



National Debt Act 1972

1972 CHAPTER 65

An Act to consolidate certain enactments relating to the national debt and the Director of Savings, with corrections and minor improvements made under the Consolidation of Enactments (Procedure) Act 1949. [9th August 1972]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

The Director of Savings

1 Appointment, functions and expenses of Director of Savings

- (1) The Treasury may appoint a person to be Director of Savings and the functions of the Director shall include those conferred on him by this Act.
- (2) Any expenses of the Director of Savings shall, unless required by any Act to be borne in some other manner, be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament.

The National Savings Stock Register

2 Maintenance of the register

- (1) The register—
 - (a) which was established in pursuance of section 1 of the War Loan (Supplemental Provisions) Act 1915 as amended by section 2 of the War Loan Act 1918; and
 - (b) with which, by virtue of section 12(2) of the Savings Banks Act 1929, were amalgamated such stock registers as by virtue of the Savings Banks Act 1880 had been established by savings banks authorities ; and
 - (c) of which the name was changed from the Post Office register to the National Savings Stock Register by section 108(1) of the Post Office Act 1969,

shall continue in existence by the name of the National Savings Stock Register and is hereafter in this Act referred to as " the register ".

- (2) The register, except such parts of it as are kept by trustees of trustee savings banks, shall continue to be kept by the Director of Savings.
- (3) Any description of government stock as defined in this Act may be registered in the register.

3 Power to make regulations with respect to the register

- (1) The appropriate authority may make regulations with respect to the keeping of the register and stock registered therein, and in particular with respect to—
 - (a) investments in and sales of stock so registered and the receipt and payment of interest thereon ;
 - (b) the manner in which and the conditions subject to which stock may be transferred either from the name of the holder registered in the register to that of any other person registered or to be registered therein, or from the register to the books of the Bank of England or the Bank of Ireland, and vice versa;
 - (c) the commissions and fees payable in respect of dealings in stock registered in the register ;
 - (d) the maximum amount of stock which may be registered in the register in any one holding in any one year or at any one time and the exceptions which are to be allowed from any such limits in the case of friendly societies, trade unions or other similar bodies;

and separate regulations may, with the consent of the National Debt Commissioners, be made with respect to any part of the register kept by the trustees of a trustee savings bank.

- (2) Regulations under this section—
 - (a) may provide for the total amount of stock registered in the register being held by the National Debt Commissioners ;
 - (b) may provide, in connection with any stock registered in the register, for the issue by the Director of Savings of bearer bonds for such amounts as may be provided by the regulations, with coupons annexed entitling the bearer of the coupons to the interest on the stock;
 - (c) may apply with such modifications as appear necessary or expedient, to stock registered in the register or to bearer bonds issued under this section, any of the provisions of the National Debt Act 1870, subsections (1) to (6) of section 5 of the Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Act 1955 or any Act, regulation or warrant relating to savings banks ;
 - (d) may direct that all or any of the provisions of the regulations shall, with such modifications as appear necessary or expedient, apply and be deemed always to have applied to stock issued before the date on which the regulations come into force as they apply to stock issued after that date ;
 - (e) may contain such consequential and supplemental provisions as appear necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the regulations.
- (3) In this section " the appropriate authority" means the Treasury except in the case of regulations relating to the National Debt Commissioners and in that case means the Treasury in conjunction with those Commissioners.

4 Closing of register for transfers of stock to be redeemed

In the event of the redemption of any government stock, the register may be closed for transfers of the stock for not more than one month immediately preceding the redemption date.

5 Settlement of disputes as to holdings on the register

- (1) If a dispute arises between the Director of Savings or the trustees of a trustee savings bank and the holder of any stock registered in the register or a person claiming to be entitled to any such stock, the matter in dispute shall be referred in writing to the Chief Registrar of friendly societies.
- (2) On a reference under the foregoing subsection, the Chief Registrar may proceed ex parte on notice in writing sent by post to the Director of Savings or trustees, and may inspect the register, and may administer oaths to any witnesses appearing before him ; and his award on the matter in dispute shall be final and binding on all parties.
- (3) This section shall have effect—
 - (a) in its application to Scotland, as if for the references to the Chief Registrar of friendly societies, there were substituted references to the Assistant Registrar of friendly societies for Scotland ;
 - (b) in its application to Northern Ireland, as if for the references to the Chief Registrar of friendly societies there were substituted references to the Chief Registrar of friendly societies or a deputy appointed by him.

