



Highways Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 66

PART I

HIGHWAY AUTHORITIES AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN AUTHORITIES

Highway authorities

1 Highway authorities: general provision.

- (1) The Minister is the highway authority for—
 - (a) any highway which is a trunk road;
 - [^{F1}(aa) any special road provided by him;]
 - (b) any highway as respects which an order made by him under any enactment expressly provides that he is to be the highway authority for it but does not direct that the highway is to be a trunk road;
 - (c) any highway (not falling within paragraph (a) above) transferred to him by an order under section 14 or 18 below;
 - (d) any other highway being a highway constructed by him, except where by virtue of section 2, 4(3) or 5(2) below or by virtue of some other enactment a local highway authority are the highway authority for it or where by means of an order made under section 14 or 18 below the highway is transferred to a local highway authority.
- (2) Outside Greater London the council of a county [^{F2}or metropolitan district] are the highway authority for all highways in the county [^{F2}or, as the case may be, the district], whether or not maintainable at the public expense, which are not highways for which under subsection (1) above the Minister is the highway authority.
- [^{F3}(2A) Transport for London is the highway authority for all GLA roads.]
- (3) [^{F4}The council] of a London borough or the Common Council are the highway authority for all highways in the borough or, as the case may be, in the City, whether or not maintainable at the public expense, which are not [^{F5}for the time being GLA

Status: Point in time view as at 24/11/2005.

Changes to legislation: Highways Act 1980, Cross Heading: Highway authorities is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

roads or]. . . ^{F6} highways for which under subsection (1) above the Minister is the highway authority.

[^{F7}(3A) In Wales the council of a county or county borough are the highway authority for all highways in the county or, as the case may be, the county borough, whether or not maintainable at the public expense, which are not highways for which the Minister is the highway authority under subsection (1) above.]

(4) Subsection (2) above is subject, as respects any highway outside Greater London for which the Minister is not the highway authority under subsection (1) above, to any provision of this Act, or of any order made under this or any other Act, by virtue of which a council other than the council of the county [^{F8}or, as the case may be, the metropolitan district] in which the highway is situated are the highway authority therefor.

[^{F9}(5) Subsection (3A) above is subject to any provision of this Act, or of any order made under this or any other Act, by virtue of which a council other than the Welsh council for the area in which the highway is situated are the highway authority.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(1)(aa) inserted (01.11.1991) by [New Roads and Street Works Act 1991](#) (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), s. 21(2); S.I. 1991/2288, art. 3, [Sch.](#)
- F2** Words in s. 1(2) inserted by [Local Government Act 1985](#) (c. 51, SIF 81:1), s. 8, [Sch. 4 para. 1\(a\)](#)
- F3** S. 1(2A) inserted (3.7.2000) by [1999 c. 29, s. 259\(2\)](#), (with [Sch. 12 para. 9\(1\)](#)); S.I. 2000/801, art. 2(2)(c), [Sch. Pt. 3](#)
- F4** Words in s. 1(3) substituted by [Local Government Act 1985](#) (c. 51, SIF 81:1), s. 8, [Sch. 4 Pt. I, para. 1\(b\)](#)
- F5** Words in s. 1(3) inserted (3.7.2000) by [1999 c. 29, ss. 259\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 12 para. 9\(1\)](#)); S.I. 2000/801, art. 2(2)(c), [Sch. Pt. 3](#)
- F6** Words in s. 1(3) repealed by [Local Government Act 1985](#) (c. 51, SIF 81:1), s. 102, [Sch. 17](#)
- F7** S. 1(3A) inserted (3.4.1995 for limited purposes, as mentioned in S.I. 1995/852 and 1.4.1996 otherwise, as mentioned in S.I. 1996/396) by [1994 c. 19, s. 22\(1\)](#), [Sch. 7 Pt. I para. 1\(2\)](#) (with s. 54(7), [Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\), 23\(2\)](#)); S.I. 1995/852, art. 4(1)(5), [Sch. 2](#) (with saving in art. 4(6)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, [Sch. 1](#).
- F8** Words in s. 1(4) inserted by [Local Government Act 1985](#) (c. 51, SIF 81:1), s. 8, [Sch. 4 para. 1\(c\)](#)
- F9** S. 1(5) added (3.4.1995 for limited purposes, as mentioned in S.I. 1995/852 and 1.4.1996 otherwise, as mentioned in S.I. 1996/396) by [1994 c. 19, s. 22\(1\)](#), [Sch. 7 Pt. I para. 1\(3\)](#) (with s. 54(7), [Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\), 23\(2\)](#)); S.I. 1995/852, art. 4(1)(5), [Sch. 2](#) (with saving in art. 4(6)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, [Sch. 1](#).

