



Environment Act 1995

1995 CHAPTER 25

PART I

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND THE SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

CHAPTER I

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Transfer of functions, property etc. to the Agency

4 Principal aim and objectives of the Agency.

- (1) It shall be the principal aim of the Agency (subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Act or any other enactment and taking into account any likely costs) in discharging its functions so to protect or enhance the environment, taken as a whole, as to make the contribution towards attaining the objective of achieving sustainable development mentioned in subsection (3) below.
- (2) The [^{F1}Secretary of State] shall from time to time give guidance to the Agency with respect to objectives which [^{F2}the Secretary of State considers] it appropriate for the Agency to pursue in the discharge of its functions.
- (3) The guidance given under subsection (2) above must include guidance with respect to the contribution which, having regard to the Agency's responsibilities and resources, the [^{F3}Secretary of State considers] it appropriate for the Agency to make, by the discharge of its functions, towards attaining the objective of achieving sustainable development.
- (4) In discharging its functions, the Agency shall have regard to guidance given under this section.
- (5) The power to give guidance to the Agency under this section shall only be exercisable [^{F4}after consultation with—

Status: Point in time view as at 28/04/2022.

Changes to legislation: Environment Act 1995, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 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. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) the Agency,
 - (b) Natural England, and
 - (c) such other persons as] the [^{F5}Secretary of State considers] it appropriate to consult in relation to the guidance in question.
- (6) A draft of any guidance proposed to be given under this section shall be laid before each House of Parliament and the guidance shall not be given until after the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which the draft was so laid or, if the draft is laid on different days, the later of the two days.
- (7) If, within the period mentioned in subsection (6) above, either House resolves that the guidance, the draft of which was laid before it, should not be given, the [^{F6}Secretary of State] shall not give that guidance.
- (8) In reckoning any period of 40 days for the purposes of subsection (6) or (7) above, no account shall be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.
- (9) The [^{F7}Secretary of State] shall arrange for any guidance given under this section to be published in such manner as [^{F8}the Secretary of State considers] appropriate.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 4(2) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 362(2)(a)** (with Sch. 7)
- F2** Words in s. 4(2) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 362(2)(b)** (with Sch. 7)
- F3** Words in s. 4(3) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 362(3)** (with Sch. 7)
- F4** Words in s. 4(5) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(c. 16\)](#), s. 107, **Sch. 11 para. 140**; S.I. 2006/2541, art. 2 (with Sch.)
- F5** Words in s. 4(5)(c) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 362(3)** (with Sch. 7)
- F6** Words in s. 4(7) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 362(4)** (with Sch. 7)
- F7** Words in s. 4(9) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 362(5)(a)** (with Sch. 7)
- F8** Words in s. 4(9) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 362(5)(b)** (with Sch. 7)

Status:

Point in time view as at 28/04/2022.

Changes to legislation:

Environment Act 1995, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 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.