



Post Office Act 1969

1969 CHAPTER 48

PART III

THE NEW AUTHORITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC BUSINESS

Powers and Duties of the Post Office

7 Powers of the Post Office. **E+W**

(1) The Post Office shall have power—

- ^{F1}(a) to provide postal services (including cash on delivery services) and telepost services;
- (b) to provide banking services and such other services by means of which money may be remitted (whether by means of money orders, postal orders or otherwise) as it thinks fit;
- ^{F2}(bb) [to provide, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public (whether for the transaction of postal business or otherwise), such services provided by means of telecommunication systems as it thinks fit;]
- ^{F3}(c) [to perform any services for any public telecommunications operator or any subsidiary of any such operator;]
- (d) to perform services for Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Government in Northern Ireland or the government of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom;
- (e) to perform services for local authorities or national health service authorities]
- ^{F4}[^{F5}(ee) with the consent of, or in accordance with the terms of a general authorisation given by, the Secretary of State, to perform, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public for the transaction of postal business, such services for any operator of a public passenger transport service (within the meaning of the Transport Act 1985), or any subsidiary of such an operator, as it thinks fit, being services which are connected with the provision of public passenger transport services; and]

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- (f) with the consent of, or in accordance with the terms of a general authorisation given by, the Secretary of State, to perform, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public for the transaction of postal business, such services for such bodies falling within subsection (1A) below as it thinks fit.]

[^{F6}(1AA) In subsection (1)(e) above, “local authority” includes a police authority established under [^{F7}section 3 of the Police Act 1996 [^{F8}, the Service Authority for the National Criminal Intelligence Service and the Service Authority for the National Crime Squad]]]

[^{F9}(1A) The bodies referred to in subsection (1)(f) above are—

- (a) any body corporate—
- (i) which supplies goods or services by way of business;
 - (ii) the affairs of which are managed by its members; and
 - (iii) the members of which hold office as such by virtue of their appointment to that or another office by a Minister of the Crown under any enactment;

(b) ^{F10} . . . any passenger transport executive [^{F11}for the purposes of Part II] of the ^{M1}Transport Act 1968;

[^{F12}(c) the National Rivers Authority or any water undertaker or sewerage undertaker;]

[^{F13}(ca) a [^{F14}gas supplier] (within the meaning of Part I of the Gas Act 1986);]

[^{F15}(cb) a public electricity supplier (within the meaning of Part I of the Electricity Act 1989);]

[^{F16}(cc) a public electricity supplier (within the meaning of Part II of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992);]

[^{F17}(cd) 1996] a person holding a licence under Article 8(1)(c) of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order

- (d) the British Broadcasting Corporation;
- (e) any body corporate with a statutory duty to promote and assist the maintenance and development of the efficient supply of any goods or services by a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (d) above; or
- (f) any wholly owned subsidiary of a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (e) above ^{F18} . . .;

but the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument exclude from this subsection such bodies or bodies of such descriptions as may be specified in the order.]

(2) The Post Office shall have power, for the purpose of securing the effective exercise of any of the powers conferred on it by [^{F19}subsection (1) above], or in connection with or in consequence of an exercise thereof, to do anything that appears to the Post Office to be requisite, advantageous or convenient for it to do, including in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing words) power—

- (a) to construct, manufacture, produce, purchase, take on hire or hire-purchase, install, maintain and repair anything required for the purposes of its business or of the business of a subsidiary of its;
- (b) to construct, manufacture, produce or purchase for supply to others any articles of a kind similar to any so required and to install, maintain, repair and test for others articles of such a kind;

