



Water Resources Act 1991

1991 CHAPTER 57

PART VI

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS IN RELATION TO THE [F1 APPROPRIATE AGENCY]

CHAPTER II

REVENUE PROVISIONS

Water resources charges

F1 123

Textual Amendments

F1 Ss. 121-124 repealed (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s.120(1)(3), Sch. 22 para. 152, Sch. 24 (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, art. 3

F2 124

Textual Amendments

F2 Ss. 121-124 repealed (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1)(3), Sch. 22 para. 152, Sch. 24 (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, art. 3

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125 Specific exemptions from water resources charges.

- (1) No charges, other than those for the purpose of recovering administrative expenses attributable to the exercise by the [F3 appropriate agency] of its functions in relation to the application for the licence, shall be levied in respect of water authorised by a licence to be abstracted for use in the production of electricity or any other form of power by any generating station or apparatus of a capacity of not more than five megawatts.

F4(2)

Textual Amendments	
F3	Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755) , art. 1(2), Sch. 2 para. 276 (with Sch. 7)
F4	S. 125(2) repealed (1.4.2006) by Water Act 2003 (c. 37) , s. 105(3), Sch. 7 para. 10, Sch. 9 Pt. 3 ; S.I. 2006/984, art. 2(s)

126 Agreements containing exemptions from charges.

- (1) The [F3 appropriate agency] may, on the application of any person who is liable to pay charges to the [F3 appropriate agency] for the abstraction of water under a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act, make an agreement with him either exempting him from the payment of charges or providing for charges to be levied on him at reduced rates specified in the agreement.
- (2) In the exercise of its powers under subsection (1) above in relation to any person, the [F3 appropriate agency] shall have regard to—
 - (a) the extent to which any works constructed at any time by that person or any works to be constructed by him have made, or will make, a beneficial contribution towards the fulfilment of the purposes of the functions of the [F3 appropriate agency] under any enactment;
 - (b) any financial assistance which that person has rendered, or has agreed to render, towards the carrying out of works by the [F3 appropriate agency] in the performance of those functions; and
 - (c) any other material considerations.
- (3) The Secretary of State may give directions as to the exercise by the [F3 appropriate agency] of its powers under subsection (1) above.
- (4) Without prejudice to the exercise of the power conferred by subsection (3) above, if on any application under this section—
 - (a) the [F3 appropriate agency] refuses to make an agreement with the applicant as mentioned in subsection (1) above; or
 - (b) the applicant objects to the terms of such an agreement as proposed by the [F3 appropriate agency] and that objection is not withdrawn,
 the applicant or the [F3 appropriate agency] may refer the question in dispute to the Secretary of State.
- (5) On a reference under subsection (4) above—
 - (a) the Secretary of State shall determine the question in dispute, having regard to the matters to which, in accordance with subsection (2) above, the

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[^{F3}appropriate agency] was required to have regard in relation to the applicant; and

- (b) may give directions to the [^{F3}appropriate agency] requiring it to make an agreement with the applicant in accordance with his decision.

^{F5}(6)

- (7) Any decision of the Secretary of State on a reference under subsection (4) above shall be final; and section 69 above shall apply in relation to the decision on a reference under this section as it applies in relation to a decision on a reference such as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) of that section, but as if references to the other party were references to the applicant.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)
- F5** S. 126(6) repealed (21.9.1995) by [1995 c. 25](#), s. 120(1)(3), Sch. 22 para. 153, **Sch. 24** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); [S.I. 1995/1983](#), art. 3

