



Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002

2002 asp 3

PART 3

SCOTTISH WATER

Establishment

20 Scottish Water

- (1) There is established a body corporate to be known as Scottish Water, with the functions conferred on it by or under this Act and any other enactment.
- (2) Schedule 3 makes further provision about the status, constitution, proceedings etc. of Scottish Water.

21 Transfer of functions from new water and sewerage authorities

The functions of each of the new water and sewerage authorities are transferred to Scottish Water.

22 Transfer of property and liabilities

- (1) The property and liabilities to which the new water and sewerage authorities are entitled or subject are transferred to Scottish Water.
- (2) Subsection (1) has effect in relation to property and liabilities to which it applies despite any provision (of whatever nature) which would otherwise prevent, penalise or restrict the transfer of the property or liabilities.

23 Transfer of staff

The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (S.I.1981/1794) apply to the transfer of functions by section 21, whether or not they would so apply apart from this section.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

24 Dissolution of new water and sewerage authorities etc.

- (1) The new water and sewerage authorities are dissolved on such date as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.
- (2) Different dates may be specified in relation to different such authorities.
- (3) Without prejudice to section 69, the Scottish Ministers may by order make such incidental, supplemental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as they think necessary or expedient in consequence of or in connection with—
 - (a) the establishment of Scottish Water,
 - (b) the transfer of functions, property, liabilities and staff of the new water and sewerage authorities,
 - (c) the dissolution of those authorities.

General powers

25 General powers

- (1) Scottish Water may engage in any activity (whether in Scotland or elsewhere) which it considers is not inconsistent with the economic, efficient and effective exercise of its core functions (within the meaning of section 70(2)).

[^{F1}(1A) Subsection (1) extends to allowing Scottish Water to engage in any activity that it considers will assist in the development of the value of Scotland's water resources (as construed in accordance with section 1 of the Water Resources (Scotland) Act 2013).]

- (2) Scottish Water may do anything (whether in Scotland or elsewhere) which it considers is necessary or expedient for the purpose of or in connection with its functions (including any activity in which it engages by virtue of subsection (1)).
- (3) The power in subsection (2) includes, in particular, power to—
 - (a) form or promote (whether alone or with others) companies [^{F2}under the Companies Act 2006] ,
 - (b) subscribe for share or loan capital of any person,
 - (c) guarantee the discharge of any obligation (whether financial or not) of any person,
 - (d) form partnerships, enter into arrangements or agreements and co-operate in any way with any person,
 - (e) enter into a contract with any person for the provision or making available of assets or services, or both (whether or not together with goods) whether by Scottish Water or by that person.
- (4) Where—
 - (a) under subsection (2), Scottish Water enters into a contract such as is referred to in subsection (3)(e) (a “provision contract”), and
 - (b) in connection with the provision contract, a person (the “financier”) makes a loan to, or provides any other form of finance for, a party to the provision contract other than Scottish Water,

the power in subsection (2) also includes power to enter into a contract with the financier, or any insurer of or trustee for the financier, in connection with the provision contract.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) In subsection (3)(e), “assets” means assets of any description (whether tangible or intangible), including (in particular) land, buildings, roads, works, plant, machinery, vehicles, vessels, apparatus, equipment and computer software.
- (6) This section is without prejudice to any power otherwise exercisable by Scottish Water but does not enable Scottish Water—
 - (a) to do anything in contravention of any express prohibition, restriction or limitation on its powers which is contained in any other enactment,
 - (b) to raise money (whether by borrowing or otherwise) in a manner which is not authorised apart from this section.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 25(1A) inserted (21.12.2013) by [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(asp 5\)](#), **ss. 23**, 56(1)(2); [S.S.I. 2013/342](#), art. 2(a)
- F2** Words in s. 25(3)(a) substituted (1.10.2009) by [The Companies Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1941\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 1 para. 200(2)** (with art. 10)

Codes of practice

26 Customer standards code

- (1) In relation to services provided in the exercise of its core functions, Scottish Water must prepare and submit to the [^{F3}Commission] a code of practice (a “customer standards code”) making provision—
 - (a) as to its standards of performance in providing services to [^{F4}persons whose premises are connected to the public water supply system or the public sewerage system (within the meaning of Part 2 of the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 3)) or both] ,
 - (b) for procedures for dealing with complaints by [^{F5}those persons or persons whose premises have been, or might reasonably become, connected to either or both of those systems] ,
 - (c) as respects the circumstances in which it will pay compensation if or in so far as those standards are not attained,
 - (d) as respects such matters as are incidental to the provision made under paragraphs (a) to (c), and such supplemental matters (if any) as it thinks fit.

^{F6}(2)

- (3) Subject to subsection (1), Scottish Water may from time to time—
 - (a) vary, or
 - (b) revoke and replace,its customer standards code, and must submit the varied or new code to the [^{F3}Commission] .
- (4) A customer standards code submitted to the [^{F3}Commission] under subsection (1) or (3) comes into force only when it is approved in accordance with section 27.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) Scottish Water must endeavour to comply with its approved customer standards code; but contravention of that code does not of itself give rise to any criminal or civil liability.
- (6) Scottish Water must publish the approved customer standards code and provide a copy of the code to any person who requests it.
- (7) The [F7Commission] —
- (a) must monitor the compliance by Scottish Water with its approved customer standards code,
 - (b) may advise the Scottish Ministers on such compliance, and
 - (c) may require Scottish Water to review its customer standards code, or any provision of it, in such respects as the [F7Commission] may specify.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in s. 26(1)-(4) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\), s. 37\(2\), sch. 5 para. 7\(1\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F4** Words in s. 26(1)(a) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\), s. 37\(2\), sch. 5 para. 7\(4\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F5** Words in s. 26(1)(b) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\), s. 37\(2\), sch. 5 para. 7\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F6** S. 26(2) repealed (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\), s. 37\(2\), sch. 5 para. 7\(4\)\(b\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F7** Words in s. 26(7) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\), s. 37\(2\), sch. 5 para. 7\(1\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2

27 Approval of customer standards code

- (1) The [F8Commission] may, after consulting [F9every water services provider and sewerage services provider and][F10Consumer Scotland], approve a customer standards code submitted under section 26(1) or (3)—
- (a) without modifications, or
 - (b) with such modifications as are agreed by the [F8Commission] and Scottish Water.
- (2) Where—
- (a) the [F8Commission] is not prepared to give approval under subsection (1)(a), and
 - (b) Scottish Water does not agree to some or all of the modifications proposed by the [F8Commission] under subsection (1)(b),
- the [F8Commission] must send the code (with any modifications to it agreed by the [F8Commission] and Scottish Water) to the Scottish Ministers.
- (3) Where 3 months have elapsed since the [F8Commission] has received a customer standards code by virtue of section 26(1) or (3) and the [F8Commission] has neither—
- (a) given approval under subsection (1) of this section, nor
 - (b) sent the scheme to the Scottish Ministers under subsection (2) of this section,
- Scottish Water may require the [F8Commission] to send it to the Scottish Ministers.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

- (4) The Scottish Ministers may, after consulting [^{F11}every water services provider and sewerage services provider and][^{F12}Consumer Scotland], approve a code sent to them under subsection (2) or (3)—
 - (a) without modifications or further modifications, or
 - (b) with such modifications as, after consulting Scottish Water and the [^{F8}Commission] , they think fit.
- (5) Where the [^{F8}Commission] approves a customer standards code under subsection (1), the [^{F8}Commission] must send a copy of the code as so approved to the Scottish Ministers.
- (6) Where the Scottish Ministers approve a customer standards code under subsection (4), they must send a copy of the code as so approved to the [^{F8}Commission].

