that it would be unreasonable, having regard to the nature, circumstances and amount of the gifts, and to the lapse of time since the gifts were made, for the donors to expect the property to be returned.
- (4) Where property is applied cy-pres by virtue of this section, the donor shall be deemed to have parted with all his interest at the time when the gift was made; but where property is so applied as belonging to donors who cannot be identified or cannot be found, and is not so applied by virtue of subsection (2) or (3) above,—
 - (a) the scheme shall specify the total amount of that property; and
 - (b) the donor of any part of that amount shall be entitled, if he makes a claim not later than twelve months after the date on which the scheme is made, to recover from the charity for which the property is applied a sum equal to that part, less any expenses properly incurred by the charity trustees after that date in connection with claims relating to his gift; and
 - (c) the scheme may include directions as to the provision to be made for meeting any such claim.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, charitable purposes shall be deemed to “fail” where any difficulty in applying property to those purposes makes that property or the part not applicable cy-pres available to be returned to the donors.
- (6) In this section, except in so far as the context otherwise requires, references to a donor include persons claiming through or under the original donor, and references

to property given include the property for the time being representing the property originally given or property derived from it.

- (7) This section shall apply to property given for charitable purposes, notwithstanding that it was so given before the commencement of this Act.

15 Charities governed by charter, or by or under statute.

- (1) Where a Royal charter establishing or regulating a body corporate is amendable by the grant and acceptance of a further charter, a scheme relating to the body corporate or to the administration of property held by the body (including a scheme for the *cy-pres* application of any such property) may be made by the court under the court's jurisdiction with respect to charities notwithstanding that the scheme cannot take effect without the alteration of the charter, but shall be so framed that the scheme, or such part of it as cannot take effect without the alteration of the charter, does not purport to come into operation unless or until Her Majesty thinks fit to amend the charter in such manner as will permit the scheme or that part of it to have effect.
- (2) Where under the court's jurisdiction with respect to charities or the corresponding jurisdiction of a court in Northern Ireland, or under powers conferred by this Act or by any enactment relating to charities of the Parliament of Northern Ireland, a scheme is made with respect to a body corporate, and it appears to Her Majesty expedient, having regard to the scheme, to amend any Royal charter relating to that body, Her Majesty may, on the application of that body, amend the charter accordingly by Order in Council in any way in which the charter could be amended by the grant and acceptance of a further charter; and any such Order in Council may be revoked or varied in like manner as the charter it amends.
- (3) The jurisdiction of the court with respect to charities shall not be excluded or restricted in the case of a charity of any description mentioned in the Fourth Schedule to this Act by the operation of the enactments or instruments there mentioned in relation to that description, and a scheme established for any such charity may modify or supersede in relation to it the provision made by any such enactment or instrument as if made by a scheme of the court, and may also make any such provision as is authorised by that Schedule.

Property vested in official custodian

16 Entrusting charity property to official custodian, and termination of trust.

- (1) The court may by order vest any property held by or in trust for a charity in the official custodian for charities, or authorise or require the persons in whom any such property is vested to transfer it to him, or appoint any person to transfer any such property to him.
- (2) Where any personal property is held by or in trust for a charity, or is comprised in any testamentary gift to a charity, the property may with the agreement of the official custodian for charities be transferred to him; and his receipt for any such property comprised in a testamentary gift to a charity shall be a complete discharge of the personal representative.

In this subsection, the expression "personal property" shall extend to any real security, but shall not include any interest in land otherwise than by way of security only.

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- (3) Where property is vested in the official custodian for charities in trust for a charity, the court may make an order discharging him from the trusteeship as respects all or any of that property.
- (4) Where the official custodian for charities is discharged from his trusteeship of any property, or the trusts on which he holds any property come to an end, the court may make such vesting orders and give such directions as may seem to the court to be necessary or expedient in consequence.
- (5) No person shall be liable for any loss occasioned by his acting in conformity with an order under this section or by his giving effect to anything done in pursuance of such an order, or be excused from so doing by reason of the order having been in any respect improperly obtained; and no vesting or transfer of any property in pursuance of this section shall operate as a breach of a covenant or condition against alienation or give rise to a forfeiture.

17 Supplementary provisions as to property vested in official custodian.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, where property is vested in the official custodian for charities in trust for a charity, he shall not exercise any powers of management, but he shall as trustee of any property have all the same powers, duties and liabilities, and be entitled to the same rights and immunities, and be subject to the control and orders of the court, as a corporation appointed custodian trustee under section four of the ^{M3}Public Trustee Act 1906 except that he shall have no power to charge fees.
- (2) Where any land or interest in land is vested in the official custodian for charities in trust for a charity, the charity trustees shall have power in his name and on his behalf to execute and do all assurances and things which they could properly require him to execute or do—
 - (a) for carrying out any transaction affecting the land or interest which is authorised by order of the court or of the Commissioners; or
 - (b) for granting any lease for a term ending not more than twenty-two years after it is granted, not being a lease granted wholly or partly in consideration of a fine, or for accepting the surrender of a lease.
- (3) Where any land or interest in land is vested in the official custodian for charities in trust for a charity, the charity trustees shall have the like power to make obligations entered into by them binding on the land or interest as if it were vested in them; and any covenant, agreement or condition which is enforceable by or against the custodian by reason of the land or interest being vested in him shall be enforceable by or against the charity trustees as if the land or interest were vested in them.
- (4) In relation to a corporate charity, subsections (2) and (3) above shall apply with the substitution of references to the charity for references to the charity trustees.
- (5) Subsections (2) and (3) above shall not authorise any charity trustees or charity to impose any personal liability on the official custodian for charities.
- (6) Where the official custodian for charities is entitled as trustee for a charity to the custody of securities or documents of title relating to the trust property, he may permit them to be in the possession or under the control of the charity trustees, without thereby incurring any liability.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C9** S. 17(1) excluded (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), ss. 30(1), 79(2); S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), Sch.1

Marginal Citations

- M3** 1906 c. 55.

*Powers of Commissioners and Minister to make schemes, etc.***18 Concurrent jurisdiction with High Court for certain purposes.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Commissioners may by order exercise the same jurisdiction and powers as are exercisable by the High Court in charity proceedings for the following purposes, that it to say:—
 - (a) establishing a scheme for the administration of a charity;
 - (b) appointing, discharging or removing a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, or removing an officer or servant;
 - (c) vesting or transferring property, or requiring or entitling any person to call for or make any transfer of property or any payment.
- (2) Where the court directs a scheme for the administration of a charity to be established, the court may by order refer the matter to the Commissioners for them to prepare or settle a scheme in accordance with such directions (if any) as the court sees fit to give, and any such order may provide for the scheme to be put into effect by order of the Commissioners as if prepared under subsection (1) above and without any further order of the court.
- (3) The Commissioners shall not have jurisdiction under this section to try or determine the title at law or in equity to any property as between a charity or trustee for a charity and a person holding or claiming the property or an interest in it adversely to the charity, or to try or determine any question as to the existence or extent of any charge or trust.
- (4) Subject to the following subsections, the Commissioners shall not exercise their jurisdiction under this section as respects any charity, except—
 - (a) on the application of the charity; or
 - (b) on an order of the court under subsection (2) above.
- (5) In the case of a charity not having any income from property amounting to more than fifty pounds a year, and not being an exempt charity, the Commissioners may exercise their jurisdiction under this section on the application—
 - (a) of the Attorney General; or
 - (b) of any one or more of the charity trustees, or of any person interested in the charity, or of any two or more inhabitants of the area of the charity, if it is a local charity.
- (6) Where in the case of a charity, other than an exempt charity, the Commissioners are satisfied that the charity trustees ought in the interests of the charity to apply for a scheme, but have unreasonably refused or neglected to do so, the Commissioners may apply to the Secretary of State for him to refer the case to them with a view to a scheme,

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and if, after giving the charity trustees an opportunity to make representations to him, the Secretary of State does so, the Commissioners may proceed accordingly without the application required by subsection (4) or (5) above:

Provided that the Commissioners shall not have power in a case where they act by virtue of this subsection to alter the purposes of a charity, unless forty years have elapsed from the date of its foundation.

- (7) The Commissioners may on the application of any charity trustee or trustee for a charity exercise their jurisdiction under this section for the purpose of discharging him from his trusteeship.
- (8) Before exercising any jurisdiction under this section otherwise than on an order of the court, the Commissioners shall give notice of their intention to do so to each of the charity trustees, except any that cannot be found or has no known address in the United Kingdom or who is party or privy to an application for the exercise of the jurisdiction; and any such notice may be given by post and, if given by post, may be addressed to the recipient's last known address in the United Kingdom.
- (9) The Commissioners shall not exercise their jurisdiction under this section in any case (not referred to them by order of the court) which, by reason of its contentious character, or of any special question of law or of fact which it may involve, or for other reasons, the Commissioners may consider more fit to be adjudicated on by the court.
- (10) An appeal against any order of the Commissioners under this section may be brought in the High Court by the Attorney General.
- (11) An appeal against any order of the Commissioners under this section may also, at any time within the three months beginning with the day following that on which the order is published, be brought in the High Court by the charity or any of the charity trustees, or by any person removed from any office or employment by the order (unless he is removed with the concurrence of the charity trustees or with the approval of the special visitor, if any, of the charity):
Provided that no appeal shall be brought under this subsection except with a certificate of the Commissioners that it is a proper case for an appeal or with the leave of one of the judges of the High Court attached to the Chancery Division.
- (12) Where an order of the Commissioners under this section establishes a scheme for the administration of a charity, any person interested in the charity shall have the like right of appeal under subsection (11) above as a charity trustee, and so also, in the case of a charity which is a local charity in any area, shall any two or more inhabitants of the area and the parish council of any rural parish comprising the area or any part of it; . . . ^{F17}
- (13) ^{F18}

Textual Amendments

F17 Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\)](#), **Sch. 30**

F18 [Ss. 18\(13\), 19\(9\), 20\(11\), 22\(12\)](#) repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), **Sch. 2 Pt. III**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C10 [S. 18](#) extended by [Redundant Churches and other Religious Buildings Act 1969 \(c. 22\)](#), **s. 4(3)**

C11 [S. 18](#) except subsection (6) applied by [Redundant Churches and other Religious Buildings Act 1969 \(c. 22\)](#), **s. 4(4)**

C12 [S. 18\(4\)](#) amended by [Pastoral Measure 1968 \(No. 1\)](#), **Sch. 3 para. 11(5)**, **16(1)(e)**

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- C13** S. 18 amended by Pastoral Measure 1983 (No. 1, SIF 21:4), ss. 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 31, 32, 40, Sch. 3 paras. 11(6), **94(2)**
- C14** S. 18 extended by Charities Act 1985 (c. 20, SIF 19), **s. 1(7)(8)**
- C15** S. 18 modified (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), **ss. 31(1), 79(2)**
- C16** Ss. 18(3)(8),(10)–(12), 19(1)–(7), 21 applied with modifications by Coal Industry Act 1987 (c. 3, SIF 86), **s. 5(3)(8)(9)**
- C17** S. 18(4) excluded by Reserve Forces Act 1980 (c.9, SIF 7:2), **s. 147(6)**
- C18** Power to amend s. 18(5) conferred by Charities Act 1985 (c. 20, SIF 19), **ss. 5(1), 7(3)**