127 Special charges in respect of spray irrigation.

- (1) Where a person (“the applicant”) is for the time being the holder of a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act to abstract water (“the applicant’s licence”), and in accordance with the provisions of that licence—
- the water is to be used on land of which the applicant is the occupier; and
 - the purposes for which water abstracted in pursuance of the licence is to be used consist of or include spray irrigation,
- the applicant may apply to the [^{F3}appropriate agency] to make an agreement with him under this section and, subject to the following provisions of this section and sections 128 and 129 below, the [^{F3}appropriate agency] may make such an agreement accordingly.
- (2) During any period for which an agreement under this section is in force, the following charges shall be payable by the applicant to the [^{F3}appropriate agency] in respect of the applicant’s licence, in so far as it relates to water authorised to be abstracted and used on the relevant land, that is to say—
- basic charges calculated, in accordance with the agreement, by reference to the quantity of water authorised to be so abstracted and used from time to time in pursuance of the licence; and
 - supplementary charges calculated, in accordance with the agreement, by reference to the quantity of water which is measured or assessed as being abstracted from time to time by or on behalf of the applicant from the source of supply to which the applicant’s licence relates for use on the relevant land.
- (3) In determining—
- whether to make an agreement with the applicant under this section; and
 - the charges to be leviable under such an agreement,
- the [^{F3}appropriate agency] shall have regard to the extent to which, in any year within the period proposed to be specified in the agreement as the period for which it is made,

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the quantity of water referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) above is likely to exceed the quantity referred to in paragraph (b) of that subsection.

- (4) Where the applicant’s licence authorises water abstracted in pursuance of the licence to be used on the relevant land for purposes which include spray irrigation and other purposes—
- (a) any agreement made under this section shall provide for apportioning, as between those purposes respectively, the quantity referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) above and the quantity referred to in paragraph (b) of that subsection;
 - (b) subsection (2) above shall have effect as if in each of those paragraphs the reference to the quantity of water mentioned in that paragraph were a reference to so much of that quantity as in accordance with the agreement is apportioned to the purpose of spray irrigation; and
 - (c) in subsection (3) above any reference to either of those paragraphs shall be construed as a reference to that paragraph as modified by paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- (5) An application under subsection (1) above may be made by a person who has applied for, but is not yet the holder of, a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act to abstract water; and, in relation to an application so made or to an agreement made on such an application—
- (a) the reference in that subsection to the provisions of the applicant’s licence shall be construed as a reference to the proposals contained in the application for a licence; and
 - (b) any other reference in this section or in section 128 or 129 below to the applicant’s licence shall be construed as a reference to any licence granted to the applicant in pursuance of the application mentioned in paragraph (a) above or in pursuance of an appeal consequential upon the application so mentioned.
- (6) In this section and sections 128 and 129 below—
- “the applicant” and “the applicant’s licence” shall be construed, subject to subsection (5) above, in accordance with subsection (1) above;
 - “the relevant land” means the land on which the applicant’s licence, as for the time being in force, authorises water abstracted in pursuance of the licence to be used for purposes which consist of or include spray irrigation; and
 - “year” means a period of twelve months beginning—
- (a) with the date on which an agreement under this section comes into force or is proposed to come into force; or
 - (b) with an anniversary of that date.

Textual Amendments

F3 Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 2 para. 276](#) (with [Sch. 7](#))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 127(1)(4) modified (18.5.1992) by [S.I. 1992/1096](#), arts. 3, 4, [Sch.](#)

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128 Duration of agreement under section 127.

- (1) The period specified in an agreement under section 127 above as the period for which it is made shall not be less than five years.
- (2) An agreement under section 127 above shall remain in force until the occurrence of whichever of the following events first occurs, that is to say—
 - (a) the period specified in the agreement, as mentioned in subsection (1) above, comes to an end;
 - (b) the applicant's licence expires or is revoked;
 - (c) the applicant ceases to be the occupier of the relevant land or, if he has previously ceased to be the occupier of a part or parts of that land, ceases to be the occupier of the remainder of it;
 - (d) the agreement is terminated under subsection (4) below.
- (3) At any time while an agreement under section 127 above is in force, the applicant may apply to the [F³appropriate agency] to terminate the agreement.
- (4) If, on an application for the termination of an agreement under section 127 above, the [F³appropriate agency] is satisfied that, by reason of any change of circumstances since the agreement was made, it ought to be terminated, it may terminate the agreement, either unconditionally or subject to such conditions (whether as to any payment to be made by the applicant or otherwise) as the [F³appropriate agency] and the applicant may agree.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 2 para. 276](#) (with [Sch. 7](#))