Textual Amendments

- F8** Words in s. 27 substituted (1.7.2005) by Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 3), s. 37(2), **sch. 5 para. 7(1)** (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F9** Words in s. 27(1) inserted (15.8.2011) by Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 8), **ss. 130(2)(a)**, 134(7)(8); S.S.I. 2011/278, art. 2(b)
- F10** Words in s. 27(1) substituted (10.11.2022) by The Consumer Scotland (Transfer of Functions) Regulations 2022 (S.S.I. 2022/296), reg. 1(1), **sch. para. 1(4)(a)** (with reg. 3)
- F11** Words in s. 27(4) inserted (15.8.2011) by Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 8), **ss. 130(2)(b)**, 134(7)(8); S.S.I. 2011/278, art. 2(b)
- F12** Words in s. 27(4) substituted (10.11.2022) by The Consumer Scotland (Transfer of Functions) Regulations 2022 (S.S.I. 2022/296), reg. 1(1), **sch. para. 1(4)(b)** (with reg. 3)

28 Consultation code

- (1) Scottish Water must prepare and submit to the Scottish Ministers a code of practice (a “consultation code”) making provision as to the consultation which it will carry out in relation to—
 - (a) proposals for, and
 - (b) the undertaking of,any significant activity in the exercise of its core functions.
- (2) The consultation code must, in particular, make provision—
 - (a) as to consultation with persons who live, work or carry on business in any area significantly affected by such an activity, or who represent the interests of such persons,
 - (b) as to the manner of such consultation, the information to be provided to consultees and the time to be allowed for consultees to express views,
 - (c) for Scottish Water to have regard to the views of the persons consulted in pursuance of the code,and may make different provision in relation to different cases or descriptions of case.
- (3) Before submitting the consultation code to the Scottish Ministers, Scottish Water—
 - (a) must consult [^{F13}every water services provider and sewerage services provider and][^{F14}Consumer Scotland] on the code and have regard to any comments on it made by [^{F13}any such provider or][^{F14}Consumer Scotland], and

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- (b) may adjust the code in light of those comments.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may approve the consultation code—
 - (a) without modifications, or
 - (b) with such modifications as, after consulting Scottish Water, they think fit.
- (5) A consultation code submitted to the Scottish Ministers under subsection (1) comes into force only when it is approved in accordance with subsection (4).
- (6) Scottish Water must publish the approved consultation code and provide a copy of the code to any person who requests it.
- (7) Scottish Water must endeavour to comply with the approved consultation code; but contravention of the code does not of itself give rise to any criminal or civil liability.
- (8) Subject to subsection (1), Scottish Water may from time to time—
 - (a) vary, or
 - (b) revoke or replace,
 the consultation code; and this section applies to the varied or new code as it does to the original code.

Textual Amendments

- F13** Words in s. 28(3)(a) inserted (15.8.2011) by [Public Services Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 8\)](#), **ss. 130(3), 134(7)(8)**; S.S.I. 2011/278, art. 2(b)
- F14** Words in s. 28(3)(a) substituted (10.11.2022) by [The Consumer Scotland \(Transfer of Functions\) Regulations 2022 \(S.S.I. 2022/296\)](#), reg. 1(1), **sch. para. 1(5)** (with reg. 3)

Charges

[^{F15}29] Charges for goods and services

- (1) Scottish Water may—
 - (a) demand and recover charges for any services provided by it in the exercise of its core functions, and
 - (b) fix, demand and recover charges for any goods supplied or services provided in exercise of its other functions.
- (2) Scottish Water is to exercise the power conferred by subsection (1)(a) in accordance with—
 - (a) a charges scheme, or
 - (b) a departure from a charges scheme for which consent has been given under section 29E.
- (3) The power conferred by subsection (1)(b) is exercisable by or in accordance with an agreement with the person to be charged.
- (4) Subsections (1) to (3) are subject to sections 9A and 47 of the 1980 Act (which provide for no charge for water in certain circumstances).

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F15 Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(1), 37(2)** (with [s. 36](#)); [S.S.I. 2005/351](#), [art. 2](#), [sch. 2](#)

29A Charges schemes

- (1) Scottish Water must make a scheme (referred to in this Act as a “charges scheme”) which fixes the charges to be paid for services provided by Scottish Water in the exercise of its core functions.
- (2) A charges scheme must be made by reference to a determination made under section 29B.
- (3) In particular, the scheme must not fix in any case a charge exceeding any maximum charge applying to the case by virtue of the determination.
- (4) A charges scheme may make provision with respect to the times and methods of payment of the charges fixed by the scheme.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers and the Commission must provide Scottish Water with such information as it reasonably requires for the purposes of making a charges scheme.
- (6) Scottish Water must send a charges scheme to the Commission for approval by such date as the Scottish Ministers may direct.
- (7) The Commission may approve a charges scheme with or without modifications.
- (8) If the Commission approves a charges scheme with modifications, it must give its reasons for doing so.
- (9) When a charges scheme is approved by the Commission, Scottish Water must—
 - (a) make arrangements for allowing any person to—
 - (i) inspect the scheme at any reasonable time,
 - (ii) obtain a copy of the scheme or part of it on payment of such reasonable fee (if any) as Scottish Water may determine, and
 - (b) publicise those arrangements and publish a summary of the scheme.
- (10) Following approval of a charges scheme by the Commission, the scheme comes into effect on such date as is specified in the scheme.

Textual Amendments

F15 Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(1), 37(2)** (with [s. 36](#)); [S.S.I. 2005/351](#), [art. 2](#), [sch. 2](#)

29B Determination of maximum charges

- (1) The Commission must—
 - (a) determine in writing maximum amounts of charges by reference to which a charges scheme is to be made, and

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- (b) send the determination to Scottish Water by such time as the Scottish Ministers may specify.
- (2) Maximum amounts determined under subsection (1)(a) apply in relation to such period as the Scottish Ministers may specify.
- (3) A determination made under subsection (1)(a) may make different provision for different cases or categories of case.
- (4) Before making a determination under subsection (1)(a), the Commission—
 - (a) must send a draft determination to—
 - (i) the Scottish Ministers,
 - (ii) Scottish Water, ^{F16}...
 - ^{F17}(ia) every water services provider and sewerage services provider, and]
 - (iii) [^{F18}Consumer Scotland],
 - (b) must—
 - (i) publish the draft determination, and
 - (ii) invite (by way of advertisement or otherwise) representations as regards the draft determination by such time as the Commission may specify, and
 - (c) must have regard to any representations made to the Commission by virtue of paragraph (a) or (b).
- (5) The Scottish Ministers and Scottish Water must provide the Commission with such information as it reasonably requires for the purposes of making a determination under subsection (1)(a).

Textual Amendments

- F15** Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), ss. [21\(1\)](#), [37\(2\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F16** Word in s. 29B(4)(a) repealed (15.8.2011) by [Public Services Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 8\)](#), ss. [130\(4\)\(a\)](#), [134\(7\)\(8\)](#); S.S.I. 2011/278, art. 2(b)
- F17** S. 29B(4)(ia) inserted (15.8.2011) by [Public Services Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 8\)](#), ss. [130\(4\)\(b\)](#), [134\(7\)\(8\)](#); S.S.I. 2011/278, art. 2(b)
- F18** Words in s. 29B(4)(a)(iii) substituted (10.11.2022) by [The Consumer Scotland \(Transfer of Functions\) Regulations 2022 \(S.S.I. 2022/296\)](#), reg. 1(1), [sch. para. 1\(6\)](#) (with reg. 3)

29C Exercise of functions regarding charges

- (1) Scottish Water must exercise its functions under sections 29A and 29F for the purposes of ensuring that subsections (4) and (5) are complied with.
- (2) The Commission must—
 - (a) exercise its functions under sections 29A, 29B and 29F for the purposes of ensuring that subsections (4) and (5) are complied with,
 - (b) exercise its functions under section 29E for the purposes of ensuring that subsection (5) is complied with, and
 - (c) in exercising its functions under those sections, have regard to—
 - (i) any guidance issued to Scottish Water by the Scottish Ministers, and
 - (ii) any directions given to Scottish Water under section 44 or 56,

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so far as relevant in relation to charges schemes.