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- (c) to provide others with the services of persons employed by it for the purpose of undertaking for them tasks of a kind which, in the course of the provision or performance by it of any service falling within [F19 subsection (1) above], are undertaken by persons so employed;
- (d) to provide, for the benefit of others, consultancy and advisory services concerning anything that it does in exercise of its powers or has power to do and facilities for the training of persons for any purpose connected with anything that it so does or has power to do;
- (e) to enter into and carry out agreements with any person for the carrying on by him, whether as its agent or otherwise, of any of the activities which itself may carry on or for the carrying on jointly by him and it of any of those activities;
- (f) to acquire land which is required by it for, or in connection with, the exercise of its powers or as to which it can reasonably be foreseen that it will be so required;
- (g) to dispose (whether absolutely or for a term of years) of any part of its undertaking or any property which in its opinion is not required by it for or in connection with the exercise of its powers, and, in particular, to dispose of an interest in, or right over, any property which, subject to the interest or right, is retained by it;
- (h) for the purposes of its business, to subscribe for or acquire any securities of an incorporated company or other body corporate, to procure its admission to membership of an incorporated company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, to promote the formation of an incorporated company or participate in the promotion of such a company or to acquire an undertaking or part of an undertaking;
- (i) to give or lend money to, or give a guarantee for the benefit of, any person with whom it has entered into an agreement by virtue of paragraph (e) above for the purpose of enabling him to carry out the agreement and, for the purposes of its business, to give or lend money to, or give a guarantee for the benefit of, any other person for the purposes of an undertaking carried on by him or, where that person is a body corporate, an undertaking carried on by a subsidiary of its;
- (j) to do anything for the purpose of advancing the skill of persons employed by it or that of persons who, though not so employed, are engaging themselves, or have it in contemplation to engage themselves, in work of a kind in the case of which it has or may have a direct or indirect concern in the products thereof;
- (k) to promote (either by prosecuting it itself or by its promoting it by others) research into matters which affect, or arise out of, the carrying on of its business, or other matters which, though not such as aforesaid, are such as to which it appears to it that advantage will or may accrue to it as a consequence of research's being prosecuted into them;
- (l) to promote the doing of such work as is requisite to enable there to be turned to account—
 - (i) the results of research (whether promoted by it or not) into matters affecting, or arising out of, the carrying on of its business;
 - (ii) the results of research promoted by it into other matters;
- (m) to provide assistance (including financial assistance) to any institution or body whose activities (or any of them) are such as, in its opinion, to be of benefit to it;

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- (n) to carry for hire or reward passengers in vehicles used by it for the purposes of its business;
- (o) to enter into, and carry out, agreements with persons who carry on business as carriers of goods, for the carriage by it on their behalf of goods consigned to them for carriage by them;
- (p) to provide houses, hostels and other like accommodation for persons engaged in its business;
- (q) to make loans to persons employed by it (including, in particular, loans to assist them to acquire housing accommodation) and to guarantee loans made to persons so employed (including, in particular, loans made by building societies and other bodies for housing purposes);
- (r) to promote recreational activities for, and activities conducing to the welfare of, persons who are, or have been, engaged in its business or have been officers, servants or agents of the Postmaster General and the families of such persons and to assist the promotion by others of such activities;

and may turn its resources to account so far as not required for the purposes of its business.

- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the foregoing provisions of this section relate only to the capacity of the Post Office as a statutory corporation, and nothing in those provisions shall be construed as authorising the disregard by it of any enactment or rule of law.
- (4) The Post Office shall not be regarded as a common carrier in respect of any of its activities.
- (5) The provisions of this section shall not be construed as limiting any power of the Post Office conferred by or under any subsequent provision of this Act.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall be taken to confine the exercise of the powers thereby conferred on the Post Office to the British Islands.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 7(1)(a)–(e) substituted for s. 7(1)(a)–(d) by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(1)**
- F2** S. 7(1)(bb) inserted by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), **ss. 99(1), 109**
- F3** S. 7(1)(c) substituted by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), s. 109, [Sch. 4 para. 50](#), **Sch. 5 para. 45**
- F4** S. 7(1)(f) and word 'and' preceding it inserted by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(2)**
- F5** S. 7(1)(ee) substituted (E.W.S.) for word “and” by [Transport Act 1985 \(c. 67, SIF 126\)](#), **Sch. 7 para. 13(a)**
- F6** S. 7(1AA) inserted (1.10.1994 for specified purposes; otherwise 1.4.1995) by 1994 c. 29, s. 43, **Sch. 4 Pt. II para. 49**; S.I. 1994/2025, **art. 6(1)**; S.I. 1994/3262, **art. 4**
- F7** Words in s. s. 7(1AA) substituted (22.8.1996) by 1996 c. 16, ss. 103, 104(1), **Sch. 4 Pt. I para. 1(2)(f)**
- F8** Words in s. 7(1AA) inserted (1.4.1998) by 1997 c. 50, s. 134(1), **Sch. 9 para. 19**; S.I.1998/354, **art. 2**
- F9** S. 7(1A) inserted by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(3)**
- F10** Words repealed (E.W.) by [London Regional Transport Act 1984 \(c. 32, SIF 126\)](#), **s. 71(3)(a)(b)**, [Sch. 6 para. 6\(a\)](#), [Sch. 7](#)
- F11** Words in s. 7(1A)(b) substituted (E.W.S.) by [Transport Act 1985 \(c. 67, SIF 126\)](#), s. 57(6), **Sch. 3 para. 22**
- F12** S. 7(1A)(c) substituted (E.W.) by [Water Act 1989 \(c. 15, SIF 130\)](#), ss. 58(7), 101(1), 141(6), 160(1)(2)(4), 163, 189(4)–(10), 190, 193(1), **Sch. 25 para. (39)**, [Sch. 26 paras. 3\(1\)\(2\), 17, 40\(4\), 57\(6\), 58](#)