129 Directions and appeals with respect to exercise of powers under sections 127 and 128.

- (1) The Secretary of State may give directions as to the exercise by the [F³appropriate agency] of its powers under sections 127 and 128 above.
- (2) Without prejudice to the exercise of the power conferred by subsection (1) above, if on any application under section 127 or 128 above—
 - (a) the [F³appropriate agency] refuses to make or terminate an agreement under section 127 above; or
 - (b) the applicant objects to the proposals of the [F³appropriate agency] —
 - (i) as to the terms of such an agreement; or
 - (ii) as to the conditions subject to which such an agreement is to be terminated,
 and that objection is not withdrawn,

the applicant or the [F³appropriate agency] may refer the question in dispute to the Secretary of State.
- (3) On a reference under subsection (2) above—
 - (a) the Secretary of State shall determine the question in dispute, having regard to the matters to which, in accordance with subsection (3) of section 127 above,

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the [^{F3}appropriate agency] would be required to have regard in relation to the applicant on an application under that section; and

- (b) may give directions to the [^{F3}appropriate agency] requiring it to make an agreement with the applicant in accordance with his decision.

^{F6}(4)

- (5) Any decision of the Secretary of State on a reference under subsection (2) above shall be final; and section 69 above shall apply in relation to the decision on a reference under this section as it applies in relation to a decision on a reference such as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) of that section, but as if references to the other party were references to the applicant.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)
- F6** S. 129(4) repealed (21.9.1995) by [1995 c. 25](#), s. 120(1)(3), **Sch. 22 para. 153** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); [S.I. 1995/1983](#), **art. 3**

130 Charges in respect of abstraction from waters of [^{F7}Canal & River Trust].

- (1) Where [^{F8}Canal & River Trust] are the holders of a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act authorising abstraction from any inland waters to which section 66 above applies, then, the charges which, apart from this subsection, would be payable in respect of that licence either—

- (a) shall be reduced to such extent, and as so reduced shall be payable subject to such conditions; or
- (b) shall not be payable,

as [^{F8}Canal & River Trust] and the [^{F3}appropriate agency] may agree or, in default of such agreement, the Secretary of State may determine.

- (2) Where—

- (a) a person other than [^{F9}Canal & River Trust] is the holder of a licence under Chapter II of Part II of this Act authorising abstraction from any inland waters to which section 66 above applies; and

- (b) any charges in respect of that licence are payable,

the [^{F3}appropriate agency] shall pay to [^{F9}Canal & River Trust] such proportion of those charges, subject to such conditions, as [^{F9}Canal & River Trust] and the [^{F3}appropriate agency] may agree, or, in default of such agreement, the Secretary of State may determine.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)
- F7** Words in s. 130 heading substituted (2.7.2012) by [The British Waterways Board \(Transfer of Functions\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1659\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 11(4)** (with arts. 4-6)
- F8** Words in s. 130(1) substituted (2.7.2012) by [The British Waterways Board \(Transfer of Functions\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1659\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 11(5)** (with arts. 4-6)

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F9 Words in s. 130(2) substituted (2.7.2012) by [The British Waterways Board \(Transfer of Functions\) Order 2012 \(S.I. 2012/1659\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 3 para. 11(5)** (with arts. 4-6)

Charges in connection with control of pollution

F10 **131**

Textual Amendments

F10 Ss. 131, 132 repealed (1.4.1996) by [1995 c. 25, s. 120\(1\)\(3\)](#), [Sch. 22 para. 154](#), **Sch. 24** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); [S.I. 1996/186](#), **art. 3**

F11 **132**

Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 131, 132 repealed (1.4.1996) by [1995 c. 25, s. 120\(1\)\(3\)](#), [Sch. 22 para. 154](#), **Sch. 24** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); [S.I. 1996/186](#), **art. 3**

Levies by the [^{F12}Agency] on local authorities

Textual Amendments

F12 Word in cross-heading to s. 133 substituted (subject to other provisions of amending Act) (1.4.1996) by [1995 c. 25, s. 120](#), **Sch. 22 para. 128** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); [S.I. 1996/186](#), **art. 3**