19 Further powers to make schemes or alter application of charitable property.

- (1) Where it appears to the Commissioners that a scheme should be established for the administration of a charity, but also that it is necessary or desirable for the scheme to alter the provision made by an Act of Parliament establishing or regulating the charity or to make any other provision which goes or might go beyond the powers exercisable by them apart from this section, or that it is for any reason proper for the scheme to be subject to parliamentary review, then (subject to subsection (6) below) the Commissioners may settle a scheme accordingly with a view to its being given effect under this section.
- (2) A scheme settled by the Commissioners under this section may be given effect by order of the Secretary of State made by statutory instrument, and a draft of the statutory instrument shall be laid before Parliament.
- (3) Without prejudice to the operation of section six of the ^{M4}Statutory Instruments Act 1946 in other cases, in the case of a scheme which goes beyond the powers exercisable apart from this section in altering a statutory provision contained in or having effect under any public general Act of Parliament, the order shall not be made unless the draft has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5) below, any provision of a scheme brought into effect under this section may be modified or superseded by the court or the Commissioners as if it were a scheme brought into effect by order of the Commissioners under section eighteen of this Act.
- (5) Where subsection (3) above applies to a scheme, the order giving effect to it may direct that the scheme shall not be modified or superseded by a scheme brought into effect otherwise than under this section, and may also direct that that subsection shall apply to any scheme modifying or superseding the scheme to which the order gives effect.
- (6) The Commissioners shall not proceed under this section without the like application or the like reference from the Secretary of State, and the like notice to the charity trustees, as would be required if they were proceeding (without an order of the court) under section eighteen of this Act; but on any application or reference made with a view to a scheme, the Commissioners may proceed under this section or that as appears to them appropriate.
- (7) Notwithstanding anything in the trusts of a charity, no expenditure incurred in preparing or promoting a Bill in Parliament shall without the consent of the court or the Commissioners be defrayed out of any moneys applicable for the purposes of a charity:
Provided that this subsection shall not apply in the case of an exempt charity.
- (8) Where the Commissioners are satisfied—

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- (a) that the whole of the income of a charity cannot in existing circumstances be effectively applied for the purposes of the charity; and
- (b) that, if those circumstances continue, a scheme might be made for applying the surplus cy-pres; and
- (c) that it is for any reason not yet desirable to make such a scheme;

then the Commissioners may by order authorise the charity trustees at their discretion (but subject to any conditions imposed by the order) to apply any accrued or accruing income for any purposes for which it might be made applicable by such a scheme, and any application authorised by the order shall be deemed to be within the purposes of the charity:

Provided that the order shall not extend to more than three hundred pounds out of income accrued before the date of the order, nor to income accruing more than three years after that date, nor to more than one hundred pounds out of the income accruing in any of those three years.

(9) F19

Textual Amendments

F19 Ss. 18(13), 19(9), 20(11), 22(12) repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pt. III

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C19 S. 19 extended by Charities Act 1985 (c. 20, SIF 19), s. 1(7)(8)

C20 Ss. 18(3)(8),(10)–(12), 19(1)–(7), 21 applied with modifications by Coal Industry Act 1987 (c. 3, SIF 86), s. 5(3)(8)(9)

Marginal Citations

M4 1946 c. 36.

20 Power to act for protection of charities.

(1) Where the Commissioners are satisfied as the result of an inquiry instituted by them under section six of this Act—

- (a) that there has been in the administration of a charity any misconduct or mismanagement; and
- (b) that it is necessary or desirable to act for the purpose of protecting the property of the charity or securing a proper application for the purposes of the charity of that property or of property coming to the charity;

then for that purpose the Commissioners may of their own motion do all or any of the following things:—

- (i) they may by order remove any trustee, charity trustee, officer, agent or servant of the charity who has been responsible for or privy to the misconduct or mismanagement or has by his conduct contributed to it or facilitated it;
- (ii) they may make any such order as is authorised by subsection (1) of section sixteen of this Act with respect to the vesting in or transfer to the official custodian for charities of property held by or in trust for the charity;
- (iii) they may order any bank or other person who holds money or securities on behalf of the charity or of any trustee for it not to part with the money or securities without the approval of the Commissioners;

- (iv) they may, notwithstanding anything in the trusts of the charity, by order restrict the transactions which may be entered into, or the nature or amount of the payments which may be made, in the administration of the charity without the approval of the Commissioners.
- (2) The references in subsection (1) above to misconduct or mismanagement shall (notwithstanding anything in the trusts of the charity) extend to the employment for the remuneration or reward of persons acting in the affairs of the charity, or for other administrative purposes, of sums which are excessive in relation to the property which is or is likely to be applied or applicable for the purposes of the charity.
- (3) The Commissioners may also remove a charity trustee by order made of their own motion—
 - (a) where the trustee . . . ^{F20} is a bankrupt or a corporation in liquidation, or is incapable of acting by reason of mental disorder within the meaning of the ^{M5}Mental Health Act 1959;
 - (b) where the trustee has not acted, and will not declare his willingness or unwillingness to act;
 - (c) where the trustee is outside England and Wales or cannot be found or does not act, and his absence or failure to act impedes the proper administration of the charity.
- (4) The Commissioners may by order made of their own motion appoint a person to be a charity trustee—
 - (a) in place of a charity trustee removed by them under this section or otherwise;
 - (b) where there are no charity trustees, or where by reason of vacancies in their number or the absence or incapacity of any of their number the charity cannot apply for the appointment;
 - (c) where there is a single charity trustee, not being a corporation aggregate, and the Commissioners are of opinion that it is necessary to increase the number for the proper administration of the charity;
 - (d) where the Commissioners are of opinion that it is necessary for the proper administration of the charity to have an additional charity trustee, because one of the existing charity trustees who ought nevertheless to remain a charity trustee either cannot be found or does not act or is outside England and Wales.
- (5) The powers of the Commissioners under this section to remove or appoint charity trustees of their own motion shall include power to make any such order with respect to the vesting in or transfer to the charity trustees of any property as the Commissioners could make on the removal or appointment of a charity trustee by them under section eighteen of this Act.
- (6) Any order under this section for the removal or appointment of a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, or for the vesting or transfer of any property, shall be of the like effect as an order made under section eighteen of this Act.
- (7) Subsections (10) and (11) of section eighteen of this Act shall apply to orders under this section as they apply to orders under that, save that where the Commissioners have by order removed a trustee, charity trustee, officer, agent, or servant of a charity under the power conferred by subsection (1) of this section, an appeal against such an order may be brought by any person so removed without a certificate of the Commissioners and without the leave of one of the judges of the High Court attached to the Chancery Division.

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- (8) The power of the Commissioners under subsection (1) above to remove a trustee, charity trustee, officer, agent or servant of a charity shall include power to suspend him from the exercise of his office or employment pending the consideration of his removal (but not for a period longer than three months), and to make provision as respects the period of the suspension for matters arising out of it, and in particular for enabling any person to execute any instrument in his name or otherwise act for him and, in the case of a charity trustee, for adjusting any rules governing the proceedings of the charity trustees to take account of the reduction in the number capable of acting.
- (9) Before exercising any jurisdiction under this section, the Commissioners shall give notice of their intention to do so to each of the charity trustees, except any that cannot be found or has no known address in the United Kingdom; and any such notice may be given by post and, if given by post, may be addressed to the recipient's last known address in the United Kingdom.
- (10) If any person contravenes an order under paragraph (iii) of subsection (1) above, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [^{F21}level 3 on the standard scale], or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both; but no proceedings for an offence punishable under this subsection shall be instituted except by or with the consent of the Commissioners.
- (11) ^{F22}
- (12) This section shall not apply to an exempt charity.

Textual Amendments

F20 Words repealed by [Criminal Law Act 1967 \(c. 58\)](#), [Sch. 3 Pt. III](#)

F21 Words substituted by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), [ss. 38, 46](#)

F22 [Ss. 18\(13\), 19\(9\), 20\(11\), 22\(12\)](#) repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. III](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C21 [S. 20](#) (except subsection (1A)(ii)) extended (*prosp.*) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), [ss. 12\(1\)\(b\), 79\(2\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M5 [1959 c. 72](#).

VALID FROM 01/11/1992

^{F23}**20A Supplementary provisions relating to receiver and manager appointed for a charity.**

- (1) The Commissioners may under section 20(1)(vii) of this Act appoint to be receiver and manager in respect of the property and affairs of a charity such person (other than an officer or employee of theirs) as they think fit.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of section 40(1) of this Act, any order made by the Commissioners under section 20(1)(vii) of this Act may make provision with respect to the functions to be discharged by the receiver and manager appointed by the order; and those functions shall be discharged by him under the supervision of the Commissioners.

- (3) In connection with the discharge of those functions any such order may provide—
- (a) for the receiver and manager appointed by the order to have such powers and duties of the charity trustees of the charity concerned (whether arising under this Act or otherwise) as are specified in the order;
 - (b) for any powers or duties exercisable or falling to be performed by the receiver and manager by virtue of paragraph (a) above to be exercisable or performed by him to the exclusion of those trustees.
- (4) Where a person has been appointed receiver and manager by any such order—
- (a) section 24 of this Act shall apply to him and to his functions as a person so appointed as it applies to a charity trustee of the charity concerned and to his duties as such; and
 - (b) the Commissioners may apply to the High Court for directions in relation to any particular matter arising in connection with the discharge of those functions.
- (5) The High Court may on an application under subsection (4)(b) above—
- (a) give such directions, or
 - (b) make such orders declaring the rights of any persons (whether before the court or not),
- as it thinks just; and the costs of any such application shall be paid by the charity concerned.
- (6) Regulations may make provision with respect to—
- (a) the appointment and removal of persons appointed in accordance with this section;
 - (b) the remuneration of such persons out of the income of the charities concerned;
 - (c) the making of reports to the Commissioners by such persons.
- (7) Regulations under subsection (6) above may, in particular, authorise the Commissioners—
- (a) to require security for the due discharge of his functions to be given by a person so appointed;
 - (b) to determine the amount of such a person's remuneration;
 - (c) to disallow any amount of remuneration in such circumstances as are prescribed by the regulations.]

Textual Amendments

F23 S. 20A inserted (1.11.1992) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), [s.9](#); S.I. 1992/1900, art. 3(1), [Sch. 2](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C22 S. 20A extended (1.11.1992) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), [s. 12\(1\)\(c\)](#); S.I. 1992/1900, art. 3(1), [Sch. 2](#)

21 Publicity for proceedings under ss. 18 to 20.

- (1) The Commissioners shall not make any order under this Act to establish a scheme for the administration of a charity, or submit such a scheme to the court or the Secretary of State for an order giving it effect, unless not less than one month previously there

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has been given public notice of their proposals, inviting representations to be made to them within a time specified in the notice, being not less than one month from the date of such notice, and, in the case of a scheme relating to a local charity in a rural parish (other than an ecclesiastical charity), a draft of the scheme has been communicated to the parish council or, in the case of a parish not having a parish council, to the chairman of the parish meeting.

