

# Competition Act 1998

# **CHAPTER 41**

# **COMPETITION ACT 1998**

# PART I

COMPETITION

# CHAPTER I

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•••

4 Neither the Chapter I prohibition nor the Chapter II prohibition...

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5 (1) The Chapter I prohibition does not apply to an...

Avoidance of conflict with international obligations

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## Terms used

1 In this Schedule— " applicant " means the person making...

## General rules about applications

2 (1) An application must be made in accordance with rules....

## Preliminary investigation

3 (1) If, after a preliminary investigation of an application, the...

## Procedure on application for guidance

4 When determining an application for guidance, the OFT must follow...

## Procedure on application for a decision

5 (1) When determining an application for a decision, the OFT...

## Publication of decisions

6 If the OFT determines an application for a decision it...

## Delay by the OFT

7 (1) This paragraph applies if the court is satisfied, on...

## SCHEDULE 6A — COMMITMENTS

- PART 1 PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE AND VARIATION OF COMMITMENTS
- 1 Paragraph 2 applies where the CMA proposes to—
- 2 (1) Before accepting the commitments or variation, the CMA must—...
- 3 (1) The CMA must not accept the commitments or variation...
- 4 If, after giving notice under paragraph 2 or 3 the...
- 5 The requirements of paragraph 3 shall not apply if the...
- 6 The requirements of paragraph 3 shall not apply if the...
- 7 As soon as practicable after accepting commitments or a variation...
- 8 A notice under paragraph 2 or 3 shall be given...

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- 10 Paragraph 11 applies where the CMA proposes to release any...
- 11 (1) Before releasing the commitments, the CMA must—
- 12 If after giving notice under paragraph 11 the CMA decides...
- 13 As soon as practicable after releasing the commitments, the CMA...
- 14 A notice under paragraph 11 or 12 shall be given...

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## Interpretation

1 In this Schedule— "the 1973 Act" means the Fair Trading...

## Membership of the Commission

2 (1) The Commission is to consist of—

## Chairman and deputy chairmen

3 (1) The Commission is to have a chairman appointed by...

## President

4 The Competition Commission

## The Council

5 (1) The Commission is to have a management board to...

## *Term of office*

6 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, each member...

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7 (1) The Secretary of State shall pay to the Commission...

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- 7A The Commission may publish advice and information in relation to...
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## Staff

9 (1) The Commission is to have a secretary, appointed by...

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10 Subject to any provision made by or under this Act,...

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11 (1) The application of the seal of the Commission must...

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13 (1) The Commission is not to be regarded as the...
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## Discharge of certain functions by groups

15 (1) Except where sub-paragraph (7) or (8) gives the Chairman...

## Chairmen of groups

16 The Chairman must appoint one of the members of a...

## Replacement of member of group

17 (1) If, during the proceedings of a group—

## Attendance of other members

18 (1) At the invitation of the chairman of a group,...

## Procedure

- 19 (1) Subject to any special or general directions given by...
- 19A (1) The Chairman must make rules of procedure in relation...

## Effect of exercise of functions by group

20 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) sub-paragraphs (2) to (9), anything...

## Casting votes

21 The chairman of a group is to have a casting...

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22 There are to be members of the Commission appointed by... Part III — APPEALS

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23 The Competition Commission

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24 The Competition Commission

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25 The Competition Commission

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26 The Competition Commission

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27 The Competition Commission Part IV — MISCELLANEOUS

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28 In Part II of Schedule 1 to the House of...

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29 In Part II of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland... Part V — TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

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30 In this Part of this Schedule— "commencement date" means the...

## Chairman

31 (1) The person who is Chairman of the MMC immediately...

## Deputy chairmen

32 The persons who are deputy chairmen of the MMC immediately...

#### Reporting panel members

33 (1) The persons who are members of the MMC immediately...

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34 (1) The persons who are members of the MMC immediately...

#### Secretary

35 The person who is the secretary of the MMC immediately...

## Council

36 (1) The members who become deputy chairmen of the Commission...

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- 1 In this Schedule—" market investigation " means an investigation...
- 2 Rules may make provision— (a) for particular stages of a...
- 3 Rules made by virtue of paragraph 2(a) and (b) may,...
- 4 Rules made by virtue of paragraph 2(c) may, in particular,...
- 5 Rules may make provision as to the quorum of relevant...
- 6 Rules may make provision— (a) as to the extent (if...
- 7 Rules may make provision for— (a) the notification or publication...

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#### Interpretation

1 Appeals

#### General procedure

2 (1) An appeal to the Tribunal under section 46, 47...

