



Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947

1947 CHAPTER 42 10 and 11 Geo 6

1 Procedure for compulsory purchase of land by local authorities, and by the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Civil Aviation and the Secretary of State for certain purposes.

- (1) The authorisation of any compulsory purchase of land—
- (a) by a local authority where, apart from this Act, power to authorise the authority to purchase land compulsorily is conferred by or under any enactment contained in a public general Act and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, other than any enactment specified in subsection (4) of this section;
 - [^{F1}(b) by the Secretary of State under section 41 or 49 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982]
 - (d) by the Secretary of State under section [^{F2}79 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978];
 - [^{F3}(da) by the Scottish Ministers under section 19 of the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018;]
 - [^{F4}(e) by the Scottish Ministers under section 35 or 72 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 2);]
 - [^{F5}(ea) by the Scottish Ministers under section 5A(3) of the Diseases of Fish Act 1937 (c. 33);]
 - [^{F6}(f) by Scottish Water under section 47 of the [Water Industry \(Scotland\) Act 2002 \(asp 3\)](#) ;]
- shall, subject to the provisions of this . . . ^{F7} section, be conferred by an order (in this Act referred to as a “compulsory purchase order”) in accordance with the provisions of the First Schedule to this Act.
- (2) The purchase, in a case falling within the last foregoing subsection, of land—
- (a) which is the property of a local authority or which has been acquired by statutory undertakers for the purposes of their undertaking,
 - (b) forming part of a common or open space or held inalienably by the National Trust for Scotland, ^{F8} . . .

Changes to legislation: Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

^{F8}(c)

shall be subject to the special provisions of Part III of the said First Schedule.

[^{F9}(2A) The following sections of, and the Schedules to, this Act shall apply in relation to a compulsory purchase by Scottish Water as they apply in relation to a compulsory purchase by a local authority.]

(3) In relation to any compulsory purchase to which the provisions of the First Schedule to this Act apply, the Lands Clauses Acts and other enactments mentioned in Part I of the Second Schedule to this Act shall be incorporated in accordance with the provisions of the said Part I; and the Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act, ^{M1}1919, shall have effect in relation to any such compulsory purchase subject to the provisions of Part II of that Schedule.

(4) The enactments excepted from the operation of subsection (1) of this section are any enactment contained in—

^{F10}(a)

^{F11}(b)

(c) the Light Railways Acts, 1896 and 1912;

^{F12}(d)

^{F13}(f)

^{F14}(5)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(b) substituted for paras. (b) and (c) by Civil Aviation Act 1982 (c. 16, SIF 9), **Sch. 15 para. 2(1)**
- F2** Words substituted by National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 (c. 29, SIF 113:2), **Sch. 16 para. 2**
- F3** S. 1(1)(da) inserted (1.4.2019) by Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (asp 8), s. 85(2), **sch. 1 para. 1** (with s. 83); S.S.I. 2019/47, reg. 2 (with regs. 3-22)
- F4** S. 1(1)(e) inserted (14.6.2004) by Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 2), s. 100(3), **sch. 2 para. 2** (with s. 100(2)); S.S.I. 2004/247, art. 2(b)
- F5** S. 1(1)(ea) inserted (1.8.2007) by Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 (asp 12), s. 45(2), **sch. para. 2** (with s. 39); S.S.I. 2007/333, art. 2(1)
- F6** S. 1(1)(f) inserted (25.6.2003) by Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 Consequential Provisions) Order 2003 (S.S.I. 2003/331), art. 1, **Sch. para. 1(a)**
- F7** Words repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1953 (c. 5)
- F8** S. 1(2)(c) and “or” immediately preceding it repealed by Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (c. 46, SIF 3), **Sch. 5** (by the note at the end of Sch. 5 it is provided that nothing in that Schedule shall affect the operation of any enactment in relation to which para. 1(1) of Sch. 3 to the repealing Act applies)
- F9** S. 1(2A) inserted (25.6.2003) by Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002 Consequential Provisions) Order 2003 (S.S.I. 2003/331), art. 1, **Sch. para. 1(b)**
- F10** S. 1(4)(a) repealed (28.12.2016) by Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 20), s. 112(2), **sch. 2** (with s. 111); S.S.I. 2016/417, reg. 2, sch.
- F11** S. 1(4)(b) repealed (1.4.2018) by Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 (asp 6), s. 142(1), **sch. 5**; S.S.I. 2017/458, art. 2, sch.
- F12** S. 1(4)(d)(e) repealed by Housing (Scotland) Act 1969 (c. 34), s. 69(3), **Sch. 7**
- F13** S. 1(4)(f) repealed by Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1947 (c. 53), **Sch. 9 Pt. II**
- F14** S. 1(5) repealed by Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29, SIF 44:1), s. 112(3)(4), Sch. 17 para. 35(1), **Sch. 18**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 1(1)(b) extended by Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 (c. 54, SIF 108), **s. 110(3)**

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Marginal Citations

M1 1919 c. 57.