- (2) The Commissioners shall not make any order under this Act to appoint, discharge or remove a charity trustee or trustee for a charity (other than the official custodian for charities), unless not less than one month previously there has been given the like public notice as is required by subsection (1) above for an order establishing a scheme: Provided that this subsection shall not apply in the case of an order discharging or removing a trustee if the Commissioners are of opinion that it is unnecessary and not in his interest to give publicity to the proposal to discharge or remove him.
- (3) Before the Commissioners make an order under this Act to remove without his consent a charity trustee or trustee for a charity, or an officer, agent or servant of a charity, the Commissioners shall, unless he cannot be found or has no known address in the United Kingdom, give him not less than one month's notice of their proposal, inviting representations to be made to them within a time specified in the notice.
- (4) Where notice is given of any proposals as required by subsections (1) to (3) above, the Commissioners shall take into consideration any representations made to them about the proposals within the time specified in the notice, and may (without further notice) proceed with the proposals either without modification or with such modifications as appear to them to be desirable.
- (5) Where the Commissioners make an order which is subject to appeal under subsection (11) of section eighteen of this Act, the order shall be published either by giving public notice of it or by giving notice of it to all persons entitled to appeal against it under that subsection, as the Commissioners think fit.
- (6) Where the Commissioners make an order under this Act to establish a scheme for the administration of a charity, a copy of the order shall, for not less than one month after the order is published, be available for public inspection at all reasonable times at the Commissioners' office and also at some convenient place in the area of the charity, if it is a local charity.
- (7) Any notice to be given under this section of any proposals or order shall give such particulars of the proposals or order, or such directions for obtaining information about them, as the Commissioners think sufficient and appropriate, and any public notice shall be given in such manner as they think sufficient and appropriate.
- (8) Any notice to be given under this section, other than a public notice, may be given by post and, if given by post, may be addressed to the recipient's last known address in the United Kingdom.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C23 S. 21 applied by Redundant Churches and other [Religious Buildings Act 1969 \(c. 22\), s. 4\(4\)](#)

C24 Ss. 18(3)(8),(10)–(12), 19(1)–(7), 21 applied with modifications by [Coal Industry Act 1987 \(c. 3, SIF 86\), s. 5\(3\)\(8\)\(9\)](#)

[^{F24}21A Application of provisions to trust corporations appointed under s.18 or 20.

In the definition of “trust corporation” contained in the following provisions, namely—

- (a) section 117(xxx) of the Settled Land Act 1925,
- (b) section 68(18) of the Trustee Act 1925,
- (c) section 205(xxviii) of the Law of Property Act 1925,
- (d) section 55(xxvi) of the Administration of Estates Act 1925, and
- (e) section 128 of the Supreme Court Act 1981,

the reference to a corporation appointed by the court in any particular case to be a trustee includes a reference to a corporation appointed by the Commissioners under this Act to be a trustee.]

Textual Amendments

F24 S. 21A inserted (retrospectively) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s. 14(1), (with s. 14(2)); S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C25 S. 21A modified (retrospectively) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s. 14(2); S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

*Establishment of common investment funds***22 Schemes to establish common investment funds.**

- (1) The court or the Commissioners may by order make and bring into effect schemes (in this section referred to as “common investment schemes”) for the establishment of common investment funds under trusts which provide—
 - (a) for property transferred to the fund by or on behalf of a charity participating in the scheme to be invested under the control of trustees appointed to manage the fund; and
 - (b) for the participating charities to be entitled (subject to the provisions of the scheme) to the capital and income of the fund in shares determined by reference to the amount or value of the property transferred to it by or on behalf of each of them and to the value of the fund at the time of the transfers.
- (2) The court or the Commissioners may make a common investment scheme on the application of any two or more charities.
- (3) A common investment scheme may be made in terms admitting any charity to participate, or the scheme may restrict the right to participate in any manner.
- (4) A common investment scheme may make provision for, and for all matters connected with, the establishment, investment, management and winding up of the common investment fund, and may in particular include provision—
 - (a) for remunerating persons appointed trustees to hold or manage the fund or any part of it, with or without provision authorising a person to receive the remuneration notwithstanding that he is also a charity trustee of or trustee for a participating charity;

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

- (b) for restricting the size of the fund, and for regulating as to time, amount or otherwise the right to transfer property to or withdraw it from the fund, and for enabling sums to be advanced out of the fund by way of loan to a participating charity pending the withdrawal of property from the fund by the charity;
 - (c) for enabling income to be withheld from distribution with a view to avoiding fluctuations in the amounts distributed, and generally for regulating distributions of income;
 - (d) for enabling moneys to be borrowed temporarily for the purpose of meeting payments to be made out of the fund;
 - (e) for enabling questions arising under the scheme as to the right of a charity to participate, or as to the rights of participating charities, or as to any other matter, to be conclusively determined by the decision of the trustees managing the fund or in any other manner;
 - (f) for regulating the accounts and information to be supplied to participating charities.
- (5) A common investment scheme, in addition to the provision for property to be transferred to the fund on the basis that the charity shall be entitled to a share in the capital and income of the fund, may include provision for enabling sums to be deposited by or on behalf of a charity on the basis that (subject to the provisions of the scheme) the charity shall be entitled to repayment of the sums deposited and to interest thereon at a rate determined by or under the scheme; and where a scheme makes any such provision it shall also provide for excluding from the amount of capital and income to be shared between charities participating otherwise than by way of deposit such amounts (not exceeding the amounts properly attributable to the making of deposits) as are from time to time reasonably required in respect of the liabilities of the fund for the repayment of deposits and for the interest on deposits, including amounts required by way of reserve.
- (6) A common investment scheme may provide for the assets of the common investment fund or any of them to be vested in the official custodian for charities, and, if made by the Commissioners or if they consent, may also appoint him or authorise him to be appointed trustee to manage the fund or any part of it, and as managing trustee he shall, subject to section three of this Act, have the same powers, duties and liabilities as other managing trustees; but where a common investment scheme provides for the official custodian for charities to exercise any discretion with respect to the investment of the fund it shall make provision for him to be advised by a committee of persons who have special experience of investment and finance or of the administration of trusts, or who represent or are nominated by bodies having that experience.
- (7) Except in so far as a common investment scheme provides to the contrary, the rights under it of a participating charity shall not be capable of being assigned or charged, nor shall any trustee or other person concerned in the management of the common investment fund be required or entitled to take account of any trust or other equity affecting a participating charity or its property or rights.
- (8) The powers of investment of every charity shall include power to participate in common investment schemes, unless the power is excluded by a provision specifically referring to common investment schemes in the trusts of the charity.
- (9) A common investment fund shall be deemed for all purposes to be a charity, and the assets of the fund shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as a permanent endowment, except that if the scheme establishing the fund admits to participation only charities not having a permanent endowment, the fund shall be treated as a charity

not having a permanent endowment; and if the scheme admits only exempt charities, the fund shall be an exempt charity for the purposes of this Act.

(10) F25

(11) [^{F26}Subsections (9)] above shall apply not only to common investment funds established under the powers of this section, but also to any similar fund established for the exclusive benefit of charities by or under any enactment relating to any particular charities or class of charity.

(12) F27

Textual Amendments

F25 S. 22(10) repealed by [Financial Services Act 1986 \(c. 60, SIF 69\)](#), s. 212(2)(3), [Sch. 16 para. 1\(a\)](#), Sch. 17 Pt. I

F26 Words substituted by [Financial Services Act 1986 \(c. 60, SIF 69\)](#), s. 212(2), [Sch. 16 para. 1\(a\)](#)

F27 Ss. 18(13), 19(9), 20(11), 22(12) repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. III](#)

VALID FROM 01/09/1992

[^{F28}22A Schemes to establish common deposit funds.

(1) The court or the Commissioners may by order make and bring into effect schemes (in this section referred to as “common deposit schemes”) for the establishment of common deposit funds under trusts which provide—

- (a) for sums to be deposited by or on behalf of a charity participating in the scheme and invested under the control of trustees appointed to manage the fund; and
- (b) for any such charity to be entitled (subject to the provisions of the scheme) to repayment of any sums so deposited and to interest thereon at a rate determined under the scheme.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) below, the following provisions of section 22 of this Act, namely—

- (a) subsections (2) to (4), and
- (b) subsections (7) to (11),

shall have effect in relation to common deposit schemes and common deposit funds as they have effect in relation to common investment schemes and common investment funds.

(3) In its application in accordance with subsection (2) above, subsection (4) of that section shall have effect with the substitution for paragraphs (b) and (c) of the following paragraphs—

- (”) for regulating as to time, amount or otherwise the right to repayment of sums deposited in the fund;
- (c) for authorising a part of the income for any year to be credited to a reserve account maintained for the purpose of counteracting any losses accruing to the fund, and generally for regulating the manner in which the rate of interest on deposits is to be determined from time to time;”.]

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F28 S. 22A inserted (1.9.1992) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s.16; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), Sch.1

Miscellaneous powers of Commissioners and Minister

23 Power to authorise dealings with charity property, etc.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to the Commissioners that any action proposed or contemplated in the administration of a charity is expedient in the interests of the charity, they may by order sanction that action, whether or not it would otherwise be within the powers exercisable by the charity trustees in the administration of the charity; and anything done under the authority of such an order shall be deemed to be properly done in the exercise of those powers.
- (2) An order under this section may be made so as to authorise a particular transaction, compromise or the like, or a particular application of property, or so as to give a more general authority, and (without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above) may authorise a charity to use common premises, or employ a common staff, or otherwise combine for any purpose of administration, with any other charity.
- (3) An order under this section may give directions as to the manner in which any expenditure is to be borne and as to other matters connected with or arising out of the action thereby authorised; and where anything is done in pursuance of an authority given by any such order, any directions given in connection therewith shall be binding on the charity trustees for the time being as if contained in the trusts of the charity: Provided that any such directions may on the application of the charity be modified or superseded by a further order.
- (4) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (3) above, the directions which may be given by an order under this section shall in particular include directions for meeting any expenditure out of a specified fund, for charging any expenditure to capital or to income, for requiring expenditure charged to capital to be recouped out of income within a specified period, for restricting the costs to be incurred at the expense of the charity, or for the investment of moneys arising from any transaction.
- (5) An order under this section may authorise any act, notwithstanding that it is prohibited by any of the disabling Acts mentioned in subsection (6) below, or that the trusts of the charity provide for the act to be done by or under the authority of the court; but no such order shall authorise the doing of any act expressly prohibited by Act of Parliament other than the disabling Acts or by the trusts of the charity, or confer any authority in relation to a disused church as defined in that subsection, or shall extend or alter the purposes of the charity.
- (6) The Acts referred to in subsection (5) above as the disabling Acts are the ^{M6}Ecclesiastical Leases Act 1571, the ^{M7}Ecclesiastical Leases Act 1572, the ^{M8}Ecclesiastical Leases Act 1575 and the ^{M9}Ecclesiastical Leases Act 1836; and in that subsection “disused church” means a building which has been consecrated and of which the use or disposal is regulated, and can be further regulated, by a scheme having effect under the Union of Benefices Measures 1923 to 1952 or the Reorganisation Areas Measures 1944 and 1954 and extends to any land which under such a scheme is to be used or disposed of with a disused church, and for this purpose “building” includes part of a building.

Marginal Citations

- M6** 1571 c. 10.
M7 1572 c. 11.
M8 1575 c. 11.
M9 1836 c. 20.

VALID FROM 01/09/1992

[^{F29}23A Power to authorise certain ex gratia payments etc.

- (1) Subject to subsection (3) below, the Commissioners may by order exercise the same power as is exercisable by the Attorney General to authorise the charity trustees of a charity—
- (a) to make any application of property of the charity, or
 - (b) to waive to any extent, on behalf of the charity, its entitlement to receive any property,
- in a case where the charity trustees—
- (i) (apart from this section) have no power to do so, but
 - (ii) in all the circumstances regard themselves as being under a moral obligation to do so.
- (2) The power conferred on the Commissioners by subsection (1) above shall be exercisable by them under the supervision of, and in accordance with such directions as may be given by, the Attorney General; and any such directions may in particular require the Commissioners, in such circumstances as are specified in the directions—
- (a) to refrain from exercising that power; or
 - (b) to consult the Attorney General before exercising it.
- (3) Where—
- (a) an application is made to the Commissioners for them to exercise that power in a case where they are not precluded from doing so by any such directions, but
 - (b) they consider that it would nevertheless be desirable for the application to be entertained by the Attorney General rather than by them,
- they shall refer the application to the Attorney General.
- (4) It is hereby declared that where, in the case of any application made to them as mentioned in subsection (3)(a) above, the Commissioners determine the application by refusing to authorise charity trustees to take any action falling within subsection (1)(a) or (b) above, that refusal shall not preclude the Attorney General, on an application subsequently made to him by the trustees, from authorising the trustees to take that action.]