#### Decisions of the tribunal

- 3 (A1) This paragraph applies to any appeal under section 46...
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- 4 Appeals
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| 6      | Appeals<br>Permananto the appeal   |
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| 3<br>4 | Competition authority etc<br>Cartels   |
| 5      | Settlement submission to a competition authority   |
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| 7      | Other definitions<br>Part 2 — PASSING ON   |
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| 9      | Burden of proof where an overcharge is passed on to an indirect purchaser  |
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- 17 Time limits for bringing competition proceedings
- 18 Length of limitation or prescriptive period
- 19 Beginning of limitation or prescriptive period
- 20 Effect of disability on beginning of limitation period: England and Wales and Northern Ireland
- 21 Suspension during investigation by competition authority
- 22 Suspension during consensual dispute resolution process
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- 24 Suspension of prescriptive period during period of disability: Scotland
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- 26 New claims in pending actions: England and Wales and Northern Ireland

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- 28 Restriction in relation to settlement submissions and cartel leniency statements
- 29 Restriction in relation to investigation materials
- 30 Restriction in relation to material in a competition authority's file
- 31 Power of High Court in Northern Ireland to order disclosure etc by nonparties

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- 38 Assessment of contribution
- 39 Effect of consensual settlement on the amount of a claim
- 40 Effect of consensual settlement for the settling infringer
- 41 Effect of consensual settlement on contribution between defendants Part 10 — APPLICATION
- 42 (1) Parts 2 to 5, 8 and 9 of this...
- 43 The following provisions of this Schedule apply only in relation...
- 44 In this Part of this Schedule "the relevant day" means...

SCHEDULE 9 — CMA's Rules

## General

1 In this Schedule "rules" means rules made by the CMA...

## Delegation of functions

1A (1) Rules may provide for the exercise of a function...

## **Applications**

2 Rules may make provision— (a) as to the form and...

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3 Rules may make provision as to the procedure to be...

#### Guidance

4 Rules may make provision as to— (a) the form and...

## Decisions

5 (1) Rules may make provision as to—

#### Individual exemptions

- 6 Rules may make provision as to— (a) the procedure to...
- 7 Rules may make provision as to— (a) the form and...

#### Block exemptions

8 Rules may make provision as to— (a) the procedure to...

## Assimilated exemptions

- 9 Rules may make provision as to— (a) the circumstances in...
- 10 .....

#### Directions withdrawing exclusions

...

11 Rules may make provision as to the factors which the...

#### Disclosure of information

12 (1) Rules may make provision as to the circumstances in...

#### Applications under section 47

13 Rules may make provision as to— (a) the period within...

#### Oral hearings: procedure

13A (1) Rules may make provision as to the procedure to...

#### Procedural complaints

13B (1) Rules may make provision as to arrangements to be...

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14 Rules may make provision as to the procedure to be...

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## Gas

3 (1) In consequence of the repeal by this Act of...

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## Water

5 (1) In consequence of the repeal by this Act of...

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6 (1) In consequence of the repeal by this Act of... Part III — THE PROHIBITIONS: NORTHERN IRELAND

#### Electricity

7 (1) In consequence of the repeal by this Act of...

## Gas

8 (1) In consequence of the repeal by this Act of... Part IV — UTILITIES: MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

#### The Telecommunications Act 1984 (c.12)

9 (1) The Telecommunications Act 1984 is amended as follows.

## The Gas Act 1986 (c.44)

10 (1) The Gas Act 1986 is amended as follows.

#### *The Water Act 1989 (c.15)*

11 In section 174(3) of the Water Act 1989 (general restrictions...

#### The Electricity Act 1989 (c.29)

12 (1) The Electricity Act 1989 is amended as follows.

The Water Industry Act 1991 (c.56)

13 (1) The Water Industry Act 1991 is amended as follows....

The Water Resources Act 1991 (c.57)

14 In Schedule 24 to the Water Resources Act 1991 (disclosure...

The Railways Act 1993 (c.43)

15 (1) The Railways Act 1993 is amended as follows.

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 (c.61)

16 (1) The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996 is amended... Part V — MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: NORTHERN IRELAND

The Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992

17 (1) The Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 is amended as...

The Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996

18 (1) The Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 is amended as...

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1 Interpretation of Section 55

Designated persons

2 Interpretation of Section 55

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The Fair Trading Act 1973 (c.41)

1 (1) The Fair Trading Act 1973 is amended as follows....

*The Energy Act* 1976 (c.76)

2 In the Energy Act 1976, omit section 5 (temporary relief...

The Estate Agents Act 1979 (c.38)

3 In section 10(3) of the Estate Agents Act 1979 (restriction...

The Competition Act 1980 (c.21)

4 (1) The Competition Act 1980 is amended as follows.

Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26))

5 In Schedule 6 to the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order...

Agricultural Marketing (Northern Ireland) Order 1982 (S.I. 1982/1080 (N.I. 12))

6 In Schedule 8 to the Agricultural Marketing (Northern Ireland) Order...

The Airports Act 1986 (c.31)

7 (1) The Airports Act 1986 is amended as follows.