2 F15

Textual Amendments

F15 S. 2 repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1953 (c. 5)

3 Power to extinguish certain public rights of way over land acquired.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where land is acquired, or proposed to be acquired.—

(a) in pursuance of a compulsory purchase order made under section one of this Act . . . ^{F16}, or

(b) by agreement for a purpose, and by an authority, such that the compulsory acquisition of the land could be authorised by such an order . . . ^{F17} as aforesaid,

and there subsists over any part of the land a public right of way, not being a right enjoyable by vehicular traffic, then if the Secretary of State is satisfied that a suitable alternative right of way has been or will be provided, or that the provision thereof is not required, he may by order extinguish the right of way as from such date as may be specified in the order, not being earlier than—

(i) the making of the order;

(ii) if in the exercise of any power conferred by this Act or by agreement the acquiring authority takes possession of the land before the acquisition thereof is completed, the date on which the authority takes possession of the land;

(iii) if the acquiring authority does not take possession of the land in the exercise of any such powers aforesaid, the date on which the acquisition of land is completed:

Provided that where a right of way is extinguished under this subsection at a date before the acquisition of the land in question is completed, then if at any time thereafter it appears to the Secretary of State that the proposal to acquire the land has been abandoned, he shall by order direct that the right shall revive, without prejudice, however, to the making of a new order extinguishing the right.

(2) The Secretary of State shall cause a notice stating the effect of any order that he proposes to make under this section extinguishing a right of way, and specifying the time (not being less than twenty-one days from the publication of the notice) within which, and the manner in which, objections to the proposal may be made, to be published in such manner as appears to him to be requisite, and, in any case where the acquiring authority is not the local planning authority within the meaning of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, ^{M2}^{F18} 1947, for the district] in which the land is situated, shall serve a like notice on the said local planning authority.

(3) If any objection to the proposal is duly made and is not withdrawn, the Secretary of State shall, before making the order, cause a public local inquiry to be held.

(4) No order shall be made under subsection (1) of this section extinguishing a right of way over land, on, over or under which there is any apparatus belonging to statutory

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undertakers unless the undertakers consent to the making of the order, and any such consent may be given subject to the condition that there are included in the order such provisions for the protection of the undertakers as they may reasonably require.

The consent of statutory undertakers to any such order shall not be unreasonably refused, and any question arising under this subsection whether any requirement or refusal is reasonable shall be determined by the [^{F19}Scottish Ministers].

- [^{F20}(4A) In subsection (4) above, the reference to apparatus belonging to statutory undertakers shall include a reference to apparatus kept installed for the purposes of [^{F21}an electronic communications code network] ; and in relation to any such apparatus the references to the undertakers shall have effect as references to the operator of [^{F22}the network].]
- (5) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply in any case where section twenty-two of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act, ^{M3} 1945 (which relates to the extinction of public rights of way over land acquired or appropriated for the purposes of Part I of that Act) applies.
- (6) Except as provided by the foregoing provisions of this section or by the said section twenty-two, nothing in this Act shall be taken to authorise the extinction of any public right of way.
- (7) This section shall not have effect in relation to land acquired or proposed to be acquired [^{F23}by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982].

Textual Amendments

- F16** Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1973 \(c. 39\), s. 1\(1\), Sch. 1 Pt. IX](#)
- F17** Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1973 \(c. 39\), s. 1\(1\), Sch. 1 Pt. IX](#)
- F18** Words substituted by [Town and Country Planning \(Scotland\) Act 1947 \(c. 53\), Sch. 8](#)
- F19** Words in s. 3(4) substituted (1.7.1999 as specified in [S.I. 1998/3178, art. 3](#)) by [S.I. 1999/1820, arts. 1\(2\), 4, Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 20\(2\)](#)
- F20** S. 3(4A) inserted by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\), s. 109, Sch. 4 para. 23, Sch. 5 para. 45](#)
- F21** Words in s. 3(4A) substituted (28.12.2017) by [The Communications Act 2003 and the Digital Economy Act 2017 \(Consequential Amendments to Primary Legislation\) Regulations 2017 \(S.I. 2017/1285\), reg. 1\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 1\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- F22** Words in s. 3(4A) substituted (28.12.2017) by [The Communications Act 2003 and the Digital Economy Act 2017 \(Consequential Amendments to Primary Legislation\) Regulations 2017 \(S.I. 2017/1285\), reg. 1\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- F23** Words substituted by [Civil Aviation Act 1982 \(c. 16, SIF 9\), Sch. 15 para. 2\(2\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 3 applied with modifications by [Opencast Coal Act 1958 \(c. 69\), s. 15](#).
- C3** Functions of Minister of Transport under s. 3(4) in relation to lighthouse undertakings now exercisable by Board of Trade or Secretary of State: [S.I. 1953/1204 \(1953 I, p. 1225\), 1959/1768 \(1959 I, p. 1793\), 1965/145 and 1970/1681](#)

Marginal Citations

- M2** 1947 c. 53.
- M3** 1945 c. 33.