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- F13** S. 7(1A)(ca) inserted (E.W.S.) by Gas Act 1986 (c. 44, SIF 44:2), s. 67(1)(3), Sch. 7 para. 10, **Sch. 8 para. 33**
- F14** Words in s. 7(1A)(ca) substituted (1.3.1996) by 1995 c. 45, s. 16(1), **Sch. 4 para. 9**; S.I. 1996/218, **art. 2**
- F15** S. 7(1A)(cb) inserted (E.W.S.) by Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29, SIF 44:1), s. 112(1)(3), Sch. 16 para. 15, Sch. 17 paras. 33, **35(1)**
- F16** S. 7(1A)(cc) inserted (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/231 (N.I. 1), art. 95(1), **Sch. 12 para. 7**; S.R. 1992/117, **art. 3(1)**.
- F17** S. 7(1A)(cd) inserted (10.6.1996) by S.I. 1996/275, art. 71(1), **Sch. 6**; S.R. 1996/216, **art. 2**
- F18** S. 7(1A)(f): words (which were inserted (E.W.) by London Regional Transport Act 1984 (c. 32, SIF 126), s. 71(3)(a), **Sch. 6 para. 6(b)**) repealed by virtue of Transport Act 1985 (c. 67, SIF 126), **Sch. 7 para. 13(b)**, Sch. 8
- F19** Words substituted by British Telecommunications Act 1981 (c. 38), **Sch. 3 para. 51(1)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Power to modify s. 7(1)(b) conferred by Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c. 80), **s. 2(1)(f)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1968 c. 73.

7 Powers of the Post Office. **N.I.**

(1) The Post Office shall have power—

- ^{F22}(a) to provide postal services (including cash on delivery services) and telepost services;
- (b) to provide banking services and such other services by means of which money may be remitted (whether by means of money orders, postal orders or otherwise) as it thinks fit;
- ^{F23}(bb) [to provide, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public (whether for the transaction of postal business or otherwise), such services provided by means of telecommunication systems as it thinks fit;]
- ^{F24}(c) [to perform any services for any public telecommunications operator or any subsidiary of any such operator;]
- (d) to perform services for Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom, Her Majesty’s Government in Northern Ireland or the government of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom;
- (e) to perform services for local authorities or national health service authorities][^{F25} and
- (f) with the consent of, or in accordance with the terms of a general authorisation given by, the Secretary of State, to perform, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public for the transaction of postal business, such services for such bodies falling within subsection (1A) below as it thinks fit.]

^{F26}(1AA) In subsection (1)(e) above, “local authority” includes a police authority established under ^{F27}section 3 of the Police Act 1996 [^{F28}, the Service Authority for the National Crime Intelligence Service and the Service Authority for the National Crime Squad]]

^{F29}(1A) The bodies referred to in subsection (1)(f) above are—

- (a) any body corporate—
- (i) which supplies goods or services by way of business;
 - (ii) the affairs of which are managed by its members; and