Textual Amendments

- F29** S. 23A inserted (1.9.1992) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s.17; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), Sch.1

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24 Power to advise charity trustees.

- (1) The Commissioners may on the written application of any charity trustee give him their opinion or advice on any matter affecting the performance of his duties as such.
- (2) A charity trustee or trustee for a charity acting in accordance with the opinion or advice of the Commissioners given under this section with respect to the charity shall be deemed, as regards his responsibility for so acting, to have acted in accordance with his trust, unless, when he does so, either—
 - (a) he knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that the opinion or advice was given in ignorance of material facts; or
 - (b) the decision of the court has been obtained on the matter or proceedings are pending to obtain one.

25 Powers for preservation of charity documents.

- (1) The Commissioners may provide books in which any deed, will or other document relating to a charity may be enrolled.
- (2) The Commissioners may accept for safe keeping any document of or relating to a charity, and the charity trustees or other persons having the custody of documents of or relating to a charity (including a charity which has ceased to exist) may with the consent of the Commissioners deposit them with the Commissioners for safe keeping, except in the case of documents required by some other enactment to be kept elsewhere.
- (3) Where a document is enrolled by the Commissioners or is for the time being deposited with them under this section, evidence of its contents may be given by means of a copy certified by any officer of the Commissioners generally or specially authorised by them to act for this purpose; and a document purporting to be such a copy shall be received in evidence without proof of the official position, authority or handwriting of the person certifying it or of the original document being enrolled or deposited as aforesaid.
- (4) Regulations may make provision for such documents deposited with the Commissioners under this section as may be prescribed to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of after such period or in such circumstances as may be prescribed.
- (5) Subsections (3) and (4) above shall apply to any document transmitted to the Commissioners under section seven of this Act and kept by them under subsection (3) of that section, as if the document had been deposited with them for safe keeping under this section.

26 Power to order taxation of solicitor's bill.

- (1) The Commissioners may order that a solicitor's bill of costs for business done for a charity, or for charity trustees or trustees for a charity, shall be taxed, together with the costs of the taxation, by a taxing officer in such division of the High Court as may be specified in the order, or by the taxing officer of any other court having jurisdiction to order the taxation of the bill.
- (2) On any order under this section for the taxation of a solicitor's bill the taxation shall proceed, and the taxing officer shall have the same powers and duties, and the costs

of the taxation shall be borne, as if the order had been made, on the application of the person chargeable with the bill, by the court in which the costs are taxed.

- (3) No order under this section for the taxation of a solicitor's bill shall be made after payment of the bill, unless the Commissioners are of opinion that it contains exorbitant charges; and no such order shall in any case be made where the solicitor's costs are not subject to taxation on an order of the High Court by reason either of an agreement as to his remuneration or of the lapse of time since payment of the bill.

VALID FROM 01/01/1993

[^{F30}26A Power of Commissioners to bring proceedings with respect to charities.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the Commissioners may exercise the same powers with respect to—
 - (a) the taking of legal proceedings with reference to charities or the property or affairs of charities, or
 - (b) the compromise of claims with a view to avoiding or ending such proceedings,
 as are exercisable by the Attorney General acting ex officio.
- (2) Subsection (1) above does not apply to the power of the Attorney General under section 30(1) of this Act to present a petition for the winding up of a charity.
- (3) The practice and procedure to be followed in relation to any proceedings taken by the Commissioners under subsection (1) above shall be the same in all respects (and in particular as regards costs) as if they were proceedings taken by the Attorney General acting ex officio.
- (4) No rule of law or practice shall be taken to require the Attorney General to be a party to any such proceedings.
- (5) The powers exercisable by the Commissioners by virtue of this section shall be exercisable by them of their own motion, but shall be exercisable only with the agreement of the Attorney General on each occasion.]

Textual Amendments

F30 S. 26A inserted (1.1.1993) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s.28; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 4(1), Sch. 3

27 Powers for recovery or redemption of charity rentcharges.

- (1) Where it appears to the Commissioners that a charity is entitled to receive a rentcharge issuing out of any land, or out of the rents, profits or other income of any land, they may take legal proceedings on behalf of the charity for recovering the rentcharge or compelling payment.
- (2) Where a charity is entitled to receive a rentcharge issuing out of any land, the Commissioners may give to the estate owner in respect of the fee simple in the land (or, if the rentcharge is payable in respect of an estate for a term of years, then to the

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estate owner in respect of that estate) a notice to treat with the charity trustees for the redemption of the rentcharge.

- (3) Where a notice to treat is given under subsection (2) above in respect of any land, and the rentcharge is still subsisting at the expiration of ten years from the date on which the notice is given, then (subject to the provisions of this section) the person who is then the estate owner in respect of the relevant estate in the land shall be liable to pay the redemption price to the charity or to the person entitled to receive it as trustee for the charity, and on payment or tender of the redemption price shall be entitled to a proper and effective release of the rentcharge (or, if he has so requested, a proper and effective transfer of it to a person nominated by him).
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3) above the redemption price for a rentcharge shall be such as may be determined in accordance with regulations made by the Treasury.
- (5) Proceedings for the recovery of sums due under subsection (3) above may be taken by the Commissioners on behalf of the charity.
- (6) Where an estate owner of land liable to a rentcharge has by law or by contract any right of indemnity or contribution in respect of the rentcharge against any person or property, then on his redeeming the rentcharge in accordance with subsection (3) above he shall have the like right of indemnity or contribution in respect of the redemption price.
- (7) For the purposes of the [^{F31M10}Local Land Charges Act 1975] and of the ^{M11}Land Registration Act 1925, a notice to treat under this section shall be treated as a land charge affecting the estate of the estate owner to whom it is given, and those Acts shall apply to the notice to treat as they apply to an estate contract.
- (8) Where an estate owner of land liable to a rentcharge pays it through an agent, a notice to treat under this section, if given to the agent on behalf of the estate owner, shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to be given to the estate owner, notwithstanding that the agent's authority from the estate owner does not extend to accepting the notice on his behalf.
- (9) This section shall apply to any periodical payment other than rent incident to a reversion as it applies to a rentcharge.

Textual Amendments

F31 Words substituted by virtue of [Interpretation Act 1889 \(c. 63\), s. 38\(1\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M10 1975 c. 76.

M11 1925 c. 21.

Miscellaneous

28 Taking of legal proceedings.

- (1) Charity proceedings may be taken with reference to a charity either by the charity, or by any of the charity trustees, or by any person interested in the charity, or by any two or more inhabitants of the area of the charity, if it is a local charity, but not by any other person.

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

- (2) Subject to the following provisions of this section, no charity proceedings relating to a charity (other than an exempt charity) shall be entertained or proceeded with in any court unless the taking of the proceedings is authorised by order of the Commissioners.
- (3) The Commissioners shall not, without special reasons, authorise the taking of charity proceedings where in their opinion the case can be dealt with by them under the powers of this Act.
- (4) This section shall not require any order for the taking of proceedings in a pending cause or matter or for the bringing of any appeal.
- (5) Where the foregoing provisions of this section require the taking of charity proceedings to be authorised by an order of the Commissioners, the proceedings may nevertheless be entertained or proceeded with if after the order had been applied for and refused leave to take the proceedings was obtained from one of the judges of the High Court attached to the Chancery Division.
- (6) Nothing in the foregoing subsections shall apply to the taking of proceedings by the Attorney General, with or without a relator.
- (7) Where it appears to the Commissioners, on an application for an order under this section or otherwise, that it is desirable for legal proceedings to be taken with reference to any charity (other than an exempt charity) or its property or affairs, and for the proceedings to be taken by the Attorney General, the Commissioners shall so inform the Attorney General, and send him such statements and particulars as they think necessary to explain the matter.
- (8) In this section “charity proceedings” means proceedings in any court in England or Wales brought under the court’s jurisdiction with respect to charities, or brought under the court’s jurisdiction with respect to trusts in relation to the administration of a trust for charitable purposes.
- (9) The ^{M12}Charities Procedure Act 1812 and so much of any local or private Act establishing or regulating a charity as relates to the persons by whom or the manner or form in which any charity proceedings may be brought shall cease to have effect.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C26 [S. 28\(5\)](#) modified by [Reserve Forces Act 1980 \(c. 9, SIF 7:2\)](#), [s. 147\(5\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M12 [1812 c. 101](#).

VALID FROM 01/09/1992

[^{F32}28A Report of s.6 inquiry to be evidence in certain proceedings.

- (1) A copy of the report of the person conducting an inquiry under section 6 of this Act shall, if certified by the Commissioners to be a true copy, be admissible in any proceedings to which this section applies—
 - (a) as evidence of any fact stated in the report; and
 - (b) as evidence of the opinion of that person as to any matter referred to in it.

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects
 for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

- (2) This section applies to—
- (a) any legal proceedings instituted by the Commissioners under this Part of this Act; and
 - (b) any legal proceedings instituted by the Attorney General in respect of a charity.
- (3) A document purporting to be a certificate issued for the purposes of subsection (1) above shall be received in evidence and be deemed to be such a certificate, unless the contrary is proved.]

Textual Amendments

F32 S. 28A inserted (1.9.1992) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s.11; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), Sch.1

29 Restrictions on dealing with charity property.

- (1) Subject to the exceptions provided for by this section, no property forming part of the permanent endowment of a charity shall, without an order of the court or of the Commissioners, be mortgaged or charged by way of security for the repayment of money borrowed, nor, in the case of land in England or Wales, be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of.
- (2) Subsection (1) above shall apply to any land which is held by or in trust for a charity and is or has at any time been occupied for the purposes of the charity, as it applies to land forming part of the permanent endowment of a charity; but a transaction for which the sanction of an order under subsection (1) above is required by virtue only of this subsection shall, notwithstanding that it is entered into without such an order, be valid in favour of a person who (then or afterwards) in good faith acquires an interest in or charge on the land for money or money's worth.
- (3) This section shall apply notwithstanding anything in the trusts of a charity, but shall not require the sanction of an order—
- (a) for any transaction for which general or special authority is expressly given (without the authority being made subject to the sanction of an order) by any statutory provision contained in or having effect under an Act of Parliament or by any scheme legally established; or
 - (b) for the granting of a lease for a term ending not more than twenty-two years after it is granted, not being a lease granted wholly or partly in consideration of a fine; or
 - (c) for any disposition of an advowson.
- (4) This section shall not apply to an exempt charity, nor to any charity which is excepted by order or regulations.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C27 S. 29 excluded by Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969 (c. 38), s. 8(3) and Fire Precautions (Loans) Act 1973 (c. 11), s. 1(7); amended by Housing Act 1974 (c. 44), s. 2(2)(3)

C28 S. 29 excluded by United Reformed Church Act 1981 (c. xxiv), s. 20, Sch. 3

[^{F33}30 Charitable companies: Winding up.

Where a charity may be wound up by the High Court under the ^{M13} Insolvency Act 1986, a petition for it to be wound up under that Act by any court in England or Wales having jurisdiction may be presented by the Attorney General, as well as by any person authorised by that Act.]

Textual Amendments

F33 Ss. 30–30C substituted (4.2.1991) for s. 30 containing subsections (1) and (2) by [Companies Act 1989](#) (c. 40, SIF 27), ss. 111(1)

Marginal Citations

M13 1986 c.45 (66)

30A Charitable companies: alteration of objects clause.