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4 F24

Textual Amendments

F24 S. 4 repealed by War Damage Act 1964 (c. 25), s. 9, Sch. 3 Pt. II

5 Provisions as to inquiries and as to service of certain notices.

- (1) For the purposes of the execution of his powers and duties under this Act, a Minister may cause to be held such public local inquiries as are directed by this Act and such other public local inquiries as he may think fit, and, subject to the provisions of the next following subsection, the provisions of the Fourth Schedule to this Act shall have effect with regard to any such inquiry.
- (2) Any inquiry in relation to a compulsory purchase order which, by virtue of Part III of the First Schedule to this Act, becomes in certain events subject to special parliamentary procedure shall, if the confirming authority so directs, be held by Commissioners under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, ^{M4}1936, and where any direction has been so given—
 - (a) it shall be deemed to have been given under section two, as read with section ten, of the Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Act, ^{M5}1945;
 - (b) if publication of notice in accordance with the provisions of head (a) of subparagraph (1) of paragraph 3 of the First Schedule to this Act has been made, the provisions of subsection (1) of the aforesaid section two with regard to advertisement of notice shall be deemed to have been complied with; and
 - (c) the provisions of the Fourth Schedule to this Act shall not apply to such inquiry.
- (3) Any provision contained in the Schedules to this Act requiring notice to be served on owners, lessees or occupiers of any land shall be deemed to be complied with if notice is served on all the persons appearing . . . ^{F25} to the acquiring authority to have an interest in the land, and any reference in the said Schedules to owners, lessees and occupiers shall be construed accordingly.

..... F25

Textual Amendments

F25 Words repealed by Local Government Finance Act 1988 (c. 41, SIF 81:1), s. 149, Sch. 13 Pt. IV

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C4 S. 5(3) extended by Offshore Petroleum Development (Scotland) Act 1975 (c. 8, SIF 86), s. 1, Sch. 1 para. 6

Marginal Citations

M4 1936 c. 52.

M5 1945 c. 18 (9 & 10 Geo. 6).

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6 Application of s. 1 to local Acts.

(1) Where, apart from this Act, power to authorise a local authority to purchase land compulsorily is conferred by any enactment contained in a local Act and in force immediately before the eighteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and forty-six, the Secretary of State may by order made on the application of the local authority direct that section one of this Act shall apply in relation to the enactment as if the enactment were contained in a public general Act:

^{F26}
...

(2) Where an order has come into operation under this section or under section seven of the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act, ^{M6}1946, the local Act shall have effect subject to the amendments thereof provided for in the order, being amendments appearing to the Secretary of State to be consequential on the making of the order, and as if the said amendments had been in force immediately before the eighteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and forty-six.

(3) Any order under this section . . . ^{F27} shall be subject to special parliamentary procedure.

Textual Amendments

F26 Definition of “appropriate Minister” repealed by [S.I. 1970/1681](#)

F27 Words repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1953 \(c. 5\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M6 [1946 c. 49.](#)

[^{F28}6A Application for the purposes of the Opencast Coal Act 1958.

In the application of this Act for the purposes of section 4(5) of the Opencast Coal Act 1958, Part III of Schedule 1 shall apply as if paragraph 9 were omitted and the acquisition to which the compulsory rights order related were not affected by section 120 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980.]

Textual Amendments

F28 [S. 6A](#) inserted (31.10.1994) by [1994 c. 21, ss. 7\(1\), 67, Sch. 9 para. 4](#) (with [s. 40\(7\)](#)); [S.I. 1994/2553, art. 2](#)

7 Interpretation.

(1) In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively, that is to say—

^{F29}
...