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- (iii) the members of which hold office as such by virtue of their appointment to that or another office by a Minister of the Crown under any enactment;
 - (b) the London Transport Executive and any passenger transport executive established under section 9(1)(b) of the ^{M3}Transport Act 1968;
 - (c) any statutory water undertaker within the meaning of the ^{M4}Water Act 1973;
 - [a public electricity supplier (within the meaning of Part II of the Electricity
 - ^{F30}(cc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992);]
 - ^{F31}(cd) [a person holding a licence under Article 8(1)(c) of the Gas(northern Ireland) Order 1996;]
 - (d) the British Broadcasting Corporation;
 - (e) any body corporate with a statutory duty to promote and assist the maintenance and development of the efficient supply of any goods or services by a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (d) above; or
 - (f) any wholly owned subsidiary of a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (e) above;
- but the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument exclude from this subsection such bodies or bodies of such descriptions as may be specified in the order.]
- (2) The Post Office shall have power, for the purpose of securing the effective exercise of any of the powers conferred on it by [^{F32}subsection (1) above], or in connection with or in consequence of an exercise thereof, to do anything that appears to the Post Office to be requisite, advantageous or convenient for it to do, including in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing words) power—
- (a) to construct, manufacture, produce, purchase, take on hire or hire-purchase, install, maintain and repair anything required for the purposes of its business or of the business of a subsidiary of its;
 - (b) to construct, manufacture, produce or purchase for supply to others any articles of a kind similar to any so required and to install, maintain, repair and test for others articles of such a kind;
 - (c) to provide others with the services of persons employed by it for the purpose of undertaking for them tasks of a kind which, in the course of the provision or performance by it of any service falling within [^{F32}subsection (1) above], are undertaken by persons so employed;
 - (d) to provide, for the benefit of others, consultancy and advisory services concerning anything that it does in exercise of its powers or has power to do and facilities for the training of persons for any purpose connected with anything that it so does or has power to do;
 - (e) to enter into and carry out agreements with any person for the carrying on by him, whether as its agent or otherwise, of any of the activities which itself may carry on or for the carrying on jointly by him and it of any of those activities;
 - (f) to acquire land which is required by it for, or in connection with, the exercise of its powers or as to which it can reasonably be foreseen that it will be so required;
 - (g) to dispose (whether absolutely or for a term of years) of any part of its undertaking or any property which in its opinion is not required by it for or in connection with the exercise of its powers, and, in particular, to dispose of an interest in, or right over, any property which, subject to the interest or right, is retained by it;

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- (h) for the purposes of its business, to subscribe for or acquire any securities of an incorporated company or other body corporate, to procure its admission to membership of an incorporated company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, to promote the formation of an incorporated company or participate in the promotion of such a company or to acquire an undertaking or part of an undertaking;
- (i) to give or lend money to, or give a guarantee for the benefit of, any person with whom it has entered into an agreement by virtue of paragraph (e) above for the purpose of enabling him to carry out the agreement and, for the purposes of its business, to give or lend money to, or give a guarantee for the benefit of, any other person for the purposes of an undertaking carried on by him or, where that person is a body corporate, an undertaking carried on by a subsidiary of its;
- (j) to do anything for the purpose of advancing the skill of persons employed by it or that of persons who, though not so employed, are engaging themselves, or have it in contemplation to engage themselves, in work of a kind in the case of which it has or may have a direct or indirect concern in the products thereof;
- (k) to promote (either by prosecuting it itself or by its promoting it by others) research into matters which affect, or arise out of, the carrying on of its business, or other matters which, though not such as aforesaid, are such as to which it appears to it that advantage will or may accrue to it as a consequence of research's being prosecuted into them;
- (l) to promote the doing of such work as is requisite to enable there to be turned to account—
 - (i) the results of research (whether promoted by it or not) into matters affecting, or arising out of, the carrying on of its business;
 - (ii) the results of research promoted by it into other matters;
- (m) to provide assistance (including financial assistance) to any institution or body whose activities (or any of them) are such as, in its opinion, to be of benefit to it;
- (n) to carry for hire or reward passengers in vehicles used by it for the purposes of its business;
- (o) to enter into, and carry out, agreements with persons who carry on business as carriers of goods, for the carriage by it on their behalf of goods consigned to them for carriage by them;
- (p) to provide houses, hostels and other like accommodation for persons engaged in its business;
- (q) to make loans to persons employed by it (including, in particular, loans to assist them to acquire housing accommodation) and to guarantee loans made to persons so employed (including, in particular, loans made by building societies and other bodies for housing purposes);
- (r) to promote recreational activities for, and activities conducing to the welfare of, persons who are, or have been, engaged in its business or have been officers, servants or agents of the Postmaster General and the families of such persons and to assist the promotion by others of such activities;

and may turn its resources to account so far as not required for the purposes of its business.

- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the foregoing provisions of this section relate only to the capacity of the Post Office as a statutory corporation, and

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nothing in those provisions shall be construed as authorising the disregard by it of any enactment or rule of law.

- (4) The Post Office shall not be regarded as a common carrier in respect of any of its activities.
- (5) The provisions of this section shall not be construed as limiting any power of the Post Office conferred by or under any subsequent provision of this Act.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall be taken to confine the exercise of the powers thereby conferred on the Post Office to the British Islands.

