



# New Roads and Street Works Act 1991

## 1991 CHAPTER 22

### PART III

#### STREET WORKS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

##### *Duties and liabilities of undertakers with respect to apparatus*

#### **81 Duty to maintain apparatus.**

- (1) An undertaker having apparatus in the street shall secure that the apparatus is maintained to the reasonable satisfaction of—
  - (a) the street authority, as regards the safety and convenience of persons using the street (having regard, in particular, to the needs of people with a disability), the structure of the street and the integrity of apparatus of the authority in the street, and
  - (b) any other relevant authority, as regards any land, structure or apparatus of theirs;and he shall afford reasonable facilities to each such authority for ascertaining whether it is so maintained.
- (2) For this purpose maintenance means the carrying out of such works as are necessary to keep the apparatus in efficient working condition (including periodic renewal where appropriate); and includes works rendered necessary by other works in the street, other than major highway, bridge or transport works (as to which, see sections 84 and 85 below).
- (3) If an undertaker fails to give a relevant authority the facilities required by this section—
  - (a) the street authority may in such cases as may be prescribed, and
  - (b) any other relevant authority may in any case,execute such works as are needed to enable them to inspect the apparatus in question, including any necessary breaking up or opening of the street.

*Status: Point in time view as at 25/02/2020. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, Section 81 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 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)*

- (4) If an undertaker fails to secure that apparatus is maintained to the reasonable satisfaction of a relevant authority in accordance with this section—
- (a) the street authority may in such cases as may be prescribed, and
  - (b) any other relevant authority may in any case,
- execute any emergency works needed in consequence of the failure.
- (5) The provisions of this Part apply in relation to works executed by a relevant authority under subsection (3) or (4) as if they were executed by the undertaker; and the undertaker shall indemnify the authority in respect of the costs reasonably incurred by them in executing the works.
- (6) A relevant authority who execute or propose to execute any works under subsection (3) or (4) shall give notice to any other relevant authority as soon as reasonably practicable stating the general nature of the works.
- (7) Nothing in subsection (3) or (4) shall be construed as excluding any other means of securing compliance with the duties imposed by subsection (1).

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Pt. 3 applied (with modifications) (9.4.2013) by [The Hinkley Point C \(Nuclear Generating Station\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/648\)](#), arts. 1, **9** (with arts. 48, 68, 79)
- C2** Pt. 3 restricted (6.8.2014) by [The Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/1873\)](#), art. 1, **Sch. 12 Pt. 2 para. 3** (with arts. 12, 13, Sch. 12 Pt. 1 paras. 6(3), 19, Pt. 2 paras. 3, 6, 13, Pt. 3 para. 5, Pt. 4 para. 4, Pt. 5 para. 4)
- C3** Pt. 3 modified (24.9.2014) by [The Thames Water Utilities Limited \(Thames Tideway Tunnel\) Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2384\)](#), arts. 1, **10(5)**, 11(4)
- C4** Pt. 3 applied (with modifications) (2.8.2016) by [The Midland Metro \(Wolverhampton City Centre Extension\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/684\)](#), arts. 1, **5(1)(2)** (with arts. 46, 47, Sch. 8 para. 2(7), Sch. 9 para. 4, Sch. 10 para. 12(2))
- C5** Pt. 3 modified (23.9.2016) by [The M4 Motorway \(Junctions 3 to 12\) \(Smart Motorway\) Development Consent Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/863\)](#), arts. 1, **9(2)**
- C6** Pt. 3 modified (29.3.2017) by [The Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Generating Station Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/330\)](#), arts. 1, **12(1)** (with art. 31)
- C7** S. 81: functions of a local authority made exercisable by, or by employees of, such person as may be authorised in that behalf by the local highway authority whose function it is (23.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/2106](#), art. 2, Sch. 2 paras. 1(o), **3(a)**
- C8** Ss. 54-106 applied (28.2.2013) by [The Rookery South \(Resource Recovery Facility\) Order 2011 2013 \(S.I. 2013/680\)](#), art. **10(3)**
- C9** Ss. 54-106 applied (9.4.2013) by [The Lancashire County Council \(Torrisholme to the M6 Link \(A683 Completion of Heysham to M6 Link Road\)\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/675\)](#), arts. 1, **9(2)**
- C10** Ss. 54-106 applied (15.6.2013) by [The Galloper Wind Farm Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1203\)](#), arts. 1, **13(3)** (with arts. 11, 12)
- C11** Ss. 54-106 applied (15.8.2013) by [The North Blyth Biomass Power Station Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1873\)](#), arts. 1, **9(3)** (with art. 30)
- C12** Ss. 54-106 applied (7.7.2014) by [The East Anglia ONE Offshore Wind Farm Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/1599\)](#), arts. 1, **8(3)** (with arts. 37, 38, Sch. 9 para. 19)
- C13** Ss. 54-106 applied (6.8.2014) by [The Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/1873\)](#), arts. 1, **15(3)** (with arts. 7(6), 12, 13, Sch. 12 Pt. 1 para. 19, Sch. 12 Pt. 2 para. 6, sch. 12 Pt. 3 para. 5, Sch. 12 Pt. 4 para. 4, Sch. 12 Pt. 5 para. 4)
- C14** Ss. 54-106 applied (24.9.2014) by [The Thames Water Utilities Limited \(Thames Tideway Tunnel\) Order 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2384\)](#), arts. 1, **10(4)**, 11(5) (with arts. 55, 56)