F14 **133** **Power to authorise the [^{F13}Agency] to issue levies.**

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Textual Amendments

F13 Words in s. 133 and the sidenote substituted (subject to other provisions of the amending Act) (1.4.1996) by [1995 c. 25, s. 120](#), **Sch. 22 para. 128** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); [S.I. 1996/186](#), **art. 3**
F14 S. 133 repealed (1.4.2011) by [Flood and Water Management Act 2010 \(c. 29\)](#), s. 49(3), **Sch. 2 para. 44** (with s. 49(1)(6)); [S.I. 2011/694](#), art. 3(g) (with art. 5(1))

General drainage charges

134 **Raising of general drainage charges.**

(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the [^{F3}appropriate agency] may raise at an amount per hectare of chargeable land in [^{F15}a flood risk management region] a charge to be known as a general drainage charge and to be levied in accordance with sections 135 and 136 below.

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- (2) The [^{F16}Agency] shall not levy a general drainage charge in respect of [^{F17}any flood risk management region] unless [^{F18}the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for that region] have recommended that such a charge should be raised.

^{F19}(3)

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)
- F15** Words in s. 134(1) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 6(2)**
- F16** Word in s. 134(2) substituted (14.7.2017) by [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(anaw 3\)](#), s. 88(3)(c), **Sch. 2 para. 20(3)**; S.I. 2017/714, art. 2
- F17** Words in s. 134(2) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 6(3)(a)**
- F18** Words in s. 134(2) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 6(3)(b)**
- F19** S. 134(3) repealed (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 6(4)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 134 restricted (1.12.1991) by [Water Consolidation \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1991 \(c. 60, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 2(2), 4(2), **Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 2(2)**

135 Amount, assessment etc. of general drainage charge.

- (1) A general drainage charge raised by the [^{F3}appropriate agency] for [^{F20}a flood risk management region] for any year shall be at a uniform amount per hectare of chargeable land in [^{F21}that region].
- (2) The uniform amount referred to in subsection (1) above shall be ascertained, subject to subsection (3) below, by multiplying the relevant quotient ^{F22} . . . by one penny and by such number as may be specified by either of the Ministers by order made for the purposes of this subsection.
- (3) The number specified in an order under this section for the purposes of subsection (2) above shall (apart from any adjustment made to it to take account of rough grazing land) be such as the Minister making the order considers will secure, so far as reasonably practicable, that the amount specified in paragraph (a) below will be equal to the amount specified in paragraph (b) below, that is to say—
- (a) the aggregate amount produced by any charge levied by reference to a relevant quotient ^{F23} . . .; and
 - (b) the aggregate amount which, if the chargeable land in [^{F24}the flood risk management region] had been liable to be rated for the financial year beginning in 1989, would have been produced by a rate levied on the land at an amount in the pound (of rateable value) equal to that quotient multiplied by one penny.
- (4) An order under this section may be made so as to apply either—
- (a) to all general drainage charges; or
 - (b) to the general drainage charges proposed to be raised in any [^{F25}one or more flood risk management regions] specified in the order;

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and any such order applying to [^{F26}more than one flood risk management region] may make different provision as respects the different [^{F27}flood risk management regions] to which it applies.

(5) Schedule 15 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the assessment, incidence, payment and enforcement of general drainage charges.

(6) The power of each of the Ministers to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

^{F28}[(7) In this section “relevant quotient” means a quotient determined for the year concerned in accordance with rules contained in regulations made by either of the Ministers.]

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)](#), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with [Sch. 7](#))
- F20** Words in s. 135(1) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 7(2)(a)**
- F21** Words in s. 135(1) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 7(2)(b)**
- F22** Words in s. 135(2) repealed (1.8.1992 subject to savings in [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)) by [Local Government Finance Act 1992 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 117(1)(2), [Sch. 13 para. 96\(1\)](#), **Sch. 14** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)
- F23** Words in s. 135(3)(a) repealed (1.8.1992 subject to savings in [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)) by [Local Government Finance Act 1992 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 117(1)(2), [Sch. 13 para. 96\(2\)](#), **Sch. 14** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)
- F24** Words in s. 135(3)(b) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 7(3)**
- F25** Words in s. 135(4)(b) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 7(4)(a)**
- F26** Words in s. 135(4) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 7(4)(b)(i)**
- F27** Words in s. 135(4) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 7(4)(b)(ii)**
- F28** S. 135(7) added (1.8.1992 subject to savings in [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)) by [Local Government Finance Act 1992 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 117(1), **Sch. 13 para. 96(3)** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 135 restricted (1.12.1991) by [Water Consolidation \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1991 \(c. 60\)](#), [SIF 130](#), ss. 2(2), 4(2), **Sch. 2 Pt. I para. 2(2)**.

