



Post Office Act 1969

CHAPTER 48

POST OFFICE ACT 1969

PART I

1

PART II

THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND HIS FUNCTIONS

- 2 The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.
- 3 Transfer to the Minister of the Postmaster General's functions with respect to wireless telegraphy, and provisions consequential thereon.
- 4 Transfer to the Minister of the Postmaster General's functions under section 6 of the Commonwealth Telegraphs Act 1949.
- 5 Transfer to the Minister of the Postmaster General's power to make orders under the Recorded Delivery Service Act 1962.

PART III

THE NEW AUTHORITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC BUSINESS

The Post Office

- 6 The Post Office.

Powers and Duties of the Post Office

- 7 Powers of the Post Office.
- 8 Furnishing of overseas aid by the Post Office.
- 9
- 10 Power to promote and oppose Bills, &c.

Changes to legislation: Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Powers of the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications over the Post Office

- 11 General ministerial control and supervision of the Post Office.
- 12 Power of the Minister to direct the Post Office to do work for government departments and local authorities.
- 13

The Post Office Users' Councils

- 14 The Post Office Users' Councils.
- 15 Duty of the Post Office to consult the Post Office Users' National Council about certain proposals.

General Provisions as to Transfer to the Post Office of Property, Rights and Liabilities of the Postmaster General

- 16 Vesting in the Post Office of property, rights and liabilities generally.
- 17
- 18 Vesting in the Post Office of rights and liabilities under certain contracts conferring on the Crown incidental rights as to patents, &c.
- 19

Transfer to the Post Office of the Postmaster General's statutory Rights and Liabilities as to Mails and Telegraphs and of Rights and Liabilities, &c., of his under certain Acts authorising the Acquisition of Land or the Execution of Works

- 20 Rights and liabilities as to conveyance of mails.
- 21
- 22 Rights and liabilities, &c., arising out of Acts authorising the acquisition of land or the execution of works.
- 23—27

Charges and other Terms and Conditions applicable to Services

- 28 Schemes for determining charges and other terms and conditions applicable to services.

Limitation of Liability

- 29 Exclusion of liability of the Post Office its officers and servants, in relation to posts and telecommunications.
- 30 The Post Office to be subject to limited liability in respect of registered inland packets.

Finance

- 31, 32
- 33 The Post Office's commencing capital debt.
- 34
- 35, 36
- 37 Loans by the Minister to the Post Office.
- 38 Treasury guarantees.
- 39 Accounts of the Minister with reference to Post Office indebtedness to him.

Changes to legislation: *Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Banking

- 40 The Post Office as banker.
- 41 The Post Office's liabilities as banker to be matched by cash and liquid assets.
- 42

Pensions and other Benefits

- 43 Staff pensions.
- 44 The Post Office to pay pensions, &c., referable to the service of certain former civil servants.
- 45
- 46 The Post Office to be liable, in certain cases, for part payment of pensions of certain former civil servants.
- 47 Making, by the Minister, in consideration of the Exchequer's being relieved of certain liabilities with respect to pensions, of payments to trustees appointed by the Post Office.
- 48 Amendment of section 6 of the Commonwealth Telegraphs Act 1949.
- 49 Provisions as to pensions of former employees of Cable and Wireless Limited and certain other persons.
- 50
- 51
- 52 Rating
- 53
- 54

Lands

- 55 Compulsory purchase of land in Great Britain.
- 56 Compulsory purchase of land in Northern Ireland.
- 57 Entry, for exploratory purposes, on land in England or Wales.
- 58 Entry, for exploratory purposes, on land in Scotland.
- 59 Entry, for exploratory purposes, on land in Northern Ireland.
- 60 Application, to acquisitions of land by the Post Office by agreement, of certain statutory provisions relating to compulsory purchase.
- 61 Power to sell to the Post Office land belonging to Her Majesty in right of the Duchy of Lancaster.
- 62 Requisitions on title as to Treasury consent to dealings with land precluded.
- 63 Status of land vested in the Post Office by virtue of Part III.

Miscellaneous Matters

- 64 Inviolability of mails.
- 65
- 66 Harbour charges on mail-bags.
- 67 Mail-bags not to be subject to control by harbour authorities.
- 68
- 69 Documentary evidence as to sums due for services.
- 70 Provisions as to money and postal orders.
- 71 Recoupment of losses on money orders wrongly paid to bankers.
- 72 Remuneration of the Post Office for services rendered in relation to parliamentary elections.

Changes to legislation: Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- 73 Reimbursement by the Post Office of the Minister of contributions to international organisations.
- 74 Taxation of the Post Office’s profits and capital gains.
- 75 Records.
- 76 Consequential adaptations of enactments.
- 77 Repair of minor statutory deficiencies.
- 78
- 79 Amendment of law as to packets addressed to a poste restante.
- 80 Provision of information to persons holding office under the Crown.
- 81 Modification of enactments relating to wages councils.
- 82
- 83
- 84 Exemption from postage of certain petitions and addresses, and limitation of amount of postage recoverable in respect of parliamentary proceedings.
- 85
- 86 Interpretation of Part III.
- 87 Power of Her Majesty in Council to make necessary provision if the Post Office surrenders privileges as regards the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands.

Extent of Part III and related Schedules

- 88 Extent of Part III and related Schedules.

PART IV

- 89—92

PART V

PROVISIONS FOR SECURING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE CARRYING ON, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF A DIRECTOR OF SAVINGS IN PLACE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL BUSINESS

The Director of Savings

- 93 Appointment, and functions and expenses, &c., of the Director of Savings.