- (3) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) provide the Commission with such information as it may require for the purpose of subsection (2)(c); and
 - (b) in particular, send to the Commission copies of any guidance and directions referred to in that subsection when issued or given.
- (4) This subsection is complied with if (so far as is consistent with compliance with subsection (5)) a charges scheme gives effect to any statement issued under section 29D.
- (5) This subsection is complied with if (so far as is consistent with compliance with section 41(1)) Scottish Water's receipts from the aggregate of—
 - (a) its income from charges for services provided in the exercise of its core functions, and
 - (b) the amount of—
 - (i) any grants paid to it under subsection (1) of section 42,
 - (ii) money it may borrow under subsection (3) of that section, and
 - (iii) any other resources reasonably available to it,for the purposes of the exercise of those functions,is not less than sufficient to meet the expenditure required for the effective exercise of those functions.

Textual Amendments

F15 Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), ss. [21\(1\)](#), [37\(2\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2

29D Statements regarding charges

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must—
 - (a) in respect of a period specified under section 29B(2), and
 - (b) by reference to such economic or other factors as they consider relevant,issue to Scottish Water and the Commission a statement of policy regarding charges under a charges scheme.
- (2) A statement under subsection (1) is to include provision with respect to harmonisation of charges (that is to say, provision with a view to ensuring that a charges scheme does not fix different charges for similar services provided to persons of a similar category).
- (3) A statement under subsection (1) may (so far as is consistent with the provision described in subsection (2)) include provision with respect to—
 - (a) the funding of particular services by charges for services as a whole,
 - (b) the proportion of the amount of income requiring to be raised by charges fixed by a charges scheme to be contributed by each category of person to whom Scottish Water provides services,
 - (c) the fixing of levels of charges by reference to—
 - (i) different categories of person to whom Scottish Water provides services, or

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- (ii) liability for council tax under Part II (Council tax: Scotland) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c. 14), and
- (d) such other matters as the Scottish Ministers think fit.
- (4) In preparing a statement under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must have regard to Scottish Water's duty under section 51(1).
- (5) Before issuing a statement under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
 - (a) the Commission,
 - [^{F19}(aa) every water services provider and sewerage services provider,]
 - (b) [^{F20}Consumer Scotland],
 - (c) Scottish Water.

Textual Amendments

- F15** Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), ss. [21\(1\)](#), [37\(2\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F19** S. 29D(5)(aa) inserted (15.8.2011) by [Public Services Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 8\)](#), ss. [130\(5\)](#), [134\(7\)\(8\)](#); S.S.I. 2011/278, art. 2(b)
- F20** Words in s. 29D(5)(b) substituted (10.11.2022) by [The Consumer Scotland \(Transfer of Functions\) Regulations 2022 \(S.S.I. 2022/296\)](#), reg. 1(1), sch. para. 1(7) (with reg. 3)

29E Departure from certain charges

- (1) Scottish Water may, in any particular case, apply to the Commission for its consent to depart from a charges scheme in respect of charges to be paid for services provided to a water services or sewerage services provider.
- (2) The Commission may consent to a departure from a charges scheme only if satisfied that—
 - (a) a customer of the provider has done, or has agreed to, something which reduces or increases the costs incurred by Scottish Water in providing the services to the provider, and
 - (b) the departure is otherwise justified in the circumstances of the case.
- (3) Where the Commission consents to a departure, it may do so subject to such reasonable conditions as it considers are appropriate in the case.
- (4) Where the Commission withholds its consent to a departure, it must give its reasons for doing so.
- (5) The Commission is to make provision in writing which specifies—
 - (a) the procedure to be followed for the purposes of determining applications made under subsection (1), and
 - (b) any matters to be taken into account and the criteria to be applied in—
 - (i) determining whether a departure from a charges scheme is justified, and
 - (ii) the fixing, by Scottish Water, of lower or (as the case may be) higher charges to be paid for the services in question where it is determined that a departure is justified.
- (6) The Commission may from time to time revise the provision.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

- (7) In preparing or revising the provision, the Commission must consult—
- (a) the Scottish Ministers and Scottish Water, and
 - (b) such other persons as it thinks fit,
- as to the procedure to be followed in considering applications made under subsection (1).
- (8) The Commission must send a copy of the provision to—
- (a) the Scottish Ministers,
 - (b) Scottish Water, and
 - (c) every water services and sewerage services provider.
- (9) Scottish Water must publish details of every departure from a charges scheme.

Textual Amendments

F15 Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(1), 37(2)** (with [s. 36](#)); [S.S.I. 2005/351](#), [art. 2](#), [sch. 2](#)

29F Review of determinations and charges

- (1) This subsection applies where, since the making of a determination under section 29B(1)(a), there has been or is likely to be material change to—
- (a) Scottish Water's income from charges for services provided in the exercise of its core functions,
 - (b) the amount of—
 - (i) any grants paid to it under subsection (1) of section 42,
 - (ii) money it may borrow under subsection (3) of that section, or
 - (iii) any other resources reasonably available to it,for the purposes of the exercise of those functions, or
 - (c) the expenditure required for the effective exercise of those functions.
- (2) Where subsection (1) applies, Scottish Water—
- (a) may of its own accord,
 - (b) must, if the Commission requests it to do so,
- send to the Commission proposals for revising the maximum amounts of charges determined under section 29B(1)(a).
- (3) The Commission—
- (a) must, after receipt of the proposals, review those amounts, and
 - (b) may revise those amounts to such extent as it thinks fit.
- (4) In reviewing those amounts, the Commission must take into account all matters affecting the resources available to Scottish Water for the purposes of the exercise of its core functions.
- (5) Before revising those amounts, the Commission must—
- (a) intimate to the Scottish Ministers that revision of those amounts is under consideration,
 - (b) invite (by way of advertisement or otherwise) representations as regards revision of those amounts by such time as the Commission may specify, and

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- (c) have regard to any representations made to the Commission by virtue of paragraph (a) or (b).
- (6) The Commission must give its reasons for deciding whether or not to revise those amounts.
- (7) Where the Commission revises those amounts, it must send to Scottish Water written notice which specifies the revised amounts.
- (8) Scottish Water—
 - (a) may, after receipt of the notice, revise any charges fixed by the charges scheme by reference to the revised amounts specified in the notice, and
 - (b) if it does so, must send written notice of the revised charges to the Commission for approval.
- (9) The Commission may approve any revised charges with or without modifications.
- (10) If the Commission approves any revised charges with modifications, it must give its reasons for doing so.
- (11) When revised charges are approved by the Commission, Scottish Water must publish a summary of the revised charges and the date from which they have effect.
- (12) The date from which the revised charges have effect is to be determined by the Commission.

Textual Amendments

F15 Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(1), 37(2)** (with [s. 36](#)); [S.S.I. 2005/351](#), [art. 2](#), [sch. 2](#)

29G Effective exercise of core functions

For the purposes of sections 29C(5) and 29F(1), Scottish Water is to be taken to be exercising its core functions effectively if (in discharging its statutory duties and contractual obligations relating to the exercise of those functions) it makes such use of its resources that, year on year, it—

- (a) achieves the objectives contained in any directions given by reference to section 56A, and
- (b) does so at the lowest reasonable overall cost.]