^{F29}136

Textual Amendments

- F29** S. 136 repealed (1.8.1992 subject to savings in [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)) by [Local Government Finance Act 1992 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 117(1)(2), [Sch. 13 para. 97](#), **Sch.14** (with s. 118(1)(2)(4)); [S.I. 1992/1755](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)

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Special drainage charges

137 Special drainage charges in interests of agriculture.

- (1) Where it appears to the [^{F3}appropriate agency] that the interests of agriculture require the carrying out, improvement or maintenance of drainage works in connection with any watercourses in [^{F30}any flood risk management region], the [^{F3}appropriate agency] may submit to either of the Ministers for confirmation a scheme under this section with respect to those watercourses.
- (2) A scheme under this section with respect to any watercourses is a scheme—
 - (a) designating those watercourses, and any watercourses connected with them, for the purposes of this section; and
 - (b) making provision for the raising, in accordance with section 138 below, of a charge (known as a “special drainage charge”) for the purpose of meeting the expenses of drainage works in connection with the designated watercourses and any expenses arising from such works.
- (3) A scheme under this section shall designate for the purposes of the special drainage charge so much of [^{F31}the flood risk management region] as consists of land which, in the opinion of the [^{F3}appropriate agency], is agricultural land that would benefit from drainage works in connection with the designated watercourses.
- (4) The watercourses designated in any scheme under this section shall, if the scheme is confirmed, be treated for the purposes of this Act and the ^{M1}Land Drainage Act 1991 as part of a main river.
- (5) A scheme under this section-
 - (a) may make provision for any of the matters referred to in subsections (1) and (2) of section 108 above; and
 - (b) may provide for the revocation or amendment of, and for the retransfer of property, rights, powers, duties, obligations and liabilities transferred by, any previous scheme under this section.
- (6) Schedule 16 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the making and confirmation of schemes under this section.
- (7) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) the reference to expenses of drainage works is a reference to expenses incurred in the construction, improvement or maintenance of drainage works;
 - (b) the expenses of any drainage works which may be necessary in consequence of other drainage works, and so much of any contribution made under section 57 of the ^{M2}Land Drainage Act 1991 as is fairly attributable to such expenses, shall be deemed to be expenses arising from those other drainage works; and
 - (c) the expenses of any drainage works shall be taken (without prejudice to section 221(5) below) to include a proper proportion of the cost of the officers and buildings and establishment of the authority carrying them out.
- (8) In this section and Schedule 16 to this Act “watercourse” has the same meaning as in Part IV of this Act.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Resources Act 1991, chapter II. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)
- F30** Words in s. 137(1) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 8(2)**
- F31** Words in s. 137(3) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 8(3)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1991 c. 59.
- M2** 1991 c. 59.

138 Levying and amount of special drainage charge.

- (1) A special drainage charge shall be levied by the [^{F3}appropriate agency] in respect of chargeable land included in the area designated for the purposes of the charge by the scheme authorising it (“the relevant chargeable land”).
- (2) The special drainage charge raised for any year shall be at a uniform amount per hectare of the relevant chargeable land.
- (3) The uniform amount referred to in subsection (2) above shall be determined by [^{F32}the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for the flood risk management region within which is the area] which includes the relevant chargeable land [^{F33}(where that land is in England) or by the NRW (where the relevant chargeable land is in Wales)] but shall exceed neither—
 - (a) an amount to be specified in the scheme as the maximum amount of the charge or such greater amount as may be authorised for the purposes of the scheme by an order made by one of the Ministers on the application of the [^{F3}appropriate agency]; nor
 - (b) twenty-five pence or such other amount as may be substituted for twenty-five pence by an order made by one of the Ministers and approved by a resolution of the House of Commons.
- (4) Before either of the Ministers makes an order under subsection (3)(a) above he shall—
 - (a) consult with such of the associations and persons concerned as he considers appropriate;
 - (b) cause a notice of his intention to make the order, and of the time (which shall not be less than thirty days) within which objections to the proposed order may be made to him, to be published in such manner as he thinks best adapted for informing persons affected;
 - (c) if he considers it necessary, afford such persons an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by him for the purpose; and
 - (d) consider the report of the person so appointed and any objections duly made.
- (5) An order under subsection (3)(b) above may be made so as to apply—
 - (a) to special drainage charges in general; or
 - (b) to the special drainage charges proposed to be raised in respect of [^{F34}areas within such flood risk management regions] as may be specified in the order; or
 - (c) to special drainage charges proposed to be raised in pursuance of one or more schemes made under section 137 above and so specified;