*Status: Point in time view as at 25/02/2020. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, Section 81 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 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)*

- C15** Ss. 54-106 applied (2.10.2014) by The North Killingholme (Generating Station) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/2434), arts. 1, **9(3)** (with arts. 6, 9(4), 13, Sch. 8 Pt. 1 para. 6, Sch. 8 Pt. 3 paras. 4(3), 6, 17, Sch. 8 Pt. 5 para. 9)
- C16** Ss. 54-106 applied (29.10.2014) by The Able Marine Energy Park Development Consent Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/2935), **art. 15(3)** (with arts. 30(4), 53)
- C17** Ss. 54-106 applied (28.11.2014) by The Walney Extension Offshore Wind Farm Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/2950), arts. 1, **10(3)** (with arts. 38, 39)
- C18** Ss. 54-106 applied (7.1.2015) by The Willington C Gas Pipeline Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/3328), arts. 1, **10(3)**
- C19** Ss. 54-106 applied (2.2.2015) by The Northumberland County Council (A1 – South East Northumberland Link Road (Morpeh Northern Bypass)) Development Consent Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/23), arts. 1, **9(2)**
- C20** Ss. 54-106 applied (26.2.2015) by The Cornwall Council (A30 Temple to Higher Carblake Improvement) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/147), arts. 1, **9(3)**
- C21** Ss. 54-106 applied (11.3.2015) by The Dogger Bank Creyke Beck Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/318), arts. 1, **13(3)** (with arts. 8(5), 35, 40, 41, **Sch. 12 Pt. 1 paras. 4, 9(2), 10, Pt. 2 paras. 4(2)(3), 19, Pt. 4 paras. 3, 4, 16**)
- C22** Ss. 54-106 applied (1.4.2015) by The Knottingley Power Plant Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/680), arts. 1, **10(3)** (with art. 7(6), Sch. 8 para. 10)
- C23** Ss. 54-106 applied (23.6.2015) by The Norfolk County Council (Norwich Northern Distributor Road (A1067 to A47(T))) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1347), arts. 1, **9(2)**
- C24** Ss. 54-106 applied (30.6.2015) by The Swansea Bay Tidal Generating Station Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1386), arts. 1, **9(3)** (with arts. 51, 53)
- C25** Ss. 54-106 applied (7.8.2015) by The Preesall Underground Gas Storage Facility Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1561), arts. 1, **9(3)** (with art. 44)
- C26** Ss. 54-106 applied (14.8.2015) by The Progress Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1570), arts. 1, **10(3)**
- C27** Ss. 54-106 applied (26.8.2015) by The Dogger Bank Teesside A and B Offshore Wind Farm Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1592), arts. 1, **14(3)** (with arts. 35, 40, 41)
- C28** Ss. 54-106 applied (19.11.2015) by The Ferrybridge Multifuel 2 Power Station Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1832), arts. 1(2), **9(3)**
- C29** Ss. 54-106 applied (30.12.2015) by The Port Talbot Steelworks Generating Station Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1984), arts. 1, **9(3)** (with art. 26)
- C30** Ss. 54-106 applied (with modifications) (25.3.2016) by The Thorpe Marsh Gas Pipeline Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/297), arts. 1, **12(3)** (with art. 39)
- C31** Ss. 54-106 applied (2.8.2016) by The Meaford Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/779), arts. 1, **11(3)**
