



# Acquisition of Land Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 67

### PART I

#### GENERAL

#### 1 Application of Act.

- (1) In this Act “compulsory purchase” means a compulsory purchase of land, being—
- a compulsory purchase to which this Act applies by virtue of any other enactment, whether or not passed or made before this Act, or
  - a compulsory purchase under an enactment specified in subsection (2) below.
- (2) The enactments referred to in subsection (1)(b) above are—
- section 2 of the <sup>M1</sup>Metropolitan Police Act 1886,
  - section 1(3) of the <sup>M2</sup>Military Lands Act 1892,
  - sections 25(1) and 39(1) of the <sup>M3</sup>Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908,
  - section 5(1) of the <sup>M4</sup>Development and Road Improvement Funds Act 1909 as it applies to acquisition by local authorities (as defined in section 7(1) of this Act) or the Secretary of State,
  - <sup>F1</sup> . . . . .
  - <sup>F2</sup> . . . . .
  - <sup>F3</sup> section 530(1) of the Education Act 1996],
  - <sup>F2</sup> . . . . .
- (3) In this section “enactment” includes any statutory instrument.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(2) repealed (22.7.2004) by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), **Sch. 1 Pt. 3**
- F2** Words repealed by Water Act 1989 (c. 15, SIF 130), s. 190, **Sch. 27 Pt. I** (with ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), Sch. 26 paras. 3(1)(2), 17, 40(4), 41(1), 57(6), 58)
- F3** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (1.11.1996) by 1996 c. 56, ss. 582(1), 583(2), **Sch. 37 Pt. I para. 50** (with ss. 1(4))

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**Changes to legislation:** Acquisition of Land Act 1981, Section 1 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 August 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](#)

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#### Marginal Citations

**M1** 1886 c. 22.

**M2** 1892 c. 43.

**M3** 1908 c. 36.

**M4** 1909 c. 47.

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

- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 43\(2\)](#)
- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 50\(13\)](#)
- Act applied by [2023 asc 3 s. 137\(6\)](#)

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

- s. 7(4) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 3\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 26(1A)-(3) substituted for s. 26(1)(2) by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 3\(3\)](#)