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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

RATING OF UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY.

Liability to be rated in respect of certain unoccupied property

- 1 (1) Where, in the case of any rating area in which, by virtue of a resolution under section 17 of this Act, this Schedule is in operation, any relevant hereditament in that area is unoccupied for a continuous period exceeding three months, the owner shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, be rated in respect of that hereditament for any relevant period of vacancy ; and the provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly as if the hereditament were occupied during that relevant period of vacancy by the owner.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, the amount of any rates payable by an owner in respect of a hereditament by virtue of this paragraph shall be one-half of the amount which would be payable if he were in occupation of the hereditament; and no reduction shall be made under section 48 of this Act in respect of any rates so payable.
- (3) Where a relevant hereditament which is unoccupied becomes occupied on any day and becomes unoccupied again on the expiration of a period of less than six weeks beginning with that day, then, for the purpose of ascertaining any period of three months during which the hereditament has been continuously unoccupied and any relevant period of vacancy in respect of the hereditament, it shall be deemed to have remained unoccupied on that day and during that period.
- (4) In relation to a relevant hereditament which is a newly-erected dwelling-house within the meaning of this Schedule, the foregoing provisions of this paragraph and the definition of " relevant period of vacancy " in paragraph 15 of this Schedule shall have effect as if for any reference to three months there were substituted a reference to six months.
- 2 No rates shall be payable under paragraph 1 of this Schedule in respect of a hereditament for, or for any part of the three months beginning with the day following the end of, any period during which—
- (a) the owner is prohibited by law from occupying the hereditament or allowing it to be occupied ;
 - (b) the hereditament is kept vacant by reason of action taken by or on behalf of the Crown or any local or public authority with a view to prohibiting the occupation of the hereditament or to acquiring it;
 - (c) the hereditament is the subject of a building preservation order under section 30 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1962, or is included in a list compiled or approved under section 32 of that Act, or is notified to the rating authority by the Minister as a building of architectural or historic interest;

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- (d) the hereditament is the subject of a preservation order or an interim preservation notice under the Ancient Monuments Acts 1913 to 1953, or is included in a list published by the Minister of Public Building and Works under those Acts ;
- (e) an agreement is in force with respect to the hereditament under section 56(1)(a) of this Act; or
- (f) the hereditament is held for the purpose of being available for occupation by a minister of religion as a residence from which to perform the duties of his office.

3 The Minister may by regulations provide that rates shall not be payable under paragraph 1 of this Schedule in respect of hereditaments of such descriptions as may be prescribed by the regulations or in such circumstances as may be so prescribed and the regulations may make different provision for hereditaments of different descriptions and for different circumstances.

4 Section 40 of this Act shall apply in relation to any relevant hereditament to which that section applied when it was last occupied as if it were used for the purpose for which it was then used.