- C32** Ss. 54-106 applied (10.8.2016) by The York Potash Harbour Facilities Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/772), arts. 1, **10(3)** (with arts. 35, 36)
- C33** Ss. 54-106 applied (19.8.2016) by The North Wales Wind Farms Connection Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/818), arts. 1, **10(5)** (with art. 35)
- C34** Ss. 54-106 applied (with modifications) (15.9.2016) by The River Humber Gas Pipeline Replacement Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/853), arts. 1, **11(3)** (with art. 43)
- C35** Ss. 54-106 applied (23.9.2016) by The M4 Motorway (Junctions 3 to 12) (Smart Motorway) Development Consent Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/863), arts. 1, **11(3)**
- C36** Ss. 54-106 applied (27.9.2016) by The Triton Knoll Electrical System Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/880), arts. 1(2), **8(3)** (with arts. 39, 40, Sch. 8 para. 19)
- C37** Ss. 54-106 applied (18.3.2017) by The North London Heat and Power Generating Station Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/215), arts. 1, **10(3)**
- C38** Ss. 54-106 applied (29.3.2017) by The Glyn Rhonwy Pumped Storage Generating Station Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/330), arts. 1, **10(3)** (with art. 31)
- C39** Ss. 54-106 applied (5.4.2017) by The Keuper Underground Gas Storage Facility Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/433), arts. 1, **10(4)**

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 25/02/2020. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

**Changes to legislation:** *New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, Section 81 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 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)*

---

- C40** Ss. 54-106 applied (8.8.2017) by [The Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/766\)](#), arts. 1, **10(3)**
- C41** Ss. 54-106 applied (29.8.2017) by [The East Anglia THREE Offshore Wind Farm Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/826\)](#), arts. 1, **8(3)** (with arts. 5(9), 36, 37, Sch. 8 para. 34)
- C42** Ss. 54-106 applied (12.10.2018) by [The Eggborough Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1020\)](#), arts. 1, **8(3)** (with arts. 6, 42)
- C43** Ss. 54-106 applied (3.4.2019) by [The Millbrook Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/578\)](#), arts. 1, **9(3)**
- C44** Ss. 54-106 applied (10.10.2019) by [The Abergelli Power Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1268\)](#), arts. 1, **9(3)**
- C45** Ss. 54-106 applied (25.10.2019) by [The Drax Power \(Generating Stations\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1315\)](#), arts. 1, **9(3)**

---

#### **Commencement Information**

- II** S. 81 wholly in force: s. 81(1)(2)(5)-(7) in force at 1.1.1993, see s. 170(1) and S.I. 1992/2984, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**; s. 81(3)(4) in force at 14.7.1992 by S.I. 1992/1686, art. 3, **Sch.**

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 25/02/2020. This version of this provision has been superseded.

**Changes to legislation:**

New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, Section 81 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 01 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.