Textual Amendments

- F22** S. 7(1)(a)–(e) substituted for s. 7(1)(a)–(d) by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(1)**
- F23** S. 7(1)(bb) inserted by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), **ss. 99(1)**, 109
- F24** S. 7(1)(c) substituted by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), s. 109, Sch. 4 para. 50, **Sch. 5 para. 45**
- F25** S. 7(1)(f) and word 'and' inserted by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(2)**
- F26** S. 7(1AA) inserted (1.10.1994 for specified purposes, otherwise 1.4.1995) by 1994 c. 29, s. 43, **Sch. 4 Pt. II para. 49**; S.I. 1994/2025, **art. 6(1)**; S.I. 1994/3262, **art. 4**
- F27** Words in s. 7(1AA) substituted (22.8.1996) by 1996 c. 16, ss. 103, 104(1), **Sch. 7 Pt. I para. 1(2)(f)**
- F28** Words in s. 7(1AA) inserted (1.4.1998) by 1997 c. 50, s. 134(1), **Sch. 9 para. 19**; S.I.1998/354, **art. 2**
- F29** S. 7(1A) inserted by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(3)**
- F30** S. 7(1)(cc) inserted (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/231 (N.I. 1), art. 95(1), **Sch. 12 para. 7**; S.R. 1992/117, **art. 3(1)**
- F31** S. 7(1A)(cd) inserted (10.6.1996) by S.I. 1996/275, art. 71(1), **Sch. 6**; S.R. 1996/216, **art. 2**
- F32** Words substituted by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **Sch. 3 para. 51(1)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4** Power to modify s. 7(1)(b) conferred by [Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 \(c. 80\)](#), **s. 2(1)(f)**

Marginal Citations

- M3** 1968 c. 73.
M4 1973 c. 37

7 Powers of the Post Office. **S**

- (1) The Post Office shall have power—
- ^{F33}(a) to provide postal services (including cash on delivery services) and telepost services;
 - (b) to provide banking services and such other services by means of which money may be remitted (whether by means of money orders, postal orders or otherwise) as it thinks fit;
 - ^{F34}(bb) [to provide, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public (whether for the transaction of postal business or otherwise), such services provided by means of telecommunication systems as it thinks fit;]
 - ^{F35}(c) [to perform any services for any public telecommunications operator or any subsidiary of any such operator;]
 - (d) to perform services for Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Government in Northern Ireland or the government of a country or territory outside the United Kingdom;

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- (e) to perform services for local authorities or national health service authorities] with the consent of, or in accordance with the terms of a general authorisation given by, the Secretary of State, to perform, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public for the transaction of postal business, such services for any operator of a public passenger transport service (within the meaning of the Transport Act 1985), or any subsidiary of such an operator, as it thinks fit, being services which are connected with the provision of public passenger transport services; and]
- ^{F37}(ee) (f) with the consent of, or in accordance with the terms of a general authorisation given by, the Secretary of State, to perform, in such parts of post offices as are open to the public for the transaction of postal business, such services for such bodies falling within subsection (1A) below as it thinks fit.]
- ^{F38}(1AA) In subsection (1)(e) above, “local authority” includes a police authority established under ^{F39}section 3 of the Police Act 1996] ^{F40}, the Service Authority for the National Criminal Intelligence Service and the Service Authority for the National Crime Squad].]
- ^{F41}(1A) The bodies referred to in subsection (1)(f) above are—
- (a) any body corporate—
- (i) which supplies goods or services by way of business;
- (ii) the affairs of which are managed by its members; and
- (iii) the members of which hold office as such by virtue of their appointment to that or another office by a Minister of the Crown under any enactment;
- (b) the London Transport Executive and any passenger transport executive ^{F42}for the purposes of Part II] of the ^{M5}Transport Act 1968;
- (c) any statutory water undertaker within the meaning of the ^{M6}Water Act 1973; a ^{F44}gas supplier] (within the meaning of Part I of the Gas Act 1986);]
- ^{F43}(ca) [a public electricity supplier (within the meaning of Part I of the Electricity Act 1989);]
- ^{F45}(cb) [a public electricity supplier (within the meaning of Part II of the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992);]
- ^{F46}(cc) [a person holding a licence under Article 8(1)(c) of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order ^{F47}(cd) 1996;]
- (d) the British Broadcasting Corporation;
- (e) any body corporate with a statutory duty to promote and assist the maintenance and development of the efficient supply of any goods or services by a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (d) above; or
- (f) any wholly owned subsidiary of a body falling within paragraphs (a) to (e) above;
- but the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument exclude from this subsection such bodies or bodies of such descriptions as may be specified in the order.]
- (2) The Post Office shall have power, for the purpose of securing the effective exercise of any of the powers conferred on it by ^{F48}subsection (1) above], or in connection with or in consequence of an exercise thereof, to do anything that appears to the Post Office to be requisite, advantageous or convenient for it to do, including in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing words) power—