- (1) Where a charity is a company or other body corporate having power to alter the instruments establishing or regulating it as a body corporate, no exercise of that power which has the effect of the body ceasing to be a charity shall be valid so as to affect the application of—
 - (a) any property acquired under any disposition or agreement previously made otherwise than for full consideration in money of money's worth, or any property representing property so acquired,
 - (b) any property representing income which has accrued before the alteration is made, or
 - (c) the income from any such property as aforesaid.
- (2) Where a charity is a company, any alteration by it of the objects clause in its memorandum of association is ineffective without the prior written consent of the Commissioners; and it shall deliver a copy of that consent to the registrar of companies under section 6(1)(a) or (b) of the ^{M14} Companies Act 1985 along with the printed copy of the memorandum as altered.
- (3) Section 6(3) of that Act (offences) applies in relation to a default in complying with subsection (2) as regards the delivery of a copy of the Commissioner's consent.

Marginal Citations

M14 1985 c.6 (27).

30B Charitable companies: invalidity of certain transactions.

- (1) Sections 35 and 35A of the ^{M15} Companies Act 1985 (capacity of company not limited by its memorandum; power of directors to bind company) do not apply to the acts of a company which is a charity except in favour of a person who—
 - (a) gives full consideration in money or money's worth in relation to the act in question, and
 - (b) does not know that the act is not permitted by the company's memorandum or, as the case may be, is beyond the powers of the directors,
 or who does not know at the time the act is done that the company is a charity.

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- (2) However, where such a company purports to transfer or grant an interest in property, the fact that the act was not permitted by the company's memorandum or, as the case may be, that the directors in connection with the act exceeded any limitation on their powers under the company's constitution, does not affect the title of a person who subsequently acquires the property or any interest in it for full consideration without actual notice of any such circumstances affecting the validity of the company's act.
- (3) In any proceedings arising out of subsection (1) the burden of proving—
- (a) that a person knew that an act was not permitted by the company's memorandum or was beyond the powers of the directors, or
 - (b) that a person knew that the company was a charity,
- lies on the person making that allegation.
- (4) Where a company is a charity, the ratification of an act under section 35(3) of the Companies Act 1985, or the ratification of a transaction to which section 322A of that Act applies (invalidity of certain transactions to which directors or their associates are parties), is ineffective without the prior written consent of the Commissioners.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C29 S. 30B excluded by S.I. 1990/2569, art. 7(4)

Marginal Citations

M15 1985 c.6 (27).

VALID FROM 01/01/1993

[^{F34}30B] Charitable companies: requirement of consent of Commissioners to certain acts.

- (1) Where a company is a charity—
- (a) any approval given by the company for the purposes of any of the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 specified in subsection (2) below, and
 - (b) any affirmation by it for the purposes of section 322(2)(c) of that Act (affirmation of voidable arrangements under which assets are acquired by or from a director or person connected with him),
- is ineffective without the prior written consent of the Commissioners.
- (2) The provisions of the Companies Act 1985 referred to in subsection (1)(a) above are—
- (a) section 312 (payment to director in respect of loss of office or retirement);
 - (b) section 313(1) (payment to director in respect of loss of office or retirement made in connection with transfer of undertaking or property of company);
 - (c) section 319(3) (incorporation in director's service contract of term whereby his employment will or may continue for a period of more than 5 years);
 - (d) section 320(1) (arrangement whereby assets are acquired by or from director or person connected with him);

- (e) section 337(3)(a) (provision of funds to meet certain expenses incurred by director).]

Textual Amendments

F34 S. 30BA inserted (1.1.1993) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s.41; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 4(1), Sch. 3

VALID FROM 01/01/1993

[^{F35}30BB Charitable companies: name to appear on correspondence etc.

Section 30(7) of the Companies Act 1985 (exemption from requirements relating to publication of name etc.) shall not, in its application to any company which is a charity, have the effect of exempting the company from the requirements of section 349(1) of that Act (company's name to appear in its correspondence etc.).]

Textual Amendments

F35 S. 30BB inserted (1.1.1993) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s.42; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 4(1), Sch. 3

30C.— Charitable companies: status to appear on correspondence, etc.

- (1) Where a company is a charity and its name does not include the word “charity” or the word “charitable”, the fact that the company is a charity shall be stated in English in legible characters—
 - (a) in all business letters of the company,
 - (b) in all its notices and other official publications,
 - (c) in all bills of exchange, promissory notes, endorsements, cheques and orders for money or goods purporting to be signed by or on behalf of the company,
 - (d) in all conveyances purporting to be executed by the company, and
 - (e) in all its bills of parcels, invoices, receipts and letters of credit.
- (2) In subsection (1)(d) “conveyance” means any instrument creating, transferring, varying or extinguishing an interest in land.
- (3) Section 349(2) to (4) of the ^{M16} Companies Act 1985 (offences in connection with failure to include required particulars in business letters, &c.) apply in relation to a contravention of subsection (1) above.

Marginal Citations

M16 1985 c.6 (27).

31 Protection of expression “common good”.

- (1) It shall not be lawful, without the consent of the Commissioners, to invite gifts in money or in kind to the funds of, or to any fund managed by, an institution which has

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

the words “common good” in its name, other than a body corporate established by Royal charter, or to any fund described in or in connection with the invitation by a name which includes the words “common good” otherwise than as part of the name of such a body corporate.

- (2) The words “common good” shall not, without the consent of the Commissioners, be used in the name of any institution established in England or Wales, other than a body corporate established by Royal charter.
- (3) Any person contravening subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [^{F36}level 3 on the standard scale].

Textual Amendments

F36 Words substituted by by virtue of [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 38, 46**

PART IV

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AS TO CHARITIES AND THEIR AFFAIRS

32 General obligation to keep accounts.

- (1) Charity trustees shall keep proper books of account with respect to the affairs of the charity, and charity trustees not required by or under the authority of any other Act to prepare periodical statements of account shall prepare consecutive statements of account consisting on each occasion of an income and expenditure account relating to a period of not more than fifteen months and a balance sheet relating to the end of that period.
- (2) The books of account and statements of account relating to any charity shall be preserved for a period of seven years at least, unless the charity ceases to exist and the Commissioners permit them to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of.
- (3) The statements of account relating to a parochial charity in a rural parish, other than an ecclesiastical charity, shall be sent annually to the parish council or, if there is no parish council, to the chairman of the parish meeting, and shall be presented by the council or chairman at the next parish meeting.

F37

. . .

Textual Amendments

F37 Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\)](#), **Sch. 30**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C30 [S. 32\(3\)](#) excluded by [Charities Act 1985 \(c. 20, SIF 19\)](#), **s. 1(2)**

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

33 Manner of giving notice of charity meetings, etc.

- (1) All notices which are required or authorised by the trusts of a charity to be given to a charity trustee, member or subscriber may be sent by post, and, if sent by post, may be addressed to any address given as his in the list of charity trustees, members or subscribers for the time being in use at the office or principal office of the charity.
- (2) Where any such notice required to be given as aforesaid is given by post, it shall be deemed to have been given by the time at which the letter containing it would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- (3) No notice required to be given as aforesaid of any meeting or election need be given to any charity trustee, member or subscriber, if in the list above mentioned he has no address in the United Kingdom.

34 Manner of executing instruments.

- (1) Charity trustees may, subject to the trusts of the charity, confer on any of their body (not being less than two in number) a general authority, or an authority limited in such manner as the trustees think fit, to execute in the names and on behalf of the trustees assurances or other deeds or instruments for giving effect to transactions to which the trustees are a party; and any deed or instrument executed in pursuance of an authority so given shall be of the same effect as if executed by the whole body.
- (2) An authority under subsection (1) above—
 - (a) shall suffice for any deed or instrument if it is given in writing or by resolution of a meeting of the trustees, notwithstanding the want of any formality that would be required in giving an authority apart from that subsection;
 - (b) may be given so as to make the powers conferred exercisable by any of the trustees, or may be restricted to named persons or in any other way;
 - (c) subject to any such restriction, and until it is revoked, shall, notwithstanding any change in the charity trustees, have effect as a continuing authority given by and to the persons who from time to time are of their body.
- (3) In any authority under this section to execute a deed or instrument in the names and on behalf of charity trustees there shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be implied authority also to execute it for them in the name and on behalf of the official custodian for charities or of any other person, in any case in which the charity trustees could do so.
- (4) Where a deed or instrument purports to be executed in pursuance of this section, then in favour of a person who (then or afterwards) in good faith acquires for money or money's worth an interest in or charge on property or the benefit of any covenant or agreement expressed to be entered into by the charity trustees, it shall be conclusively presumed to have been duly executed by virtue of this section.
- (5) The powers conferred by this section shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other powers.

35 Transfer and evidence of title to property vested in trustees.

- (1) Where, under the trusts of a charity, trustees of property held for the purposes of the charity may be appointed or discharged by resolution of a meeting of the charity trustees, members or other persons, a memorandum declaring a trustee to have been so

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appointed or discharged shall be sufficient evidence of that fact, if the memorandum is signed either at the meeting by the person presiding or in some other manner directed by the meeting, and is attested by two persons present at the meeting.

- (2) A memorandum evidencing the appointment or discharge of a trustee under subsection (1) above, if executed as a deed, shall have the like operation under section forty of the ^{M17}Trustee Act 1925 (which relates to vesting declarations as respects trust property in deeds appointing or discharging trustees), as if the appointment or discharge were effected by the deed.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, where a document purports to have been signed and attested as mentioned in subsection (1) above, then on proof (whether by evidence or as a matter of presumption) of the signature the document shall be presumed to have been so signed and attested, unless the contrary is shown.
- (4) This section shall apply to a memorandum made at any time, except that subsection (2) shall apply only to those made after the commencement of this Act.
- (5) This section shall apply in relation to any institution to which the ^{M18}Literary and Scientific Institutions Act 1854 applies, as it applies in relation to a charity.
- (6) The ^{M19}Trustee Appointment Act 1850, the ^{M20}Trustee Appointment Act 1869, the ^{M21}Trustees Appointment Act 1890, and in so far as it applies any of those Acts the ^{M22}School Sites Act 1852 shall cease to have effect; but where, at the commencement of this Act, the provisions of those Acts providing for the appointment of trustees apply in relation to any land, those provisions shall have effect as if contained in the conveyance or other instrument declaring the trusts on which the land is then held.

Marginal Citations

- M17** 1925 c. 19.
M18 1854 c. 112.
M19 1850 c. 28.
M20 1869 c. 26.
M21 1890 c. 19.
M22 1852 c. 49.

36 Miscellaneous provisions as to evidence.

- (1) Where, in any proceedings to recover or compel payment of any rentcharge or other periodical payment claimed by or on behalf of a charity out of land or of the rents, profits or other income of land, otherwise than as rent incident to a reversion, it is shown that the rentcharge or other periodical payment has at any time been paid for twelve consecutive years to or for the benefit of the charity, that shall be prima facie evidence of the perpetual liability to it of the land or income, and no proof of its origin shall be necessary.
- (2) In any proceedings, the following documents, that is to say,—
 - (a) the printed copies of the reports of the ^{M23}Commissioners for enquiring concerning charities, 1818 to 1837, who were appointed under the Act 58 Geo. 3. c. 91 and subsequent Acts; and
 - (b) the printed copies of the reports which were made for various counties and county boroughs to the Charity Commissioners by their assistant

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commissioners and presented to the House of Commons as returns to orders of various dates beginning with the eighth day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety, and ending with the ninth day of September, nineteen hundred and nine;

shall be admissible as evidence of the documents and facts stated in them.