8 In Schedule 11 to the Financial Services Act 1986, in...

The Companies Consolidation (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 (S.I. 1986/1035 (N.I. 9))

9 In Part II of Schedule 1 to the Companies Consolidation...

The Consumer Protection Act 1987 (c.43)

10 In section 38(3) of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 (restrictions...

The Channel Tunnel Act 1987 (c.53)

11 In section 33 of the Channel Tunnel Act 1987—

The Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act 1988 (c.54)

12 In Schedule 3 to the Road Traffic (Consequential Provisions) Act...

The Companies Act 1989 (c.40)

13 In Schedule 20 to the Companies Act 1989 (amendments about...

The Broadcasting Act 1990 (c.42)

14 .....

*The Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 (c.53)* 

15 In Schedule 1 to the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992...

*The Osteopaths Act 1993 (c.21)* 

16 Section 33 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 (competition and anticompetitive...

The Chiropractors Act 1994 (c.17)

17 Section 33 of the Chiropractors Act 1994 (competition and anticompetitive...

The Coal Industry Act 1994 (c.21)

18 In section 59(4) of the Coal Industry Act 1994 (information...

*The Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 (c.40)* 

19 (1) The Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 is amended...

The Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 (S.I. 1994/426 (N.I. 1))

20 (1) The Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 is amended as...

The Broadcasting Act 1996 (c.55)

21 In section 77 of the Broadcasting Act 1996 (which modifies...

SCHEDULE 13 — Transitional Provisions and Savings Part I — GENERAL

## Interpretation

1 (1) In this Schedule— "RPA" means the Resale Prices Act...

General power to make transitional provision and savings

2 (1) Nothing in this Schedule affects the power of the...

## Advice and information

3 (1) The Director may publish advice and information explaining provisions...
 Part II — DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD

#### Block exemptions

4 (1) The Secretary of State may, at any time during...

Certain agreements to be non-notifiable agreements

5 An agreement which— (a) is made during the interim period,...

Application of RTPA during the interim period

6 In relation to agreements made during the interim period—

## Guidance

7 (1) Sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) apply in relation to agreements... Part III — ON THE STARTING DATE

## Applications which fall

8 (1) Proceedings in respect of an application which is made...

#### Orders and approvals which fall

9 (1) An order in force immediately before the starting date... Part IV — ON AND AFTER THE STARTING DATE

#### CHAPTER I

## GENERAL

Duty of Director to maintain register etc.

10 (1) This paragraph applies even though the relevant provisions of...

## *RTPA section 3 applications*

11 (1) Even though section 3 of the RTPA is repealed...

RTPA section 26 applications

12 (1) Even though section 26 of the RTPA is repealed...

Right to bring civil proceedings

13 (1) Even though section 35 of the RTPA is repealed...

## CHAPTER II

## CONTINUING PROCEEDINGS

## The general rule

14 (1) The Chapter I prohibition does not apply to an...

Meaning of "continuing proceedings"

15 (1) For the purposes of this Schedule "continuing proceedings" means...

RTPA section 4 proceedings

16 Proceedings on an application for an order under section 4...

RPA section 16 or 17 proceedings

17 Proceedings on an application for an order under section 16...

Continuing proceedings which are discontinued

18 (1) On an application made jointly to the Court by...

## CHAPTER III

## THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

The general rule

19 (1) Except where this Chapter or Chapter IV provides otherwise,...

*Cases for which there is no transitional period* 

20 (1) There is no transitional period for an agreement to...

Continuing proceedings under the RTPA

21 In the case of an agreement which is the subject...

Continuing proceedings under the RPA

22 (1) In the case of an agreement relating to goods...

Provisions not contrary to public interest

23 (1) To the extent to which an agreement contains provisions...

## Goods

24 (1) In the case of an agreement relating to goods...

Transitional period for certain agreements

25 (1) This paragraph applies to agreements— (a) which are subject...

#### Special cases

26 (1) In the case of an agreement in respect of...

## CHAPTER IV

## THE UTILITIES

#### General

27 In this Chapter "the relevant period" means the period beginning...

## Electricity

28 (1) For an agreement to which, immediately before the starting...

Electricity: power to make transitional orders

29 (1) There is a transitional period for an agreement (whether...

#### Gas

30 (1) For an agreement to which, immediately before the starting...

Gas: power to make transitional orders

31 (1) There is a transitional period for an agreement of...

## Gas: Northern Ireland

32 (1) For an agreement to which, immediately before the starting...

*Gas:* Northern Ireland – power to make transitional orders

33 (1) There is a transitional period for an agreement of...