Textual Amendments

F15 Ss. 29-29G substituted for s. 29 (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(1), 37(2)** (with [s. 36](#)); [S.S.I. 2005/351](#), [art. 2](#), [sch. 2](#)

30 Maximum charges for services provided with help of Scottish Water

- (1) [^{F21}A charges scheme must also] fix maximum charges which a person other than Scottish Water may recover from another such person in respect of the supply of water to, the provision of sewerage to, or the disposal of sewage for that other person with the help of services provided by Scottish Water.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) For the purposes of this section, water is supplied to, sewerage provided to, or sewage disposed of for a person with the help of services provided by Scottish Water if—
- (a) a facility for that person to have access to a supply of water provided by Scottish Water in pipes, or to make use of sewerage which is, or facilities for the disposal of sewage which are, provided by Scottish Water is made available to that person otherwise than by Scottish Water,
 - (b) that person is provided with a supply of water in pipes by a person to whom the water is supplied, directly or indirectly, by Scottish Water, or
 - (c) that person is provided with sewerage, or with facilities for the disposal of sewage, by a person who, for the purposes of providing the sewerage or facilities, makes use of sewerage or of such facilities provided, directly or indirectly, by Scottish Water.
- (3) [^{F22}In relation to maximum charges fixed by virtue of subsection (1), the charges scheme] may make different provision in relation to different persons, circumstances or localities and may fix a maximum charge either by specifying the maximum amount of the charge or by specifying a method of calculating that amount.
- (4) Where a person pays a charge in respect of anything to which [^{F23}, by virtue of subsection (1), a charges scheme] relates and the amount paid exceeds the maximum charge fixed by the [^{F24}scheme], the amount of the excess is recoverable by that person from the person to whom the charge was paid.

Textual Amendments

- F21** Words in s. 30(1) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(2)(a)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F22** Words in s. 30(3) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(2)(b)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F23** Words in s. 30(4) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(2)(c)(i)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F24** Word in s. 30(4) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(2)(c)(ii)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2

^{F25}**31 Charges schemes**

.....

Textual Amendments

- F25** Ss. 31-34 repealed (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(3)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2 (with art. 3(1)(3))

^{F25}**32 Approval of charges schemes**

.....

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F25 Ss. 31-34 repealed (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(3)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2 (with art. 3(1)(3))

^{F25}33 Commissioner's advice on charges

.....

Textual Amendments

F25 Ss. 31-34 repealed (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(3)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2 (with art. 3(1)(3))

^{F25}34 Publication of summary of charges scheme

.....

Textual Amendments

F25 Ss. 31-34 repealed (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(3)**, 37(2) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2 (with art. 3(1)(3))

35 Liability of occupiers etc. for charges

- (1) Supplies of water provided by Scottish Water to any premises and the provision and maintenance by Scottish Water of communication pipes and supply pipes for the purposes of such supplies are to be treated for the purposes of this Act as services provided to the occupier for the time being of those premises.
- (2) The provision of sewerage, and the disposal of sewage, provided by Scottish Water are to be treated for the purposes of this Act as provision to, or as disposal for, the occupier for the time being of any premises which—
 - (a) are drained by a sewer or drain connecting, either directly or through an intermediate sewer or drain, with a public sewer provided for foul water or surface water or both, or
 - (b) are premises the occupier of which has, in respect of the premises, the benefit of facilities which drain to a sewer or drain so connecting.
- (3) Subject to subsection (5), in relation to any period during which premises referred to in subsection (1) or (2) are unoccupied, references to the occupier in the subsection in question are to be construed as references to the owner of the premises.
- (4) Subsections (1) to (3) do not apply so far as provision to the contrary is made by any agreement to which Scottish Water is a party.
- (5) Charges which, under section 29, are fixed in relation to any premises by reference to volume may be imposed so that a person remains liable, in relation to those premises, to pay charges for—
 - (a) a supply of water, and

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- (b) provision of sewerage or disposal of sewage,
provided by Scottish Water after the person has ceased to be occupier of the premises.
- (6) A person is liable by virtue of subsection (5) for any charges fixed in relation to any premises by Scottish Water only where that person fails to inform Scottish Water of the ending of that person's occupation of the premises at least 48 hours before that person ceases to occupy them.
- (7) The charges for which a person may be liable by virtue of subsection (5) are charges in respect of a period ending no later than whichever of the following first occurs after the person ceases to occupy the premises—
- (a) where the person informs Scottish Water of the ending of that person's occupation, the 28th day after informing Scottish Water,
 - (b) any day on which any meter would normally have been read in order for the amount of the charges to be determined,
 - (c) any day on which any other person informs the authority that that other person has become the new occupier of the premises.
- (8) In calculating the period of 48 hours referred to in subsection (6) any time falling on—
- (a) a Saturday or Sunday,
 - (b) Christmas Day or Good Friday, or
 - (c) a day which is a bank holiday in Scotland under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c.80),
- is to be disregarded.
- (9) In subsection (1), “communication pipes” and “supply pipes” have the same meanings as in the 1980 Act.

[^{F26}(10) This section does not apply to or in relation to any services provided by Scottish Water under section 16 of the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 3) except where the provision of the service is continued under section 17(1) or 20(1) or (3) of that Act.]

Textual Amendments

F26 S. 35(10) added (7.9.2006) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(4), 37(2)** (with s. 36); [S.S.I. 2006/445](#), art. 2, sch.

[^{F27}35A Charges for services arranged by licensed providers

- (1) Supplies of water provided to any premises by Scottish Water under subsection (2) of section 16 of the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 3) are to be treated, for the purposes of sections 29 to 29F, as services provided solely to the water services provider who made the related request under subsection (1) of that section in respect of the premises.
- (2) The provision of sewerage to, and disposal of sewage from, any premises by Scottish Water under subsection (5) of that section of that Act are to be treated, for the purposes of sections 29 to 29F, as services provided solely to the sewerage services provider who made the related request under subsection (4) of that section in respect of the premises.
- (3) But—

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- (a) where the supplies of water provided to the premises are continued under subsection (1) of section 17 of that Act, subsection (1) does not apply,
- (b) where the provision of sewerage to, or disposal of sewerage from, the premises is continued under subsection (1) or (3) of section 20 of that Act, subsection (2) does not apply.]

Textual Amendments

F27 S. 35A inserted (7.9.2006) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 21(5), 37(2)** (with s. 36); [S.S.I. 2006/445](#), art. 2, sch.

36 Section 35: meaning of “occupier”

- (1) In the application of section 35 to services which are the subject of a determination under section 37(1)(a), references in section 35(1) and (2) to the occupier of premises are references to the person—
 - (a) who is liable under or by virtue of sections 75 to 77 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c.14) to pay council tax (within the meaning of section 70(1) of that Act) in respect of the premises, or
 - (b) who would be so liable but for the premises being an exempt dwelling (within the meaning of Part II of that Act).
- (2) Without prejudice to subsections (3) and (4) of section 35, the Scottish Ministers may, after consulting such persons as they think fit, by order make provision, in relation to such premises or description of premises as the order may specify, as to the persons who are, for the purposes of subsections (1) and (2) of that section, to be treated as being, or as not being, occupiers of the premises.
- (3) Section 35(3) and subsection (2) of this section do not apply in a case to which subsection (1) of this section applies.