- (3) Evidence of any order, certificate or other document issued by the Commissioners may be given by means of a copy retained by them, or taken from a copy so retained, and certified to be a true copy by any officer of the Commissioners generally or specially authorised by them to act for this purpose; and a document purporting to be such a copy shall be received in evidence without proof of the official position, authority or handwriting of the person certifying it.

Marginal Citations

M23 1818 c. 91.

37 Parochial charities.

- (1) Where trustees hold any property for the purposes of a public recreation ground, or of allotments (whether under inclosure Acts or otherwise), for the benefit of inhabitants of a rural parish having a parish council, or for other charitable purposes connected with such a rural parish, except for an ecclesiastical charity, they may with the approval of the Commissioners and with the consent of the parish council transfer the property to the parish council or to persons appointed by the parish council; and the council or their appointees shall hold the property on the same trusts and subject to the same conditions as the trustees did.

This subsection shall apply to property held for any public purposes as it applies to property held for charitable purposes, . . . ^{F38}

- (2) Where the charity trustees of a parochial charity in a rural parish, not being an ecclesiastical charity nor a charity founded within the preceding forty years, do not include persons elected by the local government electors, ratepayers or inhabitants of the parish or appointed by the parish council or parish meeting, the parish council or parish meeting may appoint additional charity trustees, to such number as the Commissioners may allow; and if there is a sole charity trustee not elected or appointed as aforesaid of any such charity, the number of the charity trustees may, with the approval of the Commissioners, be increased to three of whom one may be nominated by the person holding the office of the sole trustee and one by the parish council or parish meeting.

. . . ^{F38}

- (3) Where, under the trusts of a charity other than an ecclesiastical charity, the inhabitants of a rural parish (whether in vestry or not) or a select vestry were formerly (in 1894) entitled to appoint charity trustees for, or trustees or beneficiaries of, the charity, then—
- (a) in a parish having a parish council, the appointment shall be made by the parish council or, in the case of beneficiaries, by persons appointed by the parish council; and
- (b) in a parish not having a parish council, the appointment shall be made by the parish meeting.

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

- (4) Where overseers as such or, except in the case of an ecclesiastical charity, churchwardens as such were formerly (in 1894) charity trustees of or trustees for a parochial charity in a rural parish, either alone or jointly with other persons, then instead of the former overseer or churchwarden trustees there shall be trustees (to a number not greater than that of the former overseer or churchwarden trustees) appointed by the parish council or, if there is no parish council, by the parish meeting.
- (5) Where, outside the county of London, overseers of a parish as such were formerly (in 1927) charity trustees of or trustees for any charity, either alone or jointly with other persons, then instead of the former overseer trustees there shall be trustees (to a number not greater than that of the former overseer trustees) appointed—
 - (a) where the parish is a rural parish, by the parish council or, if there is no parish council, by the parish meeting; . . . ^{F38}
- (6) Any appointment of a charity trustee or trustee for a charity which is made by virtue of this section shall be for a term of four years, but a retiring trustee shall be eligible for re-appointment:
 Provided that—
 - (a) on an appointment under subsection (2), where no previous appointments have been made by virtue of that subsection or of the corresponding provision of the ^{M24}Local Government Act 1894 and more than one trustee is appointed, half of those appointed (or as nearly as may be) shall be appointed for a term of two years; and
 - (b) an appointment made to fill a casual vacancy shall be for the remainder of the term of the previous appointment.
- (7) This section shall not affect the trusteeship, control or management of any voluntary school within the meaning of the ^{M25}Education Act 1944 [^{F39} or of any grant-maintained school].
- (8) The provisions of this section shall not extend to the Isles of Scilly, and shall have effect subject to any order (including any future order) made under any enactment relating to local government with respect to local government areas or the powers of local authorities.
- (9) In this section the expression “formerly (in 1894)” relates to the period immediately before the passing of the ^{M26}Local Government Act 1894 and the expression “formerly (in 1927)” to the period immediately before the first day of April, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven; and the word “former” shall be construed accordingly.

Textual Amendments

F38 Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), Sch. 30](#)

F39 Words inserted by [Education Reform Act 1988 \(c. 40, SIF 41:1\), s. 237\(1\), Sch. 12 para. 9](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C31 [S. 37\(3\)-\(5\)](#) amended by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\), s. 210\(9\)\(e\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M24 1894 c. 73.

M25 1944 c. 31.

M26 1894 c. 73 (56 & 57 Vict.).

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

38 Repeal of law of mortmain.

- (1) F40
- (2) F40
- (3) The repeal by this Act of the ^{M27}Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act 1891 shall have effect in relation to the wills of persons dying before the passing of this Act so as to abrogate any requirement to sell land then unsold, but not so as to enable effect to be given to a direction to lay out personal estate in land without an order under section eight of that Act or so as to affect the power to make such an order.
- (4) Any reference in any enactment or document to a charity within the meaning, purview and interpretation of the ^{M28}Charitable Uses Act 1601, or of the preamble to it, shall be construed as a reference to a charity within the meaning which the word bears as a legal term according to the law of England and Wales.
- (5) No repeal made by this Act shall affect any power to hold land in Northern Ireland without licence in mortmain; . . . F41

Textual Amendments

F40 S. 38(1)(2), 39(1) repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. I](#)

F41 Words repealed by [Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 \(c. 36\)](#), [Sch. 6 Pt. I](#)

Marginal Citations

M27 1891 c. 73.

M28 1601 c. 4.

39 Repeal of obsolete enactments.

- (1) F42
- (2) Where the trusts of a charity are at the commencement of this Act wholly or partly comprised in an enactment specified in the Fifth Schedule to this Act, or in an instrument having effect under such an enactment, the operation of those trusts shall not be affected by the repeal of that enactment by this Act.

Textual Amendments

F42 S. 38(1)(2), 39(1) repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. I](#)

PART V

SUPPLEMENTARY

40 Miscellaneous provisions as to orders of Commissioners or Minister.

- (1) Any order made by the Commissioners under this Act may include such incidental or supplementary provisions as the Commissioners think expedient for carrying into effect the objects of the order, and where the Commissioners exercise any jurisdiction to make such an order on an application or reference to them, they may insert any

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such provisions in the order notwithstanding that the application or reference does not propose their insertion.

- (2) Where the Commissioners make an order under this Act, then (without prejudice to the requirements of this Act where the order is subject to appeal) they may themselves give such public notice as they think fit of the making or contents of the order, or may require it to be given by any person on whose application the order is made or by any charity affected by the order.
- (3) The Commissioners at any time within twelve months after they have made an order under this Act, if they are satisfied that the order was made by mistake or on misrepresentation or otherwise than in conformity with this Act, may with or without any application or reference to them discharge the order in whole or in part, and subject or not to any savings or other transitional provisions.
- (4) Except for the purposes of subsection (3) above or of an appeal under this Act, an order made by the Commissioners under this Act shall be deemed to have been duly and formally made and not be called in question on the ground only of irregularity or informality, but (subject to any further order) have effect according to its tenor.
- (5) This section shall apply to orders made under any Act amended by this Act, if made by virtue of that amendment, as it applies to orders made under this Act.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C32** Ss. 40, 42 extended by [Reverter of Sites Act 1987](#) (c. 15, SIF 98:1), **s. 4(4)**
- C33** S. 40 extended (with modifications) (1.9.1992) by [Charities Act 1992](#) (c. 41), **s.56(4)-(6)**; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- C34** Ss. 40(1)–(4), 42 applied by [Coal Industry Act 1987](#) (c. 3, SIF 86), **s. 5(3)(8)(9)**
- C35** S. 40(1)(2)(4) applied (1.9.1992) by [Charities Act 1992](#) (c. 41), **s. 57(2)(a)(4)**; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**

VALID FROM 01/09/1992

^{F43}40A Service of orders and directions under this Act.

- (1) This section applies to any order or direction made or given by the Commissioners under this Act.
- (2) An order or direction to which this section applies may be served on a person (other than a body corporate)—
 - (a) by delivering it to that person;
 - (b) by leaving it at his last known address in the United Kingdom; or
 - (c) by sending it by post to him at that address.
- (3) An order or direction to which this section applies may be served on a body corporate by delivering it or sending it by post—
 - (a) to the registered or principal office of the body in the United Kingdom, or
 - (b) if it has no such office in the United Kingdom, to any place in the United Kingdom where it carries on business or conducts its activities (as the case may be).

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- (4) Any such order or direction may also be served on a person (including a body corporate) by sending it by post to that person at an address notified by that person to the Commissioners for the purposes of this subsection.
- (5) In this section any reference to the Commissioners includes, in relation to a direction given under section 6(3) of this Act, a reference to any person conducting an inquiry under that section.]

Textual Amendments

F43 S. 40A inserted (1.9.1992) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), s. 47, Sch. 3 para.15; S.I. 1992/1900, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

41 Enforcement of orders of Commissioners or Minister.

A person guilty of disobedience—

- (a) to an order of the Commissioners under subsection (3) of section six or under section seven of this Act, or to a precept under that subsection; or
- (b) to an order of the Commissioners under section eighteen or twenty of this Act requiring a transfer of property or payment to be called for or made; or
- (c) to an order of the Commissioners requiring a default under this Act to be made good;

may on the application of the Commissioners to the High Court be dealt with as for disobedience to an order of the High Court.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C36 S. 41 extended (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), ss.56(3), 79(2)

C37 S. 41 applied (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), ss. 57(2)(b)(4), 79(2)

42 Appeals from Commissioners or Minister.

- (1) Provision shall be made by rules of court for regulating appeals to the High Court under this Act against orders or decisions of the Commissioners.
- (2) On such an appeal the Attorney General shall be entitled to appear and be heard, and such other persons as the rules allow or as the court may direct.
- (3) **F44**

Textual Amendments

F44 S. 42(3) repealed by Administration of Justice Act 1977 (c. 38), Sch. 5 Pt. IV

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C38 Ss. 40, 42 extended by Reverter of Sites Act 1987 (c. 15, SIF 98:1), s. 4(4)

C39 Ss. 40(1)–(4), 42 applied by Coal Industry Act 1987 (c. 3, SIF 86), s. 5(3)(8)(9)

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

43 Regulations.

- [^{F45}(1) Save as otherwise provided by this Act, any power to make regulations which is conferred by this Act shall be exercisable by the Secretary of State].
- (2) Regulations may be made for prescribing anything which is required or authorised by this Act to be prescribed.
- (3) Any power of the Treasury, [^{F46}or the Secretary of State] to make regulations under this Act shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F45 S. 43(1) substituted by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 1 para. 1(1)

F46 Words substituted by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 1 para. 1(1)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C40 S. 43 extended by Charities Act 1985 (c. 20, SIF 19), s. 1(1)

44 Expenses.

- (1) There shall be defrayed out of monies provided by Parliament—
- the remuneration and allowances payable under this Act to the Commissioners and to their officers and servants, . . . ^{F47}; and
 - any administrative expenses incurred for the purposes of this Act by the Secretary of State, . . . ^{F48} or the Commissioners.
- (2) Any fees received . . . ^{F48} by the Commissioners under this Act shall be paid into the Exchequer.
- (3) ^{F49}
- (4) ^{F50}

Textual Amendments

F47 Words repealed by Superannuation Act 1972 (c. 11), s. 29(4), Sch. 8

F48 Words repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pt. III

F49 S. 44(3) repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16) Sch. 2 Pt. I

F50 S. 44(4) repealed by Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70), Sch. 30

45 Construction of references to a “charity” or to particular classes of charity.

- (1) In this Act, except in so far as the context otherwise requires,—
- “charity” means any institution, corporate or not, which is established for charitable purposes and is subject to the control of the High Court in the exercise of the court’s jurisdiction with respect to charities;
- “ecclesiastical charity” has the same meaning as in the ^{M29}Local Government Act 1894;
- “exempt charity” means (subject to subsection (9) of section twenty-two of this Act) a charity comprised in the Second Schedule to this Act;

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“local charity” means, in relation to any area, a charity established for purposes which are by their nature or by the trusts of the charity directed wholly or mainly to the benefit of that area or of part of it;

“parochial charity” means, in relation to any parish, a charity the benefits of which are, or the separate distribution of the benefits of which is, confined to inhabitants of the parish, or of a single ancient ecclesiastical parish which included that parish or part of it, or of an area consisting of that parish with not more than four neighbouring parishes.