..... ^{F30}

- “common” includes any town or village green;
- “held inalienably”, in relation to land belonging to the National Trust for Scotland, means that the land is inalienable under section twenty two of the Order confirmed by the National Trust for Scotland Order Confirmation Act, ^{M7}1935;
- “land”, in relation to compulsory purchase under any enactment. includes anything falling within any definition of that expression in that enactment, and in

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relation to compulsory purchase under the Harbours, Piers and Ferries (Scotland) Act, ^{M8}1937, includes also a marine work within the meaning of that Act;

“local authority” means any [^{F31}any council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994] ;

“National Trust for Scotland” means the National Trust for Scotland for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty incorporated by the Order confirmed by the National Trust for Scotland Order Confirmation Act, 1935;

“open space” means any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land being a disused burial ground;

“owner”, in relation to any land, includes any person who under the Lands Clauses Acts would be enabled to sell and convey the land to the promoters of an undertaking, and includes also a lessee under a lease the unexpired period of which exceeds three years;

“statutory undertakers” means any persons authorised by any Act (whether public general or local), or by any order or scheme made under or confirmed by an Act, to construct, work or carry on any railway, light railway, tramway, road transport, water transport, canal, inland navigation, dock, harbour, pier or light-house undertaking, or any undertaking for the supply of . . . ^{F32}, . . . ^{F33}, hydraulic power or water [^{F34}, or a universal serviceprovider (within the meaning of [^{F35}Part 3 of the Postal Services Act 2011]) in connection with the provision of a universal postal service (within the meaning of [^{F36}that Part]).].

^{F37}(2)

(3) For the removal of doubt, it is hereby declared that any power conferred by or under this Act or any enactment passed before the commencement thereof to purchase land compulsorily is, except in so far as any express provision of any such enactment restricts the exercise of the power, exercisable notwithstanding any other enactment providing that the land shall be inalienable.

(4) References in this Act to any enactment shall be construed as references to that enactment as amended by or under any other enactment, including this Act.

Textual Amendments

- F29** Definition of “appropriate Minister” repealed by [S.I. 1970/1681](#)
- F30** Definition of “ancient monument” repealed by [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 \(c. 46, SIF 3\)](#), [Sch. 5](#) (by the note at the end of Sch. 5 it is provided that nothing in that Schedule shall affect the operation of any enactment in relation to which para. 1(1) of Sch. 3 to the repealing Act applies)
- F31** S. 7(1): words in definition of “local authority” substituted (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 39, s. 180\(1\)](#), [Sch. 13 para. 28](#); [S.I. 1996/323, art. 4\(1\)\(b\)\(c\)](#)
- F32** Word repealed by [Electricity Act 1989 \(c. 29, SIF 44:1\)](#), s. 112(3)(4), [Sch. 17 para. 35\(1\)](#), [Sch. 18](#)
- F33** Word repealed by [Gas Act 1986 \(c. 44, SIF 44:2\)](#), s. 67(4), [Sch 9 Pt. I](#)
- F34** Words in definition of “statutory undertakers” in s. 7(1) inserted by [S.I. 2001/1149, art. 3\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 15](#)
- F35** Words in s. 7(1) substituted (1.10.2011) by [Postal Services Act 2011 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 93(2)(3), [Sch. 12 para. 77\(a\)](#); [S.I. 2011/2329, art. 3](#)
- F36** Words in s. 7(1) substituted (1.10.2011) by [Postal Services Act 2011 \(c. 5\)](#), s. 93(2)(3), [Sch. 12 para. 77\(b\)](#); [S.I. 2011/2329, art. 3](#)
- F37** S. 7(2) repealed (1.7.1999 as specified in [S.I. 1998/3178, art. 3](#)) by [S.I. 1999/1820, arts. 1\(2\), 4](#), [Sch. 2 Pt. I para. 20\(3\)](#), Pt.IV

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C5 S. 7(3) applied by [New Towns \(Scotland\) Act 1968 \(c. 16\), s. 41\(3\)](#)

Marginal Citations

M7 [1935 c. 11.](#)

M8 [1937 c. 28.](#)

8 †Repeals and consequential and transitional provisions

(1) **F38**

(2) References to the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) Act, 1946, or to particular provisions thereof, contained in the Fourth Schedule to that Act (which sets forth minor and consequential amendments of various enactments) shall be construed as references to this Act or to the provisions of this Act corresponding to the particular provisions of the said Act of ^{M9}1946, as the case may require.

(3) **F39**

Textual Amendments

F38 S. 8(1) repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1950 \(14 Geo. 6 c. 6\)](#)

F39 S. 8(3) repealed by [Statute Law Revision Act 1953 \(c. 5\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C6 A dagger appended to a marginal note means that it is no longer accurate

Marginal Citations

M9 [1946 c. 49.](#)

9 Short title and extent.

(1) This Act may be cited as the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act, 1947.

(2) This Act shall extend to Scotland only.

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

- Act applied (with modifications) by [2021 asp 9 s. 68\(4\)](#)