6 Transfer to register of small holdings in names of deceased persons

- (1) Where the Bank of England or the Bank of Ireland have reason to believe that a person in whose name any government stock not exceeding in the aggregate £500 in nominal value or in actual value, whichever is the less, is standing in their books has died, the Bank may, in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations under section 3 of this Act, transfer the stock from their books to the register and may, in such manner as may be so prescribed, remit any interest accrued thereon to the Director of Savings to be dealt with in the same manner as if the stock had been registered in the register at the time when the interest accrued due.
- (2) Where any stock is transferred or any interest is remitted in pursuance of this section, the transfer or remittance shall be deemed to have been properly made and the Bank of England, or the Bank of Ireland as the case may be, shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the stock transferred or the interest remitted, as the case may be.
- (3) In section 5(1) of the Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Act 1965 (which among other things enables the Treasury by order to raise to £500 any lower limit specified in an enactment passed before that Act and appearing to the Treasury to correspond to provisions which include the provision re-enacted by subsection (1) of this section) after the words " of this Act" there shall be inserted the words " or to section 6(1) of the National Debt Act 1972 " ; and in section 6(1) of the said Act of 1965 (which among other things enables the Treasury by order to increase the limit of £500 specified in the provision so re-enacted) after paragraph (c) there shall be inserted the words “; and
 - (d) section 6(1) of the National Debt Act 1972”.

7 Acceptance of probate issued in Isle of Man or Channel Islands

- (1) In the case of the death of a person entitled to stock registered in the register, the production—
 - (a) of probate or letters of administration granted by any court in the Isle of Man or in any of the Channel Islands having authority to grant the same ; or
 - (b) of a certified copy of probate or letters of administration so granted,shall be sufficient authority to the appropriate authority, and (in so far as they are concerned) to the National Debt Commissioners, to transfer the stock to the person to whom the probate or letters of administration were granted or as directed by that person; but the appropriate authority shall not transfer stock in pursuance of this section except on production to it of a certificate from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue showing either that all death duties payable in Great Britain in respect of the stock have been paid or that no duty is payable in Great Britain in respect thereof.
- (2) Where any stock is transferred in pursuance of this section the appropriate authority and the National Debt Commissioners shall, notwithstanding the invalidity of or any defect in the probate or letters of administration, be freed, discharged and indemnified from and against all proceedings of any kind whatsoever brought against them by any person whatsoever for or in respect of the transfer of the stock.
- (3) In this section "the appropriate authority", in relation to stock registered otherwise than in a part of the register kept by the trustees of a trustee savings bank, means the Director of Savings and, in relation to stock registered in a part of the register kept by the trustees of a trustee savings bank, means the trustees of that bank.
- (4) Subsection (1) of this section shall have effect in its application to Northern Ireland with the substitution of references to Northern Ireland for the references to Great Britain and of a reference to the Minister of Finance for Northern Ireland for the reference to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

Savings certificates, stamps and tokens

8 National savings certificates

- (1) National savings certificates shall bear such rate of interest as the Treasury think fit; and the principal of and interest on such certificates and any expenses incurred in connection with the issue of them shall be charged on the National Loans Fund with recourse to the Consolidated Fund.
- (2) National savings certificates shall be subject to such conditions as to repayment or otherwise as the Treasury think fit, and notwithstanding anything in those conditions or the foregoing subsection or any regulations made or having effect as if made under this Act, but subject to the following subsection, the Treasury may from time to time direct that the period at the expiration of which such of those certificates as are specified in the direction are required to be redeemed or repaid shall be prolonged to such an extent and on such conditions as to interest and otherwise as are so specified.
- (3) Nothing in the foregoing subsection shall prejudice the right of a holder of a national savings certificate to have the amount payable under the certificate paid to him on or before maturity.

- (4) References in this section to national savings certificates are to such certificates issued under section 59 of the Finance Act 1920, section 7 of the National Debt Act 1958 or section 12 of the National Loans Act 1968.

9 War savings certificates

- (1) War savings certificates held immediately before the date of the passing of this Act may continue to be held thereafter on the conditions applicable thereto immediately before that date.
- (2) The principal of and interest on war savings certificates, and any expenses incurred in connection with the redemption thereof, shall be charged on the National Loans Fund with recourse to the Consolidated Fund.
- (3) In this section " war savings certificates " means certificates issued by that name under the War Loan Act 1915 or section 58 of the Finance Act 1916.