- (2) The expression “charity” is not in this Act applicable—
- (a) to any ecclesiastical corporation (that is to say, any corporation in the Church of England, whether sole or aggregate, which is established for spiritual purposes) in respect of the corporate property of the corporation, except to a corporation aggregate having some purposes which are not ecclesiastical in respect of its corporate property held for those purposes; or
 - [^{F51}(aa) to any Diocesan Board of Finance within the meaning of the Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 for any diocese in respect of the diocesan glebe land of that diocese within the meaning of that Measure; or]
 - (b) to any trust of property for purposes for which the property has been consecrated.
- (3) Subject to subsection (9) of section twenty-two of this Act, a charity shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act to have a permanent endowment unless all property held for the purposes of the charity may be expended for those purposes without distinction between capital and income, and in this Act “permanent endowment” means, in relation to any charity, property held subject to a restriction on its being so expended.
- (4) References in this Act to a charity not having income from property to a specified amount shall be construed by reference to the gross revenues of the charity, but without bringing into account anything for the yearly value of land occupied by the charity apart from the pecuniary income (if any) received from that land; and any question as to the application of any such reference to a charity shall be determined by the Commissioners, whose decision shall be final.
- (5) The Commissioners may direct that for all or any of the purposes of this Act an institution established for any special purposes of or in connection with a charity (being charitable purposes) shall be treated as forming part of that charity or as forming a distinct charity.
- (6) Any reference in this Act to a charity which is excepted by order or regulations shall be construed as referring to a charity which is for the time being permanently or temporarily excepted by order of the Commissioners, or is of a description permanently or temporarily excepted by regulations, and which complies with any conditions of the exception; and any order or regulation made for this purpose may limit any exception so that a charity may be excepted in respect of some matters and not in respect of others.

Textual Amendments

F51 S. 45(2)(aa) added by [Endowments and Glebe Measure 1976 \(No. 4\)](#), s. 44

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C41 S. 45 applied (*prosp.*) by [Charities Act 1992 \(c. 41\)](#), ss. 1(2), 79(2)

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C42 S. 45(2)(b) excluded by Pastoral Measure 1983 (No. 1, SIF 21:4), **ss. 55(1), 94(2)**

Marginal Citations

M29 1894 c. 73 (56 & 57 Vict.).

46 Other definitions.

In this Act, except in so far as the context otherwise requires,—

...
^{F52}

“charitable purposes” means purposes which are exclusively charitable according to the law of England and Wales;

“charity trustees” means the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity;

“the Commissioners” means the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales;

[^{F53}“company” means a company formed and registered under the ^{M30} Companies Act 1985, or to which the provisions of that Act apply as they apply to such a company;]

“the county of London” means [^{F54}Greater London other than the outer London boroughs];

“the court” means the High Court and, within the limits of its jurisdiction, any other court in England or Wales having a jurisdiction in respect of charities concurrent (within any limit of area or amount) with that of the High Court, and includes any judge or officer of the court exercising the jurisdiction of the court;

“institution” includes any trust or undertaking;

“permanent endowment” shall, subject to subsection (9) of section twenty-two of this Act, be construed in accordance with subsection (3) of the last foregoing section;

“trusts,” in relation to a charity, means the provisions establishing it as a charity and regulating its purposes and administration, whether those provisions take effect by way of trust or not, and in relation to other institutions has a corresponding meaning.

Textual Amendments

F52 Definition of “Attorney General” repealed by Courts Act 1971 (c. 23), **Sch. 11 Pt. II**

F53 Words inserted (4.2.1991) by Companies Act 1989 (c. 40, SIF 27), **ss. 111(2), 215**

F54 Words substituted by virtue of London Government Act 1963 (c. 33), **s. 4(4)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C43 S. 46 applied (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), **ss. 1(2), 79(2)**

C44 S. 46 applied (*prosp.*) by Charities Act 1992 (c. 41), **ss. 58(1), 79(2)**

Marginal Citations

M30 1985 c.6 (27).

Status: Point in time view as at 04/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F55 S. 47 repealed by [Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 \(c. 36\)](#), [Sch. 6 Pt. I](#)

48 Consequential amendments, general repeal and transitional provisions.

- (1) The enactments mentioned in the first column of the Sixth Schedule to this Act shall be amended as provided in the second column of that Schedule.
- (2) **F56**
- (3) The Commissioners may take the like action under this Act in consequence of any application or enquiry under the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1939, as if the application or enquiry had been made for the corresponding purpose under this Act; and subsections (3) to (5) of section twenty-five of this Act shall extend (with any necessary adaptations) to documents enrolled by the Commissioners or deposited with them under those Acts.
- (4) The repeal by this Act of the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1939, shall not invalidate any scheme, order, certificate or other document issued under or for the purposes of those Acts, so far as the document is capable after the commencement of this Act of having effect either for its original purpose or for any corresponding purpose of this Act; but any such documents shall continue to have effect for any such purpose (except in so far as they are modified or superseded under the powers of this Act), and shall in the case of an order be appealable, enforceable and liable to be discharged as if this Act had not been passed; and any such document, and any document under the seal of the official trustees of charitable funds, may be proved as if this Act had not been passed.
- (5) The repeal by this Act of any enactment which authorises the taking of legal proceedings, or regulates any legal proceedings, shall not affect the operation of that enactment in relation to proceedings begun before the commencement of this Act, nor shall section twenty-eight of this Act apply to any proceeding so begun.
- (6) The official custodian for charities shall be treated as the successor for all purposes both of the official trustee of charity lands and of the official trustees of charitable funds, as if the functions of the said trustee or trustees had been functions of the official custodian, and as if any such trustee or trustees had been, and had discharged his or their functions as, holder of the office of the official custodian; and accordingly (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, and subject to any express amendment or repeal made by this Act) as from the commencement of this Act—
 - (a) all property vested in the said trustee or trustees shall vest in the official custodian, and shall be held by him as if vested in him under section sixteen of this Act for the purposes for which it was held by the said trustee or trustees; and
 - (b) any Act, scheme, deed or other document referring or relating to the said trustee or trustees shall, in so far as the context permits, have effect as if the official custodian had been mentioned instead.
- (7) The specific provisions of this Act as to the effect of any repeal shall not be taken to exclude the general provisions contained in section thirty-eight of the ^{M31}Interpretation Act 1889, except in so far as those general provisions are inconsistent with the specific provisions in this Act.

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F56 S. 48(2) repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pt. I

Marginal Citations

M31 1889 c. 63.

49 Short title, extent and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Charities Act 1960.
- (2) This Act shall extend—

(a) F57

(b) F58

(c) to Northern Ireland in so far as it relates to the amendment of Royal Charters; but, subject to that, this Act shall not extend to Scotland or Northern Ireland.
- (3) F59

Textual Amendments

F57 S. 49(2)(a) repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1978 (c. 45), Sch. 1 Pt. II

F58 S. 49(2)(b) repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1978 (c. 45), s. 1(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II

F59 S. 49(3) repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pt. I

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act 1960 (repealed). (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 1.

CONSTITUTION, ETC., OF CHARITY COMMISSIONERS

- 1 (1) There shall be a Chief Charity Commissioner, and two other commissioners.
- (2) Two at least of the commissioners shall be [^{F60}persons who have a 7 year general qualification, within the meaning of section 71 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.].
- (3) Subject to sub-paragraph (6) below, the chief commissioner and the other commissioners shall be appointed by the Secretary of State, and shall be deemed for all purposes to be employed in the civil service of the Crown.
- (4) There may be paid to each of the commissioners such salary and allowances as the Secretary of State may with the approval of the Treasury determine.
- (5) If at any time it appears to the Secretary of State that there should be more than three commissioners, he may with the approval of the Treasury appoint not more than two additional commissioners.
- (6) ^{F61}

Textual Amendments

- F60** Words substituted by [Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 \(c. 41, SIF 37\)](#), s. 71(2), **Sch. 10 para. 14**
- F61** [Sch. 1 paras. 1\(6\), 2\(3\)](#) & Sch. 5 repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), **Sch. 2 Pt. I**

- 2 (1) The chief commissioner may, with the approval of the Treasury as to number and conditions of service, appoint such assistant commissioners and other officers and such servants as he thinks necessary for the proper discharge of the functions of the Commissioners and of the official custodian for charities.
- (2) There may be paid to officers and servants so appointed such salaries or remuneration as the Treasury may determine.
- (3) ^{F62}

Textual Amendments

- F62** [Sch. 1 paras. 1\(6\), 2\(3\)](#) & Sch. 5 repealed by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\)](#), **Sch. 2 Pt. I**

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- 3 (1) The Commissioners may use an official seal for the authentication of documents, and their seal shall be officially and judicially noticed.
- (2) The ^{M32}Documentary Evidence Act 1868 as amended by the ^{M33}Documentary Evidence Act 1882 shall have effect as if in the Schedule to the Act of 1868 the Commissioners were included in the first column and any commissioner or assistant commissioner and any officer authorised to act on behalf of the Commissioners were mentioned in the second column.
- (3) The Commissioners shall have power to regulate their own procedure and, subject to any such regulations and to any directions of the chief commissioner, any one commissioner or any assistant commissioner may act for and in the name of the Commissioners.
- (4) Where the Commissioners act as a board, two shall be a quorum; and in the case of an equality of votes the chief commissioner or in his absence the commissioner presiding shall have a second or casting vote.
- (5) The Commissioners shall have power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number.

Marginal Citations

M32 1868 c. 37.

M33 1882 c. 9.

- 4 Legal proceedings may be instituted by or against the Commissioners by the name of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, and shall not abate or be affected by any change in the persons who are the commissioners.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Sections 4 & 45.