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and any such order applying to the charges proposed to be raised in respect of [^{F35}areas within more than one flood risk management region], or authorised by more than one such scheme, may make different provision for the charges in respect of [^{F36}different flood risk management regions] or, as the case may be, the charges authorised by the different schemes.

- (6) The power of each of the Ministers to make an order under subsection (3)(b) above shall be exercisable by statutory instrument; and section 14 of the ^{M3}Interpretation Act 1978 (power to revoke or amend orders made by statutory instrument) shall apply to the power to make orders under subsection (3)(a) above as it applies, by virtue of this subsection, to the power to make orders under subsection (3)(b) above.
- (7) Schedule 15 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the assessment, incidence, payment and enforcement of special drainage charges.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\), art. 1\(2\), Sch. 2 para. 276](#) (with Sch. 7)
- F32** Words in s. 138(3) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\), s. 94\(2\)\(r\), Sch. 10 para. 9\(2\)](#)
- F33** Words in s. 138(3) inserted (14.7.2017) by [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(anaw 3\), s. 88\(3\)\(c\), Sch. 2 para. 20\(4\); S.I. 2017/714, art. 2](#)
- F34** Words in s. 138(5)(b) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\), s. 94\(2\)\(r\), Sch. 10 para. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- F35** Words in s. 138(5) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\), s. 94\(2\)\(r\), Sch. 10 para. 9\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- F36** Words in s. 138(5) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\), s. 94\(2\)\(r\), Sch. 10 para. 9\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M3** 1978 c. 30.

Revenue from internal drainage boards

139 Contributions from internal drainage boards.

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, the [^{F3}appropriate agency] shall by resolution require every internal drainage board to make towards the expenses of the [^{F3}appropriate agency] such contribution as the [^{F3}appropriate agency] may consider to be fair.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) below, where an internal drainage district (“the main internal drainage district”) comprises two or more other internal districts (“minor internal drainage districts”), the [^{F3}appropriate agency] shall not require the drainage board for that district to make any contribution towards the expenses of the [^{F3}appropriate agency] except in respect of such part, if any, of that district as is not situated within any minor internal drainage district.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) above, the [^{F3}appropriate agency], after determining what contribution should be made by the drainage board for each of the minor internal drainage districts, may, if it thinks fit, require the drainage board for the main internal

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drainage district to pay direct to the [F³appropriate agency] an amount equal to the aggregate of those contributions.

- (4) If the [F³appropriate agency] make a requisition under subsection (3) above, the drainage board of the main internal drainage district shall raise the amount paid by them under that subsection to the [F³appropriate agency] by means of drainage rates levied by them within, or special levies issued in respect of, the main internal drainage district or, as the case may be, such part of that district as is situated within a minor internal drainage district.
- (5) Without prejudice to subsection (3) of section 140 below, a resolution under this section may be acted upon by the [F³appropriate agency] forthwith, notwithstanding that the time for bringing an appeal under that section has not expired or that an appeal so brought is pending.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), [Sch. 2 para. 276](#) (with [Sch. 7](#))

