

# Water Industry Act 1991

### **1991 CHAPTER 56**

#### PART II

#### APPOINTMENTMENT AND REGULATION OF UNDERTAKERS

#### **CHAPTER III**

#### PROTECTION OF CUSTOMERS ETC..

Provisions with respect to competition

## 32 Duty to refer merger of water or sewerage undertakings.

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section and to section 33 below, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to make a merger reference to the Monopolies Commission if it appears to him that it is or may be the fact—
  - (a) that arrangements are in progress which, if carried into effect, will result in a merger of any two or more water enterprises; or
  - (b) that such a merger has taken place otherwise than as a result of the carrying into effect of arrangements that have been the subject of a reference by virtue of paragraph (a) above.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall not make a merger reference under this section in respect of any actual or prospective merger of two or more water enterprises if it appears to him that the take over from which the merger has resulted or, as the case may be, would result was initiated before 9 a.m. on 11th January 1989.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above a merger of two or more enterprises results from a take over initiated before 9 a.m. on 11th January 1989 if—
  - (a) the Secretary of State or the Director General of Fair Trading was given notice before that time on that date of the material facts about the proposed arrangements or transactions resulting in the merger; or

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Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, Section 32 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 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)

- (b) the merger results exclusively from the acceptance of offers to acquire shares in a body corporate and those offers—
  - (i) were all made before that time on that date; or
  - (ii) in so far as they were not so made, consist in offers made, by the same person and in respect of the same shares, in substitution for offers made before that time on that date.

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