EXEMPT CHARITIES

The following institutions, so far as they are charities, are exempt charities within the meaning of this Act, that is to say—

- (a) any institution which, if this Act had not been passed, would be exempted from the powers and jurisdiction under the Charitable Trusts Acts 1853 to 1939, of the Commissioners or Minister of Education (apart from any power of the Commissioners or Minister to apply those Acts in whole or in part to charities otherwise exempt) by the terms of any enactment not contained in those Acts other than section nine of the ^{M34}Places of Worship Registration Act 1855;
- (b) the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London and Durham, the colleges and halls in the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Durham and the colleges of Winchester and Eton;
- (c) any university, university college, or institution connected with a university or university college, which Her Majesty declares by Order in Council to be an exempt charity for the purposes of this Act;

[^{F63}(ca) the Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum;

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- (cb) the Board of Trustees of the Science Museum;
- (cc) the Board of Trustees of the Armouries;
- (cd) the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.]
- (ce) [^{F64}the Board of Trustees of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside.]
- (d) the British Museum;
- (e) any institution which is administered by or on behalf of an institution included above and is established for the general purposes of, or for any special purpose of or in connection with, the last-mentioned institution;
- (f) the Church Commissioners and any institution which is administered by them;
- (g) any registered society within the meaning of the ^{M35}Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1893 and any registered society or branch within the meaning of the ^{M36}Friendly Societies Act 1896.
- (h) [^{F65}the Board of Governors of the Museum of London]
- (i) [^{F66}the British Library Board].
- (j) [^{F67}..... ^{F67}]

Textual Amendments

- F63** Sch. 2 paras. (ca)–(cd) inserted by National Heritage Act 1983 (c. 47, SIF 3, 78), s. 40, **Sch. 5 para. 4**
- F64** Sch. 2 para. (ce) inserted by S.I. 1990/1765, **art. 3(1)(b)**
- F65** Para. (h) added by Museum of London Act 1965 (c. 17), **s. 11**
- F66** Para. (i) added by British Library Act 1972 (c. 54), **s. 4(2)**
- F67** Sch. 2 para. (j) inserted after para. (i) by S.I. 1986/452, **art. 5(1)** and repealed by S.I. 1990/1765, **art. 3(1)(a)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C45** Para. (d) extended by British Museum Act 1963 (c. 24), **Sch. 2 para. 3** to include the British Museum (National History)
- C46** Sch. 2 para. (e) extended by Education Reform Act 1988 (c. 40, SIF 41:1), s. 237(1), Sch. 12 paras. 10, 63, **64(3)**
- Sch. 2 para. (e) extended (*prosp.*) by the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (c. 13), ss. 93(1), 94(3), **Sch. 8 Pt. II, para.69(1)(2)**

Marginal Citations

- M34** 1855 c. 81.
- M35** 1893 c. 39.
- M36** 1896 c. 25.

THIRD SCHEDULE

Section 13.

ENLARGEMENT OF AREAS OF LOCAL CHARITIES

Existing area	Permissible enlargement
1.	<div> <div>[^{F68}Greater London]</div> <div>Any area comprising [^{F68}Greater London]</div> </div>

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2.	Any area in [^{F68} Greater London] and not in, or partly in, the city of London.	(i) Any area in [^{F68} Greater London] and not in, or partly in, the city of London; (ii) the area of [^{F68} Greater London] exclusive of the city of London;(iii) any area comprising the area of [^{F68} Greater London], exclusive of the city of London;(iv) any area partly in [^{F68} Greater London] and partly in any adjacent parish or parishes (civil or ecclesiastical), and not partly in the city of London.
3.	A [^{F69} district]	Any area comprising the [^{F69} district]
4.	Any area in a [^{F69} district]	(i) Any area in the [^{F69} district];(ii) the [^{F69} district];(iii) any area comprising the [^{F69} district]; (iv) any area partly in the [^{F69} district] and partly in any adjacent [^{F69} district].
5.	A parish (civil or ecclesiastical), or two or more parishes, or an area in a parish, or partly in each of two or more parishes.	Any area not extending beyond the parish or parishes comprising or adjacent to the area in column 1.

Textual Amendments

F68 Words substituted by virtue of [London Government Act 1963 \(c. 33\)](#), **s. 81(9)(c)**

F69 Words substituted by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\)](#), **s. 210(9)(f)**

FOURTH SCHEDULE

Section 15.

COURT'S JURISDICTION OVER CERTAIN CHARITIES GOVERNED BY OR UNDER STATUTE

- 1 The court may by virtue of subsection (3) of section fifteen of this Act exercise its jurisdiction with respect to charities—
 - (a) in relation to charities established or regulated by any provision of the ^{M37}Seamen's Fund Winding-up Act 1851 which is repealed by this Act;
 - (b) in relation to charities established or regulated by schemes under the Endowed Schools Acts 1869 to 1948, or section seventy-five of the

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- ^{M38}Elementary Education Act 1870 [^{F70}or by schemes given effect under section 2 of the ^{M39}Education Act 1973];
- (c) in relation to allotments regulated by sections three to nine of the ^{M40}Poor Allotments Management Act 1873;
 - (d) in relation to fuel allotments, that is to say, land which, by any enactment relating to inclosure or any instrument having effect under such an enactment, is vested in trustees upon trust that the land or the rents and profits of the land shall be used for the purpose of providing poor persons with fuel;
 - (e) in relation to charities established or regulated by any provision of the ^{M41}Municipal Corporations Act 1883 which is repealed by this Act, or by any scheme having effect under any such provision;
 - (f) in relation to charities regulated by schemes under the ^{M42}London Government Act 1899;
 - (g) in relation to charities established or regulated by orders or regulations under section two of the ^{M43}Regimental Charitable Funds Act 1935;
 - (h) in relation to charities regulated by section thirty-seven of this Act, or by any such order as is mentioned in that section.

Textual Amendments

F70 Words added by [Education Act 1973 \(c. 16\), s. 2\(7\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M37 [1851 c. 102.](#)

M38 [1870 c. 75.](#)

M39 [1973 c. 16.](#)

M40 [1873 c. 19.](#)

M41 [1883 c. 18.](#)

M42 [1899 c. 14.](#)

M43 [1935 c. 11.](#)

2 Notwithstanding anything in section nineteen of the ^{M44}Commons Act 1876, a scheme for the administration of a fuel allotment (within the meaning of the foregoing paragraph) may provide—

- (a) for the sale or letting of the allotment or any part thereof, for the discharge of the land sold or let from any restrictions as to the use thereof imposed by or under any enactment relating to inclosure and for the application of the sums payable to the trustees of the allotment in respect of the sale or lease; or
- (b) for the exchange of the allotment or any part thereof for other land, for the discharge as aforesaid of the land given in exchange by the said trustees, and for the application of any money payable to the said trustees for equality of exchange; or
- (c) for the use of the allotment or any part thereof for any purposes specified in the scheme.

Marginal Citations
M44 1876 c. 56.

F71F71FIFTH-SCHEDULE

Textual Amendments
F71 Sch. 1 paras. 1(6), 2(3) & Sch. 5 repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pt. I

..... F71

SIXTH-SCHEDULE Section 48.

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C47 The text of Sch. 6 is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and, except as specified, does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

Enactments amended, and subject matter	Amendments
The Places of Worship Registration Act, 1855— Section nine (exemption from Charitable Trusts Acts).	<p>For the words from “wholly freed” onwards there shall be substituted the words “excepted under subsection (4) of section four of the Charities Act, 1960, from registration under that section; and where a building recorded and used as aforesaid is so excepted, there shall be excepted with it—</p> <div><div>(a) any forecourt, yard, garden, burial ground, vestry, or caretaker’s house, in respect of situation connected with, and held upon the same trusts as, the building so recorded; and</div><div>(b) any Sunday-school house or other land or building which is certified by, an order of the Charity Commissioners, made upon the application</div></div>

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of one or more of the charity trustees, to be held upon the same trusts as the building so recorded or upon the like trusts, and to be in respect of situation so connected with or held or used in connection with that building that it cannot conveniently be separated from that building.

In this section “building” includes part of a building.”

The Charitable Trustees Incorporation Act, 1872—

Section two (estate to vest in body corporate).

For the words “except as hereinafter provided” there shall be substituted the words “except that the foregoing provisions shall not apply to property vested in the official custodian for charities”.

The Schedule (applications for incorporation).

The words “and registered” shall be omitted.

The National Debt (Conversion) Act, 1888—

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The Public Libraries Act, 1892—

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The Copyhold Act, 1894—

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The Open Spaces Act, 1906—

Subsection (1) of section four (transfer by charity trustees of open space to local authority).

For the word “and where the open space is subject to the Charitable Trusts Act, 1853 to 1894, with such authority or approval as is required by those Acts for a sale of the open space and in other cases in pursuance of an order of the court” there shall be substituted the words “and with the sanction of an order of the Charity Commissioners or with that of an order of the court”.

The Land Registration Act, 1925—

Section ninety-eight (land subject to charitable trusts).

For the words “official trustee of charity lands” there shall be substituted the word “official custodian for charities”.

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The Landlord and Tenant Act, 1927—

Section twenty-four (application to charity lands).

In subsection (4), for the words “official trustee of charity lands” there shall be substituted the words “official custodian for charities” and for the words “official trustee” there shall be substituted the word “custodian”.

The Administration of Justice Act, 1928—

Subsection (1) of section fifteen (transfer of funds in court to official trustees of charitable the funds).

The words “subject to the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners or of the the Board of Education”, shall be omitted, and for the words “official trustees of charitable funds” there shall in, both places be substituted the words “official custodian for charities”.

The Local Government Act, 1933—

Section one hundred and sixty-nine (power of parish council to let land).

For the words from “with such consent or approval” to “charity estates” there shall be substituted the words “with the sanction of an order of the Charity Commissioners” and in the proviso for the words “no consent or approval” there shall be substituted in the first place the words “no order or consent” and in the second place the words “no order”.

Section one hundred and seventy (power of parish council to sell or exchange land).

In subsection (1), for the words “without such consent or approval as is required under the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1925, as amended by the Board of Education Act, 1899” there shall be substituted the words “without the sanction of an order of the Charity Commissioners”; and in subsection (2), for the words “the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1925, as amended by the Board of Education Act, 1899” there shall be substituted the words “the Charities Act, 1960”.

The War Charities Act, 1940—

Section five (powers of Charity Commissioners).

In subsection (2), for paragraphs (ii) and (iii) there shall be substituted—

“(ii) order any money
 or securities held
 on behalf of the
 charity to be paid
 or transferred to the
 official custodian
 for charities as in a
 case falling within
 subsection (1) of

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section twenty of the Charities Act, 1960;
(iii) establish a scheme for the regulation of the charity as in a case falling within section eighteen of that Act, but without the necessity of any application or reference being made to them for the Purpose”;

and in subsection (5) for the words from “under the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1939” onwards there shall be substituted the words “in relation to charities under the Charities Act, 1960, and that Act shall apply accordingly”.

The Income Tax Act, 1952—

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“8 ...”

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—

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F73

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F73

The Administration of Justice Act, 1956—

Subsection (1) of section fifty-two (transfer of funds in court to official trustees of charitable funds).

The words “subject to the jurisdiction in of the Charity Commissioners or of of the Minister of Education” shall be omitted, and for the words “official trustees of charitable funds” there shall be substituted the words “official custodian for charities”.

The Cathedrals Measure, 1931—

Section twenty-six (exclusion of charities, except as determined by Charity Commissioners).

For the words from “any charity” to “1889” there shall be substituted the words “any charity within the meaning of the Charities Act, 1960, or endowment of such a charity”.

The New Parishes Measure, 1943—

Section fourteen (power of corporations etc. to give or grant land for sites of churches etc.).

At the end of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) there shall be added the words “but (except in the case of an exempt charity within the meaning of the Charities Act, 1960) only with the sanction of an order of the Charity Commissioners”.

Section thirty-one (saving for charities).

For the words from “to deal with any endowment” onwards there shall be

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substituted the words “to deal with any endowment belonging to a charity within the meaning of the Charities Act, 1960, except with the consent of the Charity Commissioners or Minister of Education”.

The Re-organisation Areas Measure, 1944—

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Textual Amendments

F72 Sch. 6 the entry relating to the National Debt (Conversion) Act 1888 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986 (c. 12), s. 1(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. III**

F73 Entries repealed by Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 (c. 75), Sch. 3, Rent Act 1968 (c. 23), **Sch. 17**, Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1969 (c. 52), Sch. Pt. III, Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 (c. 10) Sch. 16, Education Act 1973 (c. 16), Sch. 2 Pts. I, **III** and Administration of Justice Act 1977 (c. 38), **Sch. 5 Pt. VI**

F74F74SEVENTH-SCHEDULE

Textual Amendments

F74 Sch. 7 repealed by Education Act 1973 (c. 16), **Sch. 2 Pt. I**

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F74

Status:

Point in time view as at 04/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

Changes to legislation:

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