10 National savings stamps and gift tokens

- (1) The Treasury may make regulations for applying to national savings stamps, with the necessary modifications, all or any of the provisions of the Stamp Duties Management Act 1891, section 9 of the Stamp Act 1891 and section 63 of the Post Office Act 1953.
- (2) If at any time it appears to the Treasury that, in the case of any national savings stamps or national savings gift tokens, no further sum will become payable in respect of the exchange or encashment of those stamps or tokens, the Treasury may issue to the National Debt Commissioners out of the National Loans Fund sums equal to the face value of those stamps or tokens; and the National Debt Commissioners shall deal with those sums as if they were paid to the Commissioners in respect of unclaimed redemption moneys under section 5 of the Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Act 1955.
- (3) In this section " national savings stamp " and " national savings gift token " means respectively a stamp or token sold by the Postmaster General or the Director of Savings which may be used in the purchase of national savings certificates or premium savings bonds or in different ways one of which is the purchase of national savings certificates, premium savings bonds or some description of government stock.

Miscellaneous

11 Power of Treasury to make regulations as to raising of money under auspices of Director of Savings etc.

- (1) The Treasury may make regulations with respect to the manner in which and the conditions under which money authorised to be raised under the National Loans Act 1968 may be raised—
- (a) under the auspices of the Director of Savings (whether by the issue of national savings certificates or otherwise) ; or
 - (b) through trustee savings banks or any bank or department certified by the Treasury for the purposes of section 414 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 (which relates to savings banks maintained under local Acts).

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (2) Regulations under this section may—
- (a) apply any provision of any Act (including this Act) relating to savings banks or the register, or of any regulations made under any such Act, with such modifications as appear necessary or expedient;
 - (b) direct that all or any of the provisions of the regulations shall, with such modifications as appear necessary or expedient, apply and be deemed always to have applied to money raised before the date on which the regulations come into force as they apply to money raised after that date,
- so however that, in relation to trustee savings banks and banks and departments certified as mentioned in the foregoing subsection, paragraph (a) of this subsection shall have effect as if the reference to the register were omitted.
- (3) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) money raised under the National Loans Act 1939 or the National Loans Act 1968 through the department of the Postmaster General;
 - (b) money raised by the issue of war savings certificates within the meaning of section 9 of this Act; and
 - (c) money raised by the issue of national savings certificates under section 59 of the Finance Act 1920 or section 7 of the National Debt Act 1958 or by the issue of such certificates through the department of the Postmaster General under section 12 of the National Loans Act 1968,
- shall be treated as raised under the National Loans Act 1968 under the auspices of the Director of Savings.

12 Power to replace lost or destroyed bonds

Where the Director of Savings is satisfied that a bond to bearer issued on behalf of the Treasury by him or by the Postmaster General, or a coupon of any such bond, has been lost or destroyed, he may if he thinks fit and on such conditions as he thinks fit, but subject to any general directions of the Treasury, issue a new bond or coupon on receiving indemnity to his satisfaction against the claims of all persons deriving title under the bond or coupon lost or destroyed.

13 Provision as to 3 ½ % War Loan

The principal of and interest on 3½ % War Loan, and any expenses incurred in connection with the redemption thereof, shall be charged on the National Loans Fund with recourse to the Consolidated Fund.

14 Treasury payments to trustee savings banks

- (1) The Treasury shall from time to time pay to trustee savings banks, as consideration for the performance by them of functions conferred on them by this Act (other than functions attributable to section 11), such amounts as may be determined by the Treasury after consultation with the Trustee Savings Banks Association.
- (2) Payments under the foregoing subsection shall be made out of the National Loans Fund with recourse to the Consolidated Fund.