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- (a) to construct, manufacture, produce, purchase, take on hire or hire-purchase, install, maintain and repair anything required for the purposes of its business or of the business of a subsidiary of its;
- (b) to construct, manufacture, produce or purchase for supply to others any articles of a kind similar to any so required and to install, maintain, repair and test for others articles of such a kind;
- (c) to provide others with the services of persons employed by it for the purpose of undertaking for them tasks of a kind which, in the course of the provision or performance by it of any service falling within [^{F48}subsection (1) above], are undertaken by persons so employed;
- (d) to provide, for the benefit of others, consultancy and advisory services concerning anything that it does in exercise of its powers or has power to do and facilities for the training of persons for any purpose connected with anything that it so does or has power to do;
- (e) to enter into and carry out agreements with any person for the carrying on by him, whether as its agent or otherwise, of any of the activities which itself may carry on or for the carrying on jointly by him and it of any of those activities;
- (f) to acquire land which is required by it for, or in connection with, the exercise of its powers or as to which it can reasonably be foreseen that it will be so required;
- (g) to dispose (whether absolutely or for a term of years) of any part of its undertaking or any property which in its opinion is not required by it for or in connection with the exercise of its powers, and, in particular, to dispose of an interest in, or right over, any property which, subject to the interest or right, is retained by it;
- (h) for the purposes of its business, to subscribe for or acquire any securities of an incorporated company or other body corporate, to procure its admission to membership of an incorporated company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, to promote the formation of an incorporated company or participate in the promotion of such a company or to acquire an undertaking or part of an undertaking;
- (i) to give or lend money to, or give a guarantee for the benefit of, any person with whom it has entered into an agreement by virtue of paragraph (e) above for the purpose of enabling him to carry out the agreement and, for the purposes of its business, to give or lend money to, or give a guarantee for the benefit of, any other person for the purposes of an undertaking carried on by him or, where that person is a body corporate, an undertaking carried on by a subsidiary of its;
- (j) to do anything for the purpose of advancing the skill of persons employed by it or that of persons who, though not so employed, are engaging themselves, or have it in contemplation to engage themselves, in work of a kind in the case of which it has or may have a direct or indirect concern in the products thereof;
- (k) to promote (either by prosecuting it itself or by its promoting it by others) research into matters which affect, or arise out of, the carrying on of its business, or other matters which, though not such as aforesaid, are such as to which it appears to it that advantage will or may accrue to it as a consequence of research's being prosecuted into them;
- (l) to promote the doing of such work as is requisite to enable there to be turned to account—
 - (i) the results of research (whether promoted by it or not) into matters affecting, or arising out of, the carrying on of its business;

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- (ii) the results of research promoted by it into other matters;
- (m) to provide assistance (including financial assistance) to any institution or body whose activities (or any of them) are such as, in its opinion, to be of benefit to it;
- (n) to carry for hire or reward passengers in vehicles used by it for the purposes of its business;
- (o) to enter into, and carry out, agreements with persons who carry on business as carriers of goods, for the carriage by it on their behalf of goods consigned to them for carriage by them;
- (p) to provide houses, hostels and other like accommodation for persons engaged in its business;
- (q) to make loans to persons employed by it (including, in particular, loans to assist them to acquire housing accommodation) and to guarantee loans made to persons so employed (including, in particular, loans made by building societies and other bodies for housing purposes);
- (r) to promote recreational activities for, and activities conducing to the welfare of, persons who are, or have been, engaged in its business or have been officers, servants or agents of the Postmaster General and the families of such persons and to assist the promotion by others of such activities;
- and may turn its resources to account so far as not required for the purposes of its business.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the foregoing provisions of this section relate only to the capacity of the Post Office as a statutory corporation, and nothing in those provisions shall be construed as authorising the disregard by it of any enactment or rule of law.
- (4) The Post Office shall not be regarded as a common carrier in respect of any of its activities.
- (5) The provisions of this section shall not be construed as limiting any power of the Post Office conferred by or under any subsequent provision of this Act.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall be taken to confine the exercise of the powers thereby conferred on the Post Office to the British Islands.