#### Railways

34 (1) In this paragraph—"section 131" means section 131 of...

## The regulators

35 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), each of the regulators may...

## CHAPTER V

#### EXTENDING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

36 (1) A party to an agreement for which there is...

## CHAPTER VI

#### TERMINATING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

#### General

37 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the Director may by a...

Circumstances in which the Director may terminate the transitional period

38 (1) If the Director is considering whether to give a...

Procedural requirements on giving a paragraph 37 direction

39 (1) The Director must specify in a direction under paragraph...
 Part V — THE FAIR TRADING ACT 1973

References to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission

40 (1) If, on the date on which the repeal by...

Orders under Schedule 8

41 (1) In this paragraph—"the 1973 Act" means the Fair...

Part III of the Act

42 (1) The repeals made by section 1 do not affect... Part VI — THE COMPETITION ACT 1980

#### **Undertakings**

43 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), an undertaking accepted by the...

Application of sections 25 and 26

44 The repeals made by section 1 do not affect— Part VII — MISCELLANEOUS

#### Disclosure of information

45 (1) Section 55 of this Act applies in relation to...

### The Court

46 If it appears to the Lord Chancellor that a person...

SCHEDULE 14 — Repeals and Revocations Part I — REPEALS Part II — REVOCATIONS

## Changes to legislation:

Competition Act 1998 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 June 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.

View outstanding changes

## Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 32 modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110A(7)(a) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s. 9(1)
- s. 32 modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110B(5)(a) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s. 9(1)
- s. 35(2) modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110A(7)(b)(8) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s.
   9(1)
- s. 35(2) modified by 1991 c. 56, s. 110B(5)(b) (as substituted) by 2014 c. 21 s. 9(1)
- s. 40A(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 13A (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 4 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- s. 47(1)(a) words substituted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 15(a) (as substituted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 6 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- Sch. 2 para. 3 repealed by 2004 c. 27 Sch. 8
- Sch. 3 para. 5(3)(b) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 29(3) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 29(3) substituted immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2020/1343, regs. 1(1), 6)
- Sch. 3 para. 5(3)(c) omitted by S.I. 2019/93 reg. 29(3) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 29(3) substituted immediately before IP completion day by S.I. 2020/1343, regs. 1(1), 6)
- Sch. 6A para. 7 words inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 29A(3) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 7 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- Sch. 7 para. 2(1)(d)(iii) substituted by 2003 c. 21 Sch. 17 para. 153(2) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 7 para. 21(1(d)(iii) was fully repealed (29.12.2003) by Communications Act 2003 (c. 21), s. 411(2), Sch. 19(1) (with Sch. 18); S.I. 2003/1900, arts. 1(2), 2(1), Sch. 1 (with art. 3) (as amended by S.I. 2003/3142, art. 1(3)); S.I. 2003/3142, art. 3(1), Sch. 1 (with art. 11))
- Sch. 7 para. 19A words omitted by 2012 c. 19 Sch. 9 para. 9
- Sch. 8A para. 21(3) modified by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 4 paras. 4(1B)(b), 7 (as amended) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 35(2)(3) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- Sch. 10 Pt. 1 words substituted by 2003 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 19(p)
- Sch. 11 words substituted by 2003 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 19(p)
- Sch. 12 para. 3 repealed by 2002 c. 40 Sch. 26
- Sch. 12 para. 4(9)(10) repealed by 2002 c. 40 Sch. 26
- Sch. 12 para. 10 repealed by 2002 c. 40 Sch. 26
- Sch. 12 para. 14(3) repealed by 2003 c. 21 Sch. 19(1) Note 1 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 12 para. 14 was repealed (20.6.2003) by The

Enterprise Act 2002 (Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Order 2003 (S.I. 2003/1398), art. 1, Sch. para. 32(3)(d))

| Cha | nges and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:   |
|-----|--|
| _   | Blanket Amendment words substituted by 2005 c. 4 Sch. 11 para. 5   |
| Who | ble provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those  |
|     | visions):  |
| _   | s. 31G-31L and cross-heading inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 8A (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 3 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.) s. 46(3)(ha)(hb) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 14(d) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 5 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.) s. 47(1)(ca) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 15(b) (as substituted) by S.I. 2019/1245 |
|     | reg. 6 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)  |
| _   | s. 60A(10) inserted by 2023 c. 28 s. 6(10)   |
| _   | Sch. 6A para. 1A inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 29A(2) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 7 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has avaired with no effect.)   |
| _   | has expired with no effect.)<br>Sch. 6A Pt. 3 inserted by S.I. 2019/93, reg. 29A(4) (as inserted) by S.I. 2019/1245<br>reg. 7 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory<br>instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it<br>ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in<br>Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it<br>has expired with no effect.)   |