Supplemental

15 Interpretation etc.

- (1) In this Act " government stock " means securities of the following descriptions:—
- 2½ % Consolidated Stock,
 - 2¾ % Annuities,
 - 2½ % Annuities,
 - Guaranteed 2¾ % Stock,
 - Guaranteed 3% Stock,
 - 3½ % War Loan,
 - Guaranteed 4½ % Bonds,
- Any securities issued under the War Loan Act 1919, the National Loans Act 1939, section 28 or 29 of the Finance Act 1935, section 24 of the Tithe Act 1936, section 1 of the Bank of England Act 1946, section 21 or 32 of the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act 1946, section 1 of the Cable and Wireless Act 1946, Any such stock as is mentioned in section 26(1) of the Iron and Steel Act 1967, Any securities issued under the National Loans Act 1968 other than—
- (a) national savings certificates, premium savings bonds, national savings stamps and national savings gift tokens; and
 - (b) such securities as the Treasury may specify by order for the purposes of this paragraph;
- and for the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that the reference in this subsection to securities issued under the War Loan Act 1919 or the National Loans Act 1939 includes a reference to securities which, by virtue of any other enactment, are deemed to have been issued, or are required to be treated as having been issued, under either of those Acts.
- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) of section 38 of the Interpretation Act 1889 (which relates to the construction of references to enactments which have been repealed and re-enacted), the definition of " government stock " provided by the foregoing subsection shall apply for the purposes of the following enactments, that is to say—
- section 48 of the Finance (No. 2) Act 1915,
 - section 66 of the Finance Act 1916,
 - section 48 of the Finance Act 1949,
 - section 5 of the Miscellaneous Financial Provisions Act 1955,
 - section 71(5) of the Finance Act 1963,
- and any other enactments (including enactments of the Parliament of Northern Ireland) which, by virtue of section 15(3) of the National Debt Act 1958, define " government stock " by reference to that Act.
- (3) In this Act " the register " has the meaning assigned to it by section 2(1) of this Act and " trustee savings bank " has the same meaning as in the Trustee Savings Banks Act 1969.
- (4) Any provision in this Act charging a payment on the National Loans Fund with recourse to the Consolidated Fund shall be construed as requiring the payment, if it is not made out of the National Loans Fund, to be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

16 Statutory instruments

- (1) Any power conferred by this Act to make an order or regulations shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (2) Any statutory instrument made in pursuance of the foregoing subsection and containing an order made by virtue of paragraph (b) in section 15(1) of this Act shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons.
- (3) Any statutory instrument made in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section and containing regulations under this Act shall be laid before Parliament, except that a statutory instrument containing regulations made by virtue of section 11 of this Act with respect only to trustee savings banks and banks and departments certified as mentioned in subsection (1) of that section or to any of those bodies shall be laid before the House of Commons.

17 Repeals and transitional provisions

- (1) The enactments mentioned in the first and second columns of the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.
- (2) In so far as any regulation made or having effect as if made, or any other thing whatsoever done or having effect as if done, under an enactment repealed by this Act could have been made or done under a corresponding provision of this Act, it shall not be invalidated by the repeal effected by the foregoing subsection but shall have effect as if it had been made or done under that corresponding provision.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing subsection, the repeal effected by subsection (1) of this section shall not affect any direction given by the Treasury before the passing of this Act in relation to the prolongation of the period at the expiration of which any national savings certificates are required to be redeemed or repaid.
- (4) Certificates of investment in government stock issued to savings banks depositors in pursuance of the Savings Banks Act 1880 shall be deemed, until exchanged for new certificates in pursuance of regulations under section 3 of this Act, to be certificates of stock registered in the register.
- (5) Any document referring to an Act or enactment repealed by this Act shall, so far as is necessary to preserve the effect thereof, be construed as referring (or including a reference) to this Act or the corresponding enactment therein.
- (6) The mention of particular matters in the foregoing provisions of this section shall not prejudice the general application of section 38 of the Interpretation Act 1889 with regard to the effect of repeals.

18 Saving for powers of Parliament of Northern Ireland

Section 15 of this Act, in so far as it relates to enactments relating to matters with respect to which the Parliament of Northern Ireland has power to make laws, shall, for the purposes of section 6 of the Government of Ireland Act 1920, be deemed to be provisions of an Act passed before the appointed day within the meaning of the said section 6.

19 Application of certain provisions of Act to Channel Islands and Isle of Man

The provisions of section 11 of this Act and the provisions of this Act relating to the register shall extend to the Channel Islands, and the Royal Courts of the Channel Islands shall register those provisions; and those provisions shall extend to the Isle of Man with the omission from section 11 of subsection (1)(b) and so much of subsection (2) as follows paragraph (b) of that subsection.

20 Short title

This Act may be cited as the National Debt Act 1972.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

SCHEDULE

Section 17(1).

REPEALS

Chapter	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 6.	The National Debt Act 1958.	The whole Act.
9 & 10 Eliz. 2. c. 36.	The Finance Act 1961.	Section 35.
1965 c. 32.	The Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Act 1965.	Section 1(2).
1967 c. 17.	The Iron and Steel Act 1967.	Section 26(8)(c).
1968 c. 13.	The National Loans Act 1968.	In section 16, subsections (1)(b) and (6) and in subsection (2) the words "either or both of". In Schedule 5 the entries relating to the National Debt Act 1958 and the Finance Act 1961.
1969 c. 32.	The Finance Act 1969.	Section 52(2) to (4).
1969 c. 48.	The Post Office Act 1969.	Section 93(1) and (2). Section 108, except paragraphs (a) to (d), (f) and (g), of subsection (1). Sections 110 to 112 and section 122.