Textual Amendments

- F33** S. 7(1)(a)–(e) substituted for s. 7(1)(a)–(d) by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(1)**
- F34** S. 7(1)(bb) inserted by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), **ss. 99(1)**, 109
- F35** S. 7(1)(c) substituted by [Telecommunications Act 1984 \(c. 12, SIF 96\)](#), s. 109, Sch. 4 para. 50, **Sch. 5 para. 45**
- F36** S. 7(1)(f) and word 'and' preceding it inserted by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(2)**
- F37** S. 7(1)(ee) substituted (E.W.S.) for word “and” by [Transport Act 1985 \(c. 67, SIF 126\)](#), **Sch. 7 para. 13(a)**
- F38** S. 7(1AA) inserted (1.10.1994 for specified purposes; otherwise 1.4.1995) by 1994 c. 29, s. 43, **Sch. 4 Pt. II para. 49**; S.I. 1994/2025, **art. 6(1)**; S.I. 1994/3262, **art. 4**
- F39** Words in s. 7(1AA) substituted (22.8.1996) by 1996 c. 16, ss. 103, 104(1), **Sch. 7 Pt. I para. 1(2)(f)**
- F40** Words in s. 7(1AA) inserted (1.4.1998) by 1997 c. 50, s. 134(1), **Sch. 9 para. 19**; S.I. 1998/354, **art. 2**
- F41** S. 7(1A) inserted by [British Telecommunications Act 1981 \(c. 38\)](#), **s. 58(3)**

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- F42** Words in s. 7(1A)(b) substituted (E.W.S.) by Transport Act 1985 (c. 67, SIF 126), s. 57(6), **Sch. 3 para. 22**
- F43** S. 7(1A)(ca) inserted (E.W.S.) by Gas Act 1986 (c. 44, SIF 44:2), s. 67(1)(3), Sch. 7 para. 10, **Sch. 8 para. 33**
- F44** Words in s. 7(1A)(ca) substituted (1.3.1996) by 1995 c. 45, s. 16(1), **Sch. 4 para. 9**; S.I. 1996/218, **art. 2**
- F45** S. 7(1A)(cb) inserted (E.W.S.) by Electricity Act 1989 (c. 29, SIF 44:1), s. 112(1)(3), Sch. 16 para. 15, Sch. 17 paras. 33, **35(1)**
- F46** S. 7(1A)(cc) inserted (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/231 (N.I. 1), art. 95(1), **Sch. 12 para. 7**; S.R. 1992/117, **art. 3(1)**.
- F47** S. 7(1A)(cd) inserted (10.6.1996) by S.I. 1996/275, art. 71(1), **Sch. 6**; S.R. 1996/216, **art. 2**
- F48** Words substituted by British Telecommunications Act 1981 (c. 38), **Sch. 3 para. 51(1)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** Power to modify s. 7(1)(b) conferred by Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c. 80), **s. 2(1)(f)**

Marginal Citations

- M5** 1968 c. 73.
M6 1973 c. 37

8 Furnishing of overseas aid by the Post Office.

The Post Office shall have power—

- (a) to furnish any authority or person outside the United Kingdom with assistance (whether financial, technical or of any other nature) if, in its opinion, the consequences of doing so will enure for its benefit;
- (b) ^{F20}

Textual Amendments

- F20** S. 8(b) repealed by Overseas Development and Co-operation Act 1980 (c. 63), Sch. 2 Pt. I

9^{F21}

Textual Amendments

- F21** Ss. 9, 11(7) repealed by British Telecommunications Act 1981 (c. 38), **Sch. 6 Pt. II**

10 Power to promote and oppose Bills, &c.

The Post Office may, with the consent of the Minister, promote, and may, without any such consent, oppose, Bills in Parliament, Bills in the Parliament of Northern Ireland and orders under the ^{M2}Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1936.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** Reference to Bills in the Parliament of Northern Ireland to be construed as including reference to proposed Measures in the Assembly: Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 (c. 36), **Sch. 5 para. 1(3)**

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Marginal Citations

M2 1936 c. 52.

Status:

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Changes to legislation:

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