37 Collection of charges by local authority

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order determine—
 - (a) that as respects specified services provided, within a financial year specified in the order, by Scottish Water to dwellings, or to such description of dwellings as the order may specify—
 - (i) within the area of a local authority, or
 - (ii) within such part of that area as the order may specify,
 the authority and not Scottish Water is to demand and recover charges payable for those services under a charges scheme, and
 - (b) that the authority is, at such intervals as may be so specified, to make such payments to Scottish Water (to which no other amount is to be payable under the charges scheme for the services provided) as may be so specified or as may be determined in accordance with the provisions of the order.
- (2) In subsection (1), “specified services” means services specified, or of a description specified, in the order.
- (3) An order under subsection (1) may include provision as to—

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- (a) forms and procedures which the local authority is to adopt in demanding payment,
 - (b) circumstances in which a customer of Scottish Water who is aggrieved by a decision or calculation of the local authority may appeal—
 - (i) except in a case specified by virtue of sub-paragraph (ii), to [^{F28}the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland], or
 - (ii) in such cases as the order may specify, to a body constituted under the order (or under a previous such order) to consider appeals as respects any such case,
 - (c) procedures to be followed in any appeal by virtue of paragraph (b),
 - (d) the provision, for the purposes of this section, of information by Scottish Water to the local authority,
 - (e) the keeping by the local authority of accounts and records as respects their functions by virtue of this section and the exhibition of, or of copies of, such accounts and records to Scottish Water.
- (4) Schedule 4 makes provision about recovery by a local authority of unpaid charges.
- (5) In this section and section 38, “dwelling” has the same meaning as in Part II of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c.14).

Textual Amendments

F28 Words in s. 37(3)(b)(i) substituted (1.4.2023) by [The First-tier Tribunal for Scotland \(Transfer of Functions of Valuation Appeals Committees\) Regulations 2023 \(S.S.I. 2023/45\)](#), reg. 1(2), **sch. 2 para. 11(2)** (with sch. 1 paras. 1-4, 13-20)

38 Suspension of collection of charges by local authority

- (1) This section applies in relation to any dwellings to which Scottish Water provides services which are the subject of a determination under section 37(1)(a).
- (2) Where, in relation to any such dwellings, Scottish Water serves a notice under this subsection on the relevant local authority, the services which are the subject of the determination, so far as provided to dwellings to which the notice relates, are to be treated for so long as the notice remains in force as if they were not subject to the determination.
- (3) A notice under subsection (2) may be withdrawn in whole or in part by Scottish Water by serving a further notice on the relevant local authority.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision as to—
 - (a) the form and content of a notice under subsection (2) or (3),
 - (b) when such a notice comes into force,
 - (c) (either or both) the maximum and minimum numbers of dwellings to which such a notice may relate,
 - (d) such other matters in relation to such a notice as the Scottish Ministers think necessary or expedient.
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) may also make provision for the payment by Scottish Water to the relevant local authority of a sum, specified in or calculated in accordance

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with the regulations, in respect of any reasonable administrative expenses incurred by the authority in consequence of the service of a notice under subsection (2) or (3).

- (6) In this section, “the relevant local authority” means the local authority which—
- (a) is, by virtue of the determination under section 37(1)(a), responsible for demanding and recovering charges payable for services provided by Scottish Water to the dwellings to which the notice under subsection (2) or (3) relates and which are the subject of the determination, or
 - (b) was, until the notice came into force, so responsible.

39 Primacy of duty to maintain domestic water supply etc.

Sections 29(1) and 37 are without prejudice to—

- (a) the duties of Scottish Water under section 6 of the 1980 Act (which include the duty to maintain a supply of wholesome water provided to meet a requirement for domestic purposes),
- (b) the entitlements of any person under section 12 of the 1968 Act (which include the entitlement of an occupier of premises to drain into public sewers to which the drains or private sewers of the owner of the premises are connected).

F29 40 Reduced charges

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Textual Amendments

- F29** S. 40 repealed (22.7.2012) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), s. 37(2), [sch. 5 para. 7\(5\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2012/192, art. 2

Finances

41 Duties and powers relating to finance

- (1) Scottish Water must exercise its functions so as to secure that, taking one year with another, its income is not less than sufficient to meet its expenditure.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may by order direct Scottish Water to exercise its functions, during any period specified in the order, with a view to securing that it achieves in respect of that period a rate of return on the value of its average net assets (as for the time being defined for the purposes of this section by the Scottish Ministers) which is not less than the rate specified in the order as the rate of return which the Scottish Ministers consider it is reasonable for Scottish Water to achieve.
- (3) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers may, after consulting Scottish Water, determine that Scottish Water is (in addition to or in place of a duty imposed by virtue of subsection (2)) subject to a specified duty of a financial nature; and different determinations may be so made in relation to different functions of Scottish Water.
- (4) A determination under subsection (3) may—
 - (a) relate to a period beginning before the date on which it is made,

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- (b) contain incidental or supplemental provisions,
 - (c) be varied by a subsequent determination under that subsection.
- (5) A determination under subsection (3) must be made by order where—
- (a) the duty specified in it is in place of a duty imposed by virtue of subsection (2), or
 - (b) it varies a previous determination made by order.
- (6) Scottish Water must secure that its charges make a proper contribution to its duties, as respect financial matters, under this Act, taking into account—
- (a) its present circumstances and future prospects, and
 - (b) any duty imposed on it by virtue of subsection (2) or (3).

42 [^{F30}**Financing and borrowing: Scottish Water**]

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may pay to Scottish Water grants of such amounts as they may determine—
- (a) in respect of the exercise of its functions and its administrative expenses,
 - (b) for the purpose of meeting, or alleviating, any loss it may sustain by virtue of regulations made under section 40.
- (2) A grant under subsection (1) may be made subject to such conditions as the Scottish Ministers think fit.
- (3) For the purpose of the exercise of any of its functions, Scottish Water may—
- (a) subject to such conditions as the Scottish Ministers think fit, borrow from them, and they may lend to it, sums of such amounts as they may determine, and
 - (b) with the consent of the Scottish Ministers, borrow money, whether in sterling or otherwise, from any person or body, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- ^{F31}(4)
- ^{F31}(5)
- (6) Any loans made in pursuance of subsection (3)(a) are to be repaid to the Scottish Ministers at such times and by such methods, and interest on the loans is to be paid to them at such times and at such rates, as they may from time to time direct.

Textual Amendments

- F30** S. 42 title substituted (21.12.2013) by [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(asp 5\), ss. 27\(3\), 56\(1\)\(2\)](#); S.S.I. 2013/342, art. 2(a)
- F31** S. 42(4)(5) repealed (21.12.2013) by [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(asp 5\), ss. 27\(2\), 56\(1\)\(2\)](#); S.S.I. 2013/342, art. 2(a)

[^{F32}42A Financing and borrowing: subsidiaries

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may pay to a subsidiary of Scottish Water grants of such amounts as they may determine.
- (2) A subsidiary of Scottish Water may borrow—

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- (a) from the Scottish Ministers (and they may lend to it) sums of such amounts as they may determine,
 - (b) money from any other person, whether—
 - (i) in sterling or otherwise,
 - (ii) the person is in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
- (3) A grant or loan in pursuance of subsection (1) or (as the case may be) (2)(a) may be made subject to such conditions as the Scottish Ministers think fit.
- (4) A loan made in pursuance of subsection (2)(a) is to be repaid to the Scottish Ministers at such times and by such methods (and interest on the loan is to be paid to them at such times and at such rates) as they may from time to time direct.
- (5) Borrowing may be made in pursuance of subsection (2) only with the consent of Scottish Water (except where it is the lender).
- (6) This section does not apply where the subsidiary is an undertaking established under section 13(1) of the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005.
- (7) In this section and section 42B(1), “subsidiary” is as defined in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006.