2 Highway authority for road which ceases to be a trunk road.

[^{F10}(1)]Where an order made under section 10 below directs that a trunk road shall cease to be a trunk road, then, as from the date specified in that behalf in the order, the following authority, that is to say—

- (a) where the road is situated outside Greater London, the council of the county [^{F11}or metropolitan district], and
- [^{F12}(b) where the road is situated in Greater London, Transport for London,] shall become the highway authority for the road.

Status: Point in time view as at 24/11/2005.

Changes to legislation: Highways Act 1980, Cross Heading: Highway authorities is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

[^{F10}(2) In the case of a special road provided by the Minister, subsection (1) above has effect subject to any provision of the order directing that the Minister shall continue to be the highway authority for the road.]

[^{F13}(3) Where Transport for London becomes the highway authority for a road by virtue of subsection (1) above, the road shall become a GLA road.]

Textual Amendments

F10 S. 2 renumbered 2(1) and s. 2(2) inserted (01.11.1991) by [New Roads and Street Works Act 1991](#) (c. 22, SIF 59, 108), s. **21(3)**; S.I. 1991/2288, art. 3, [Sch.](#)

F11 Words inserted by [Local Government Act 1985](#) (c. 51, SIF 81:1), s. 8, [Sch. 4 para. 2](#)

F12 S. 2(1)(b) substituted (3.7.2000) by [1999 c. 29, s. 259\(4\)](#) (with [Sch. 12 para. 9\(1\)](#)); S.I. 2000/801, art. 2(2)(c), [Sch. Pt. 3](#)

F13 S. 2(3) added (3.7.2000) by [1999 c. 29, ss. 259\(5\)](#), (with [Sch. 12 para. 9\(1\)](#)); S.I. 2000/801, art. 2(2)(c), [Sch. Pt. 3](#)

3 Highway authority for approaches to and parts of certain bridges.

(1) Where a bridge carries a highway for which the Minister is not the highway authority and part of the bridge is situated in one county and part in another the highway authority for the highway carried by the bridge and the approaches thereto is such one of the councils of those counties as may be agreed between them before such a day as the Minister may by order made by statutory instrument appoint or, in default of such agreement, as may be determined by the Minister.

(2) Where the Minister has made a determination under subsection (1) above the determination—

(a) may be varied at the request of the council of either of the counties concerned; and

(b) shall be varied to give effect to any request made jointly to the Minister by those councils;

and any such variation shall take effect on the 1st April falling not less than 3 months, and not more than 15 months, after the date on which the determination is varied.

(3) Where a bridge carries a highway for which the Minister is not the highway authority and subsection (1) above does not apply, but some part of one or more of the approaches to the bridge lies in a county different from the bridge itself, the highway authority for the whole of that approach or those approaches is the council of the county in which the bridge is situated.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the approaches to a bridge consist of so much of the highway or highways on either side of the bridge as is situated within 100 yards of either end of the bridge.

Status:

Point in time view as at 24/11/2005.

Changes to legislation:

Highways Act 1980, Cross Heading: Highway authorities is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 July 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.