



# Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

1960 CHAPTER 67 8 and 9 Eliz 2

## 1 Admission of public to meetings of local authorities and other bodies.

- [<sup>F1</sup>(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, any meeting of a <sup>F2</sup>... body exercising public functions, being [<sup>F3</sup>a body] to which this Act applies, shall be open to the public.]
- (2) [<sup>F4</sup>A body may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting][<sup>F4</sup>Where a meeting is open to the public, a body may, by resolution exclude the public from the meeting] (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; [<sup>F5</sup>and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies].
- (3) A body may under subsection (2) above treat the need to receive or consider recommendations or advice from sources other than members, committees or sub-committees of the body as a special reason why publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest, without regard to the subject or purport of the recommendations or advice; but the making by this subsection of express provision for that case shall not be taken to restrict the generality of subsection (2) above in relation to other cases (including in particular cases where the report of a committee or sub-committee of the body is of a confidential nature).
- [<sup>F6</sup>(3A) Where the public are excluded from a meeting of a relevant local government body under subsection (2), the body may also prevent any person from reporting on the meeting using methods—
- (a) which can be used without that person's presence at the meeting, and
  - (b) which enable persons not present at the meeting to see or hear the proceedings at the meeting as it takes place or later.]
- (4) [<sup>F7</sup>Where a meeting of a body is required by this Act to be open to the public during the proceedings or any part of them, the following provisions shall apply, that is to say,—][<sup>F7</sup>The following provisions apply in relation to a meeting of a body—]

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- (a) [<sup>F8</sup>public notice of the time of the meeting and, if the meeting is to be open to the public, how to access the meeting, must be given by publishing it electronically at least three clear days before the meeting or, if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, then as soon as reasonably practicable;]
- (b) [<sup>F8</sup>the agenda for the meeting as supplied to members of the body must also be published electronically in advance of the meeting (but excluding, if thought fit, any relevant item), together with such further statements or particulars, if any, as are necessary to indicate the nature of the items included or, if thought fit in the case of any item, any reports or other documents supplied to members of the body in connection with the item;]
- (c) while the meeting is open to the public, the body shall not have power to exclude members of the public from the meeting [<sup>F9</sup>and duly accredited representatives of newspapers attending for the purpose of reporting the proceedings for those newspapers shall, so far as practicable, be afforded reasonable facilities for taking their report and, unless the meeting is held in premises not belonging to the body or not on the telephone, for telephoning the report at their own expense ]<sup>F10</sup>;
- (d) in the case of a meeting of a relevant local government body, while the meeting is open to the public any person attending is to be permitted to report on the meeting.]

[<sup>F11</sup>(4A) Subsection (4)(d) does not require a relevant local government body to permit oral reporting or oral commentary on a meeting as it takes place if the person reporting or providing the commentary is present at the meeting.]

[<sup>F12</sup>(4B) In subsection (4), “relevant item” means—

- (a) where a meeting or part of a meeting is not likely to be open to the public by virtue of section 1(2), an item that would be considered while the meeting is not open to the public;
- (b) where a meeting is not to be open to the public other than by virtue of section 1(2), an item which, in the opinion of the proper officer, would have been likely, had section 1(1) applied, to have been considered while the meeting was not open to the public by virtue of section 1(2).]

(5) [<sup>F13</sup>Where a meeting of a body is required by this Act to be open to the public during the proceedings or any part of them, and there is supplied to a member of the public attending the meeting, or in pursuance of paragraph (b) of subsection (4) above there is supplied for the benefit of a newspaper, any such copy of the agenda as is mentioned in that paragraph, with or without further statements or particulars for the purpose of indicating the nature of any item included in the agenda, the publication thereby][<sup>F13</sup>Where a document is published under subsection (4), the publication thereby] of any defamatory matter contained in the agenda or in the further statements or particulars shall be privileged, unless the publication is proved to be made with malice.

(6) When a body to which this Act applies resolves itself into committee, the proceedings in committee shall for the purposes of this Act be treated as forming part of the proceedings of the body at the meeting.

[<sup>F14</sup>(7) Any reference in this section to a newspaper shall apply also to a news agency which systematically carries on the business of selling and supplying reports or information to newspapers, and to any organisation which is systematically engaged in collecting news for sound or television broadcasts [<sup>F15</sup>or for programme services (within the

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meaning of the Broadcasting Act 1990) other than sound or television broadcasting services]]<sup>F16</sup>or, in the case of a relevant local government body, for use in electronic or any other format to provide news to the public by means of the internet]; <sup>F17</sup>but nothing in this section]]<sup>F17</sup>but, subject to subsection (4)(d), nothing in this section] shall require a body to permit the taking of photographs of any proceedings, or the use of any means to enable persons not present to see or hear any proceedings (whether at the time or later), or the making of any oral report on any proceedings as they take place.]