Textual Amendments

F32 Ss. 42A, 42B inserted (21.12.2013) by [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(asp 5\)](#), **ss. 27(1), 56(1)(2)**; S.S.I. 2013/342, **art. 2(a)**

42B Borrowing: Budget Acts

- (1) In any financial year, the net amount of sums borrowed by Scottish Water and any subsidiary of Scottish Water in pursuance of sections 42 and 42A (taken together) must not exceed the amount specified for that year for the purposes of this section in a Budget Act.
- (2) In subsection (1), “net amount” means amount of sums borrowed in the financial year less—
- (a) any repayments made during that year (otherwise than by way of interest) in respect of sums borrowed in that or any other year, and
 - (b) any sums borrowed, with the consent of the Scottish Ministers, by way of overdraft or otherwise for the purpose of meeting a temporary excess of expenditure over sums otherwise available to meet that expenditure.]

Textual Amendments

F32 Ss. 42A, 42B inserted (21.12.2013) by [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(asp 5\)](#), **ss. 27(1), 56(1)(2)**; S.S.I. 2013/342, **art. 2(a)**

43 Guarantees

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may guarantee, in such manner and on such conditions as they think fit, the discharge of any financial obligation in connection with any sums borrowed by Scottish Water or any subsidiary of Scottish Water.

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- (2) Immediately after a guarantee is given under this section, the Scottish Ministers must lay a statement of the guarantee before the Parliament.
- (3) Where any sum is paid out in fulfilment of a guarantee under this section, Scottish Water must make to the Scottish Ministers, at such times and in such manner as they may from time to time direct—
 - (a) payments of such amounts as they may so direct in or towards repayment of the sums so paid out, and
 - (b) payments of interest, at such rate as they may so direct, on the amount outstanding for the time being in respect of sums so paid out.
- (4) In subsection (1), “subsidiary” [^{F33} has the meaning given by section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006].

Textual Amendments

F33 Words in s. 43(4) substituted (1.10.2009) by [The Companies Act 2006 \(Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1941\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 1 para. 200(3)** (with art. 10)

44 Directions as to payment and investment

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may, after consulting Scottish Water, direct it to pay to them, on a date specified in the direction, a sum specified in, or calculated in accordance with, the direction, being a sum not required for the exercise of its functions.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may, after consulting Scottish Water, direct it to invest, in such manner as may be specified in the direction, a sum specified in, or calculated in accordance with, the direction, being a sum not immediately required for the exercise of its functions.
- (3) A direction under subsection (1) or (2) is not competent in relation to any sum which is payable to the Scottish Ministers under or by virtue of any other provision of this Act.

45 Accounts and audit

- (1) Scottish Water must—
 - (a) keep proper accounts and accounting records,
 - (b) prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts giving a true and fair view of the state of its affairs and its income and expenditure, and
 - (c) send the statement of accounts, by such time as the Scottish Ministers may direct, to the Auditor General for Scotland for auditing.
- (2) Every statement of accounts prepared by Scottish Water in accordance with this section must comply with any direction given by the Scottish Ministers relating to—
 - (a) the information to be contained in the statement of accounts,
 - (b) the manner in which that information is to be presented, or
 - (c) the methods and principles according to which the statement of accounts is to be prepared.

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Land transactions

46 Acquisition of land by agreement

- (1) Scottish Water may under this subsection—
- (a) for the purposes of any of its functions, or
 - (b) for the purpose of the provision, by some person other than itself, of—
 - (i) a supply of water to the public, or
 - (ii) a system, to which the public is to have access, of drains, sewers^{F34}, sustainable urban drainage systems] or sewage treatment works,
 acquire by agreement any land (other than water rights) wherever situated.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies in relation to any acquisition of land under subsection (1) for the purposes of any of the core functions of Scottish Water or for the purpose mentioned in paragraph (b) of that subsection.
- (3) In relation to any such acquisition of land, the Lands Clauses Acts (except in so far as they relate to acquisition other than by agreement and to access to the special Act and except sections 120 to 125 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1845 (c.19)), and—
- (a) in a case where the acquisition is—
 - (i) in relation to Scottish Water’s functions under or by virtue of the 1968 Act, or
 - (ii) for the purpose of the provision of a system such as is mentioned in paragraph (b)(ii) of subsection (1) of this section, sections 6 and 70 to 78 of the Railways Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1845 (c.33) (as originally enacted and not as amended by section 15 of the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act 1923 (c.20)), and
 - (b) in any other case, section 6 of the Railways Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1845 (as referred to in paragraph (a)) and Part IV of Schedule 4 to the 1980 Act,

are hereby incorporated with this section; and, in construing those Acts for the purposes of that subsection, this section is to be taken to be the special Act and Scottish Water is to be taken to be the promoter of the undertaking or company as the case may require.

Textual Amendments

- F34** Words in s. 46(1)(b)(ii) inserted (30.11.2007) by [Water Environment and Water Services \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 3\)](#), s. 38(1), [sch. 3 para. 24](#); S.S.I. 2007/512, art. 2(c)

47 Compulsory acquisition of land

- (1) Scottish Water may—
- (a) for the purposes of any of its core functions, or
 - (b) for the purpose specified in section 46(1)(b),
- be authorised by the Scottish Ministers to purchase compulsorily under this subsection land (other than water rights) situated in Scotland.
- (2) Subsection (1) is—

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- (a) without prejudice to any order under section 17 (acquisition of water rights) of the 1980 Act, and
 - (b) subject to section 18 (authorisation of compulsory acquisition of land necessary for purposes of order under section 17) of that Act.
- (3) Scottish Water is, in respect of all of its core functions, a statutory undertaker for the purposes of section 120(1)(b) of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980 (c.65) (persons to whose compulsory acquisition of an interest in land the Acquisition of Land (Authorisation Procedure) (Scotland) Act 1947 (c.42) in certain circumstances applies).
- (4) Scottish Water may be authorised by the Scottish Ministers to purchase compulsorily, or may acquire by agreement, land in Scotland for giving in exchange for such land as is mentioned in section 1(2)(b) of that Act of 1947.
- (5) This section is subject to section 67(4).

48 Disposal of land

- (1) Scottish Water may dispose of land held by it in any manner, to whomsoever and for whatever purpose it wishes.
- (2) But Scottish Water may not, except with the consent of the Scottish Ministers, dispose of land under subsection (1) for a consideration less than the best that could reasonably be expected to be obtained on the open market.

General duties

49 Interests of customers

The Scottish Ministers, when exercising their functions under or by virtue of this Act, the 1968 Act or the 1980 Act and Scottish Water, when exercising its functions, must have regard to the interests of every person [^{F35}whose premises are connected to, or might reasonably become connected to, the public water supply system or the public sewerage system (within the meaning of Part 2 of the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 3)) or both;] and especially of such of those persons as—

- (a) are likely, by reason of a persistent disability or medical condition or of family circumstances, to require to have a much greater supply of water, or to make much greater use of facilities for the disposal of sewage, than might ordinarily have been expected, or
- (b) are ordinarily resident in a rural or remote part of Scotland.

Textual Amendments

F35 Words in s. 49 substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\), s. 37\(2\), sch. 5 para. 7\(6\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2

50 Economy, efficiency and effectiveness

Scottish Water must, in exercising its functions, seek to ensure that its resources are used economically, efficiently and effectively.

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[^{F36}50A Development of assets

- (1) So far as it considers is not inconsistent with the economic, efficient and effective exercise of its functions, Scottish Water must take reasonable steps to develop the commercial value of its assets and expertise.
- (2) In complying with subsection (1), Scottish Water must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Scottish Ministers.
- (3) In this section, “assets” means property, rights and other assets (whether tangible or intangible).]