140 Appeals in respect of resolutions under section 139.

- (1) If—
- (a) an internal drainage board is aggrieved by a resolution of the [F³appropriate agency] under section 139 above determining the amount of any contribution; or
 - (b) the council of any county [F³⁷, county borough] or London borough is aggrieved by any such resolution on the ground that the amount of the contribution required to be made by an internal drainage board is inadequate,
- the board or council may, within six weeks after the date on which notice of the resolution is given by the [F³appropriate agency] to the internal drainage board in question, appeal to the relevant Minister against the resolution.
- (2) On an appeal under this section the relevant Minister may, after—
- (a) considering any objections made to him; and
 - (b) if he thinks fit, holding a local public inquiry,
- make such an order in the matter as he thinks just.
- (3) Where the [F³appropriate agency] has acted on a resolution by virtue of section 139(5) above and an appeal is brought in respect of the resolution, the relevant Minister shall by his order direct such adjustment to be made in respect of any sums recovered or paid in pursuance of the resolution as may be necessary for giving effect to his decision.
- (4) Where the relevant Minister makes an order under this section, he shall lay before Parliament particulars of the matter in respect of which the appeal was made and of the reasons for his order.
- (5) Compliance with any order made by the relevant Minister under this section may be enforced by mandamus.
- (6) In this section “the relevant Minister”—
- (a) in relation to an internal drainage district wholly in Wales or the drainage board for such a district, means the Secretary of State;

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- (b) in relation to an internal drainage district partly in Wales or the drainage board for such a district, means the Ministers; and
- (c) in any other case, means the Minister.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)
- F37** Words in s. 140(1)(b) inserted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 19, s. 22(5), **Sch. 11 Pt. I para. 3(3)** (with ss. 54(4)(7), 55(5)) Sch. 17 paras. 22(1), 23(2)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, **Sch. 1**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4** S. 140 extended (1.12.1991) by [Land Drainage Act 1991 \(c. 59, SIF 73:1\)](#), **ss. 58(7)**, 76(2).

141 Precepts for recovery of contributions from internal drainage boards.

- (1) The [^{F3}appropriate agency] may issue precepts to internal drainage boards requiring payment of any amount required to be contributed by those boards under section 139 above.
- (2) An internal drainage board shall pay, in accordance with any precept issued to them under this section, the amount thereby demanded.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the [^{F3}appropriate agency] to prepare, in such form as the relevant Minister may direct, a statement of—
 - (a) the purposes to which the amount demanded by any precept issued by the [^{F3}appropriate agency] under this section is intended to be applied; and
 - (b) the basis on which it is calculated;
 and an internal drainage board shall not be liable to pay the amount demanded by any such precept until they have received such a statement.
- (4) Compliance with any precept issued by the [^{F3}appropriate agency] in accordance with this section may be enforced by mandamus.
- (5) In this section “the relevant Minister” has the same meaning as in section 140 above.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)

Fisheries contributions

142 Fisheries contributions.

- (1) Each of the Ministers shall have power, on an application made to him by the [^{F3}appropriate agency], by order made by statutory instrument to make provision in relation to an area defined by the order—
 - (a) for the imposition on the owners and occupiers of fisheries in that area of requirements to pay contributions to the [^{F3}appropriate agency], of such

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amounts as may be determined under the order, in respect of the expenses of the carrying out in relation to that area of the [^{F3}appropriate agency's] functions with respect to fisheries;

- (b) for such contributions to be paid or recovered in such manner, and to be refundable, in such circumstances as may be specified in or determined under the order.
- (2) Subsections [^{F38}(2) to (6)] of section 115 above shall have effect in relation to the power conferred by subsection (1) above as they have effect in relation to the power conferred by subsection (1) of that section.
- (3) The reference in this section to the owners and occupiers of fisheries shall have the same meaning as any such reference in the ^{M4}Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 276](#) (with [Sch. 7](#))
- F38** Words in s. 142(2) substituted (21.9.1995) by [1995 c. 25](#), s. 116, [Sch. 21 para. 2\(3\)](#) (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); [S.I. 1995/1983](#), [art. 3](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** S. 142 excluded (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/1746](#), [arts. 1\(1\)](#), 4(1); [S.I. 1998/3178](#), [art. 3](#)

Marginal Citations

- M4** [1975 c. 51](#).