(8) The provisions of this section shall be without prejudice to any power of exclusion to suppress or prevent disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour at a meeting.

<sup>F18</sup>(9) In this Act—

“relevant local government body” means—

- (a) the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
- (b) a parish council; or
- (c) a parish meeting of a parish which does not have a separate parish council;

“reporting” means—

- (a) filming, photographing or making an audio recording of proceedings at a meeting;
- (b) using any other means for enabling persons not present to see or hear proceedings at a meeting as it takes place or later; or
- (c) reporting or providing commentary on proceedings at a meeting, orally or in writing, so that the report or commentary is available as the meeting takes place or later to persons not present.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(1) omitted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(a)** (with reg. 19)
- F2** Words repealed by [Local Government \(Access to Information\) Act 1985 \(c. 43, SIF 81:1, 2\)](#), s. 3, [Sch. 2 para. 4\(2\)](#), **Sch. 3**
- F3** Words substituted by [Local Government \(Access to Information\) Act 1985 \(c. 43, SIF 81:1, 2\)](#), s. 3, [Sch. 2 para. 4\(2\)](#)
- F4** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(b)(i)** (with reg. 19)
- F5** Words in s. 1(2) omitted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(b)(ii)** (with reg. 19)
- F6** S. 1(3A) inserted (E.W.) (6.8.2014) by [The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2095\)](#), **regs. 1, 3(2)**
- F7** Words in s. 1(4) substituted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(c)(i)** (with reg. 19)
- F8** S. 1(4)(a)(b) substituted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(c)(ii)** (with reg. 19)
- F9** Words in s. 1(4)(c) omitted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(c)(iii)** (with reg. 19)
- F10** S. 1(4)(d) inserted (E.W.) (6.8.2014) by [The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2095\)](#), **regs. 1, 3(3)**
- F11** S. 1(4A) inserted (E.W.) (6.8.2014) by [The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2095\)](#), **regs. 1, 3(4)**

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- F12** S. 1(4B) inserted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(d)** (with reg. 19)
- F13** Words in s. 1(5) substituted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(e)** (with reg. 19)
- F14** S. 1(7) omitted (temp.) (W.) (22.4.2020) by virtue of [The Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/442\)](#), regs. 1(3), **20(1)(f)** (with reg. 19)
- F15** Words substituted by [Broadcasting Act 1990 \(c. 42, SIF 96\)](#), ss. 4(6), 87(6), 203(1), **Sch. 20 para. 5** ([Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984 \(c. 46, SIF 96\)](#), s. 57(1), **Sch. 5 para. 9**, which inserted new words after “broadcasts”, repealed by [Broadcasting Act 1990 \(c. 42, SIF 96\)](#), ss. 4(6), 87(6), 134, 203(3) (4), [Sch. 12 Pt. II para. 1](#) , [Sch. 21](#), **Sch. 22 para. 4**, the repeal being in force 1.1.1991 subject to the provisions of art. 3 of [S.I. 1990/2347](#) )
- F16** Words in s. 1(7) inserted (E.W.) (6.8.2014) by [The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2095\)](#), **regs. 1, 3(5)(a)**
- F17** Words in s. 1(7) substituted (E.W.) (6.8.2014) by [The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2095\)](#), **regs. 1, 3(5)(b)**
- F18** S. 1(9) inserted (E.W.) (6.8.2014) by [The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 \(S.I. 2014/2095\)](#), **regs. 1, 3(6)**

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

- C1** S. 1 extended (E.W.) by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\)](#) , **s. 100(2)(3)**
- C2** S. 1 modified (E.) (4.4.2020) by [The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels \(Coronavirus\) \(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2020 \(S.I. 2020/392\)](#), regs. 1, **13** (with reg. 2(4))
- C3** S. 1(2) excluded by [Water \(Fluoridation\) Act 1985 \(c. 63, SIF 130\)](#) , **s. 4(7)**
- C4** S. 1(2) excluded (E.W.) (1.12.1991) by [Water Industry Act 1991 \(c. 56, SIF 130\)](#) , ss. 89(7) , 91 , **223(2)** , **Sch. 7 para. 3(2)** , (with ss. 82(3), 186(1), 219(3), 222(1), [Sch. 14 para. 6](#))
- C5** S. 1(4)(b) amended (E.W.) by [Local Government Act 1972 \(c. 70\)](#) , **s. 160(2)**
- C6** S. 1(4)(b) restricted (1.4.2005) by [Public Audit \(Wales\) Act 2004 \(c. 23\)](#) , **s. 24(5)(6)73** ; [S.I. 2005/558](#) , art. 2 , [Sch. 1](#)

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