Textual Amendments

F36 S. 50A inserted (21.12.2013) by [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(asp 5\)](#), **ss. 24**, 56(1)(2); S.S.I. 2013/342, art. 2(a)

51 Sustainable development

- (1) Scottish Water must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies so far as is consistent with the purposes of any enactment relating to the functions of Scottish Water.
- (3) In complying with subsection (1) Scottish Water must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Scottish Ministers.

[^{F37}51A Supporting renewable energy

- (1) So far as it considers is not inconsistent with the economic, efficient and effective exercise of its functions, Scottish Water must take reasonable steps to promote the use of its assets for the generation of renewable energy.
- (2) In complying with subsection (1), Scottish Water must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Scottish Ministers.
- (3) In this section, “assets” means property, rights and other assets (whether tangible or intangible).]

Textual Amendments

F37 S. 51A inserted (21.12.2013) by [Water Resources \(Scotland\) Act 2013 \(asp 5\)](#), **ss. 25**, 56(1)(2); S.S.I. 2013/342, art. 2(a)

52 Public access to land held by Scottish Water

- (1) The Scottish Ministers, in exercising their functions under or by virtue of this Act, the 1968 Act or the 1980 Act and Scottish Water, in exercising its functions, must have regard to the desirability of preserving for the public any freedom of access (including access for recreational purposes) to land held by Scottish Water.
- (2) This section is without prejudice to section 53(1) and (2)(a).

53 Environmental matters

- (1) The Scottish Ministers, in exercising their functions under or by virtue of this Act, the 1968 Act or the 1980 Act and Scottish Water, in exercising its functions, must have regard to the matters specified in subsection (2).
- (2) Those matters are—
 - (a) the desirability of preserving for the public any freedom of access (including access for recreational purposes) to areas of forest, woodland, mountains, moor, bog, cliff, foreshore, loch or reservoir and to other places of natural beauty, and
 - (b) the desirability of protecting and conserving—
 - (i) buildings,
 - (ii) sites, and
 - (iii) objects,of archaeological, architectural, historic or scientific interest and of maintaining the availability to the public of any facility for visiting or inspecting any such building, site or object.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers and Scottish Water must, in exercising the functions referred to in subsection (1), further—
 - (a) the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the conservation of flora and fauna, and
 - (b) the conservation of geological or physiographical features of special interest.
- (4) Subsection (3) applies so far as is consistent with the purposes of any enactment relating to the functions of the Scottish Ministers or, as the case may be, Scottish Water (whether or not functions under or by virtue of this Act, the 1968 Act or the 1980 Act).

54 Protection of natural heritage

- (1) Scottish Natural Heritage (“SNH”) must by notice in writing notify Scottish Water of any area of land in Scotland which is a [^{F38}European site within the meaning of Regulation 10 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994/2716)].
- ^{F39}(2)
- (3) Where SNH has given notice under subsection (1) in respect of an area of land and—
 - ^{F40}(a)
 - ^{F40}(b)
 - (c) ^{F41}... the area ceases to be a European site,
SNH must by notice in writing advise Scottish Water of that fact.
- (4) Where Scottish Water has received notice under subsection (1), it must (unless SNH has given notice under subsection (3) to the effect that the area of land in question is no longer a [^{F42}European site]) consult SNH before commencing any scheme, work, operation or activity which is likely to prejudice significantly the qualities by reference to which the area of land ^{F43}... is a European site.
- (5) Before commencing any scheme, work, operation or activity which appears to Scottish Water to be likely to affect adversely an area of land designated as a National Park

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under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 (asp 10), Scottish Water must consult the National Park authority for the National Park.

- (6) Subsections (4) and (5) do not apply in relation to anything to be done by Scottish Water in an emergency but particulars of what is done and of the emergency must be notified by Scottish Water to SNH or, as the case may be, the National Park authority as soon as is practicable after the thing is done.

Textual Amendments

- F38** Words in s. 54(1) substituted (29.11.2004) by Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6), s. 59(2), **sch. 7 para. 13(a)** (with s. 55(2)); S.S.I. 2004/495, art. 2
- F39** S. 54(2) repealed (29.11.2004) by Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6), s. 59(2), **sch. 7 para. 13(b)** (with s. 55(2)); S.S.I. 2004/495, art. 2
- F40** S. 54(3)(a)(b) repealed (29.11.2004) by Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6), s. 59(2), **sch. 7 para. 13(c)(i)** (with s. 55(2)); S.S.I. 2004/495, art. 2
- F41** Words in s. 54(3)(c) repealed (29.11.2004) by Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6), s. 59(2), **sch. 7 para. 13(c)(ii)** (with s. 55(2)); S.S.I. 2004/495, art. 2
- F42** Words in s. 54(4) substituted (29.11.2004) by Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6), s. 59(2), **sch. 7 para. 13(d)(i)** (with s. 55(2)); S.S.I. 2004/495, art. 2
- F43** Words in s. 54(4) repealed (29.11.2004) by Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6), s. 59(2), **sch. 7 para. 13(d)(ii)** (with s. 55(2)); S.S.I. 2004/495, art. 2

55 Consultation with Health Boards

- (1) Where it appears to Scottish Water that (whether or not as a result of any act or omission by it) services provided by it in the exercise of its core functions give rise to, or are likely to give rise to, a significant risk to public health in relation to the area of any Health Board, Scottish Water must—
- (a) consult the Health Board, and
 - (b) exercise its core functions with a view to reducing or eliminating the risk to public health, having regard to any views expressed by the Health Board.
- (2) This section is without prejudice to section 11(6).

Miscellaneous

56 Directions

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must give Scottish Water directions—
- (a) as to the exercise of its powers under section 25 and schedule 3, and
 - [^{F44}(aa) requiring it to promote water conservation and water-use efficiency,]
 - (b) otherwise as to how its affairs are to be managed and conducted.
- (2) Directions under subsection (1) may be of a general or specific character and may, in particular, include provision—
- (a) as to the nature and allocation of the responsibilities of the members and employees of Scottish Water,
 - (b) requiring Scottish Water to obtain the approval of, or to consult, the Scottish Ministers before exercising such of its powers, or exercising them in such ways, as the directions may specify,

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- (c) for any matter to which the directions relate to be determined, in such manner (if any) as the directions may specify, by a person other than the Scottish Ministers.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may give Scottish Water other directions of a general or specific character as to the exercise of its functions.
- (4) Before giving any direction under this section, the Scottish Ministers must consult Scottish Water.
- (5) Scottish Water must comply with directions given under this Part.

Textual Amendments

F44 S. 56(1)(aa) inserted (31.10.2009) by [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009 \(asp 12\)](#), **ss. 74, 100(2)** (with [s. 95](#)); [S.S.I. 2009/341](#), **art. 2(2)(a)**

Commencement Information

II S. 56 wholly in force at 1.4.2002; s. 56 not in force at Royal Assent see [s. 72\(1\)](#); s. 56 in force at 8.3.2002 for certain purposes by [S.S.I. 2002/118](#), **art. 2(2)**, **Sch.**; s. 56 in force at 1.4.2002 insofar as not already in force by [S.S.I. 2002/118](#), **art. 2(3)**

^{F45}56A Directions may set objectives

- (1) In particular, directions under section 56 may in respect of a period specified under section 29B(2) set objectives as to—
 - (a) the standard of the services to be provided in the exercise of Scottish Water's core functions, and
 - (b) the time by which—
 - (i) a particular standard of any of those services is to be attained,
 - (ii) any particular work required for or in connection with the provision of those services is (in part or whole) to be commenced or completed.
- (2) Different objectives may be set for different cases or categories of case.
- (3) In formulating objectives of a type referred to in subsection (1) for inclusion in directions under section 56, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to Scottish Water's duty under section 51(1).
- (4) Before giving directions under section 56 which set objectives of a type referred to in subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult [^{F46}every water services provider and sewerage services provider and]^{F47}Consumer Scotland] on the objectives.