Navigation tolls

143 Power of [^{F3}appropriate agency] to levy navigation tolls.

- (1) Where any navigable waters—
- (a) in England and Wales; or
 - (b) in so much of the territorial sea adjacent to England and Wales as is included in [^{F39}a flood risk management region],
- are not subject to the control of any navigation authority, harbour authority or conservancy authority, the [^{F3}appropriate agency] may apply to the Secretary of State for an order imposing tolls in respect of the navigation of vessels in those waters.
- (2) An order under this section shall not be made unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the cost of the maintenance or works in connection with the waters to which the order relates has been or will be increased as a result of the use of those waters for purposes of navigation.
- (3) Schedule 17 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the making of orders under this section.
- (4) Any tolls payable under this section in respect of the navigation of a vessel in any water referred to in subsection (1) above—
- (a) may be demanded from the person in charge of the vessel by any person authorised for that purpose by the [^{F3}appropriate agency]; and

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- (b) if not paid on demand, may be recovered from either the person in charge of the vessel or the owner of the vessel.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in ss. 120-143 substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 276** (with Sch. 7)
- F39** Words in s. 143(1)(b) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 10**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C6** S. 143 modified (01.12.1991) by [Land Drainage Act 1991 \(c. 59, SIF 73:1\)](#), **ss. 56(1)**, 76(2).
- C7** S. 143(4) modified (01.12.1991) by [Land Drainage Act 1991 \(c. 59, SIF 73:1\)](#), **ss. 56(2)**, 76(2).

Incidental power of the Authority to impose charges

Interpretation of Chapter II

145 Interpretation of Chapter II.

In this Chapter—

“agricultural buildings” has the meaning provided by section 26(4) of the ^{M5}General Rate Act 1967 as amended by the ^{M6}Rating Act 1971;

“agricultural land” means—

- (a) land used as arable, meadow or pasture ground only;
- (b) land used for a plantation or a wood or for the growth of saleable underwood; and
- (c) land exceeding one tenth of a hectare used for the purpose of poultry farming, market gardens, nursery grounds, orchards or allotments, including allotment gardens within the meaning of the ^{M7}Allotments Act 1922,

but does not include land occupied together with a house as a park, gardens (other than as aforesaid) or pleasure grounds, land kept or preserved mainly or exclusively for purposes of sport or recreation or land used as a racecourse;

“chargeable land” means the agricultural land and agricultural buildings in so much of [^{F40}a flood risk management region] as does not fall within an internal drainage district, excluding rough grazing land and woodlands other than commercial woodlands;

“commercial woodlands” means woodlands managed on a commercial basis with a view to the realisation of profits;

“drainage” has the same meaning as in Part IV above;

“drainage charge” means general drainage charge or special drainage charge;

[^{F41}“flood risk management region” [^{F42}—

- (a) in relation to the Agency,] means the region of a Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, within the meaning of section 22 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 [^{F43}, and

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(b) in relation to the NRBW, means Wales, within the meaning of section 158 of the Government of Wales Act 2006].

“rough grazing land” means land of either of the following descriptions, that is to say—

- (a) land used as pasture ground on which the vegetation consists solely or mainly of one or more of the following, that is to say, bracken, gorse, heather, rushes and sedge; and
- (b) land so used which is unsuitable for mowing by machine and on which the vegetation consists solely or mainly of grass of poor feeding value; and

“spray irrigation” has the same meaning as in Chapter II of Part II of this Act.]

Textual Amendments

F40 Words in s. 145 substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 11(2)**

F41 Words in s. 145 inserted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(r), **Sch. 10 para. 11(3)**

F42 Words in s. 145 inserted (14.7.2017) by [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(anaw 3\)](#), s. 88(3)(c), **Sch. 2 para. 20(5)(a)**; S.I. 2017/714, art. 2

F43 Words in s. 145 inserted (14.7.2017) by [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(anaw 3\)](#), s. 88(3)(c), **Sch. 2 para. 20(5)(b)**; S.I. 2017/714, art. 2

Marginal Citations

M5 1967 c. 9.

M6 1971 c. 39.

M7 1922 c. 51.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Resources Act 1991, chapter II.