Textual Amendments

F45 Ss. 56A, 56B inserted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), **ss. 22, 37(2)** (with [s. 36](#)); [S.S.I. 2005/351](#), **art. 2**, **sch. 2**

F46 Words in [s. 56A\(4\)](#) inserted (15.8.2011) by [Public Services Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 8\)](#), **ss. 130(6), 134(7)(8)**; [S.S.I. 2011/278](#), **art. 2(b)**

F47 Words in [s. 56A\(4\)](#) substituted (10.11.2022) by [The Consumer Scotland \(Transfer of Functions\) Regulations 2022 \(S.S.I. 2022/296\)](#), **reg. 1(1)**, **sch. para. 1(8)** (with [reg. 3](#))

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56B Supplementary functions

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order confer on Scottish Water such additional or supplementary functions relating to the provision of water and sewerage services by Scottish Water as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate so to confer.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers are to consult Scottish Water and the Commission on any order they propose to make under subsection (1).]

Textual Amendments

F45 Ss. 56A, 56B inserted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), ss. 22, 37(2) (with s. 36); [S.S.I. 2005/351](#), art. 2, sch. 2

57 Information and reports

- (1) Scottish Water must provide the Scottish Ministers with such information relating to the exercise of its functions as they may require.
- (2) For that purpose Scottish Water must—
 - (a) permit any person authorised to do so by the Scottish Ministers to inspect and make copies of its accounts and other records, and
 - (b) provide that person with such explanations in relation to those accounts and records as the person or the Scottish Ministers may require.
- (3) Scottish Water must prepare—
 - (a) a report on its activities during the period from the beginning of each financial year to 30th September in that year, and
 - (b) a report on its activities during the whole of each financial year, as soon as practicable after the end of the period to which the report relates.
- (4) A report prepared under subsection (3)(a) must include a statement of accounts for the period to which the report relates; and subsection (2) of section 45 applies to such a statement of accounts as it applies to a statement of accounts prepared in accordance with that section.
- (5) A report prepared under subsection (3)(b) must include—
 - (a) a description of the manner in which Scottish Water has complied, during the period to which the report relates, with its duties under sections 26, 28, 50 and 51, and
 - (b) the reasons for any failure, during that period, to comply with its duties under sections 26 and 28.
- (6) Scottish Water must—
 - (a) send a copy of each report prepared under subsection (3) to the Scottish Ministers, the ^{F48}Commission^{F49}, every water services provider and sewerage services provider] and ^{F50}Consumer Scotland], and
 - (b) publish the report.
- (7) A report prepared under subsection (3) must set out—
 - ^{F51}(a) any directions under section 56 which have been given to Scottish Water during the period to which the report relates ^{F52}, and

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- (b) the extent to which Scottish Water has, during that period, complied with any requirements made under section 13(2) or 15(1) or (5) of the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (asp 3).]
- (8) The Scottish Ministers must lay a copy of a report sent to them under subsection (6) before the Parliament.

Textual Amendments

- F48** Words in s. 57(6)(a) substituted (1.7.2005) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), s. 37(2), [sch. 5 para. 7\(1\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2005/351, art. 2, sch. 2
- F49** Words in s. 57(6) inserted (15.8.2011) by [Public Services Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 8\)](#), [ss. 130\(7\)](#), [134\(7\)\(8\)](#); S.S.I. 2011/278, art. 2(b)
- F50** Words in s. 57(6)(a) substituted (10.11.2022) by [The Consumer Scotland \(Transfer of Functions\) Regulations 2022 \(S.S.I. 2022/296\)](#), reg. 1(1), [sch. para. 1\(9\)](#) (with reg. 3)
- F51** Words in s. 57(7) renumbered as s. 57(7)(a) (7.9.2006) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), s. 37(2), [sch. 5 para. 7\(7\)\(a\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2006/445, art. 2, sch.
- F52** S. 57(7)(b) and word inserted (7.9.2006) by [Water Services etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2005 \(asp 3\)](#), s. 37(2), [sch. 5 para. 7\(7\)\(b\)](#) (with s. 36); S.S.I. 2006/445, art. 2, sch.

58 Records

- (1) This section applies to all records (in whatever form or medium)—
 - (a) transferred to Scottish Water by virtue of this Act,
 - (b) created or acquired by it in the exercise of any of its functions, or
 - (c) otherwise in its keeping.
- ^{F53}(2)
- ^{F53}(3)
- ^{F53}(4)
- (5) Scottish Water—
 - (a) must ensure that the Keeper has, at all reasonable hours, unrestricted access to the records preserved by it,
 - (b) may afford facilities for any person to inspect and, on payment of a reasonable fee, to obtain copies of or extracts from those records.
- (6) Nothing in subsection (5)(b) permits infringement of copyright or contravention of conditions subject to which records are in the keeping of Scottish Water.
- (7) If any enactment makes provision relating to records of a specific kind which is inconsistent with subsections (1) to (6), those subsections are subject to that enactment.

Textual Amendments

- F53** S. 58(2)-(4) repealed (1.1.2013) by [Public Records \(Scotland\) Act 2011 \(asp 12\)](#), [ss. 14\(e\)](#), [16\(1\)](#); S.S.I. 2012/247, art. 2

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59 Validity of actings

The validity of any actings of Scottish Water is not affected by any failure to comply with a duty imposed on it under or by virtue of this Part.

60 Private legislation

- (1) Scottish Water may, if it thinks fit—
 - (a) with the consent of the Scottish Ministers, promote private legislation in the Scottish Parliament,
 - (b) oppose private legislation in the Parliament of the United Kingdom or the Scottish Parliament.
- (2) An application for consent under subsection (1)(a) must be accompanied by a concise summary of the purposes of the proposed legislation.
- (3) Such consent must be withheld if the Scottish Ministers consider that the powers sought by the private legislation could be obtained by means of an order under the 1968 Act or, as the case may be, the 1980 Act.

61 Supply of goods and services to and by local authorities

The Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 (c.39) has effect as if Scottish Water were both a local authority and a public body for the purposes of that Act.

62 Information from local authorities and assessors

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations require a local authority or an assessor to provide Scottish Water with relevant information in such form as the regulations may specify.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), information is relevant if—
 - (a) it is information falling within subsection (3), and
 - (b) its possession by Scottish Water would, in the opinion of the Scottish Ministers, be likely to assist Scottish Water to make a charges scheme or to collect, or arrange to have collected, such charges as may be fixed by a charges scheme made by it.
- (3) Information falls within this subsection if it is held—
 - (a) by the local authority in connection with their—
 - (i) setting, levying or collecting council tax or council water charges (within the meaning of Part II of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (c.14)) or the non-domestic water rate or non-domestic sewerage rate (as defined in paragraphs (c) and (d) of section 99(2) of that Act before the repeal of those paragraphs by the 1994 Act), or
 - (ii) levying or collecting the non-domestic rate (as for the time being defined in section 37(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975 (c.30), or
 - (b) as the case may be, by the assessor in connection with the assessor’s functions under any enactment.
- (4) In this section—

“assessor” is to be construed in accordance with section 27 of the 1994 Act,

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“information” includes, in particular, a copy of the whole, or of any part of, a valuation roll or valuation list.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, Part 3.