Replacement of the Postmaster General by the Director of Savings for the Purposes of the Post Office Savings Bank Acts 1954 and 1966, and Provisions consequential thereon

- 94 The National Savings Bank.
- 95—105
- 106, 107

Replacement of the Postmaster General by the Director of Savings for the Purposes of the National Debt Act 1958 and the National Loans Act 1968, and Provisions consequential thereon

- 108 The stock register kept under Part I of the National Debt Act 1958.
- 109 Power of the Treasury to raise money under the auspices of the Director of Savings.
- 110—
- 112

Changes to legislation: *Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

Credits to the Post Office in respect of certain capital Expenditure incurred by the Postmaster General in Connection with annuity, savings bank and national debt Functions

- 113 Credits to the Post Office in respect of certain capital expenditure incurred by the Postmaster General in connection with annuity, savings bank and national debt functions.

Extent of Part V and Schedule 6

- 114 Extent of Part V and Schedule 6.

PART VI

STAMPS AND STAMP DUTIES

Stamps

- 115, 116
- 117 Application of section 9 of the Stamp Act 1891, and provisions as to proceedings thereunder relating to postage stamps.
- 118 Application of section 13 of the Stamp Duties Management Act 1891 to frauds touching postage stamps, and consequential amendment of section 16 of that Act.
- 119 Power of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to stamp paper for the Post Office.
- 120 Validity of existing stamps.
- 121
- 122
- 123 Meaning of “postage” and “postage stamp”.
- 124—
- 126
- 127

Special Provisions with respect to Northern Ireland

- 128 Application of foregoing provisions of Part VI to Northern Ireland.
- 129 Exemption of Act from stamp duty in Northern Ireland.

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

- 130, 131
- 132 Extension of regulation-making power under section 52(2) of the Government Annuities Act 1929.
- 133 Power of managers of certain welfare funds to preserve their scope.
- 134 Issue by local authorities in Great Britain of dog and game licences.
- 135 Remuneration of the Post Office for issuing dog and game licences in England and Wales.
- 136 Expenses.
- 137 Cesser of obsolete, &c. enactments.
- 138 Transitional provisions.
- 139 Application to Northern Ireland.
- 140 Construction of references to enactments.
- 141 Repeals.
- 142 Short title.

Changes to legislation: Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Incidental Provisions with respect to the Post Office and the Members thereof

Status

- 1 The Post Office shall be a body corporate having perpetual...

Members

- 2 (1) A member of the Post Office shall hold and...
 3 (1) Before appointing a person to be a member of...
 4 (1) The Post Office— (a) shall pay to the members...
 5 (1) If the Minister is satisfied that a member of...
 6

Proceedings

- 7 The validity of any proceedings of the Post Office shall...
 8 The quorum of the Post Office shall be three; and,...
 9 Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Schedule, the Post...

Staff

- 10 The Post Office shall appoint a secretary of the Post...
 11 (1) Except so far as the Post Office is satisfied...
 12 (1) Except with the Minister's consent, the Post Office shall...

Fixing of Seal and Proof of Instruments

- 13 The fixing of the seal of the Post Office shall...
 14 A certificate signed by the secretary of the Post Office...
 15 Every document purporting to be an instrument made or issued...

SCHEDULE 2 — Classes of Assets to be held by the Post Office to match its Debts to its banking Customers

Part I — CLASSES OF ASSETS TO BE HELD TO MATCH A PROPORTION, DETERMINED UNDER SECTION 41 OF THIS ACT, OF DEBTS

- 1 Cash.
 2 Money held on current account by other bankers on behalf...
 3 Loans repayable either on demand or not later than the...
 4 Loans of either of the kinds mentioned in paragraph 9...
 5 Treasury bills payable not more than ninety-one days from date...
 6 Assets of such other class as may from time to...

Part II — CLASSES OF ASSETS TO BE HELD TO MATCH THE RESIDUE OF DEBTS

- 7 Cash.
 8 Money held as mentioned in paragraph 2 above.
 9 Loans of the class specified in paragraph 3 above.
 10 Loans of the class specified in paragraph 4 above.
 11 Treasury bills and bills of Her Majesty's Government in Northern...
 12 Assets of a class for the time being designated under...

Changes to legislation: *Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- 13 Marketable fixed interest securities issued by Her Majesty’s Government in...
- 14 Marketable fixed interest securities in the case of which the...
- 15 Loans of either of the kinds mentioned in paragraph 9...
- 16 Securities of the kind mentioned in the said paragraph 9,...
- 17 Assets of such other class as may from time to...

SCHEDULE 3 — Modifications of Schedules 5 and 6 to the Roads Act (Northern Ireland) 1948 for the Purposes of Orders made under Section 56 of this Act

- 1 For any reference in Schedule 5 to the Roads Act...
- 2 For any reference in Schedules 5 and 6 to the...
- 3 (1) Paragraph 2(2) of the said Schedule 5 shall be...
- 4 For any reference in the said Schedules to the said...
- 5 (1) For the purposes of a vesting order in respect...
- 6 In paragraph 10 of the said Schedule 5, for the...

SCHEDULE 4 — Adaptations of Enactments and Orders in Council consequential on the Assumption by the new Authority for the Conduct of postal and telegraphic Business of Functions exercised and performed before the appointed Day by the Postmaster General

Part I — INTERPRETATION

- 1 In this Schedule “the authority” means the authority established by...

Part II — ADAPTATIONS OF PUBLIC GENERAL ENACTMENTS

Adaptations of Enactments relating to the Post

- 2
- 3

Adaptations of Enactments relating to Telegraphs

- 4
- 5, 6
- 7

Adaptations of Enactments relating to the Supply of Electricity

- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11 As from the appointed day, references to a private generating...
- 12, 13

Adaptations of other Enactments

- 14 As from the appointed day section 11 of the Juries...
- 15
- 16—19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

Changes to legislation: Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

26
27
28, 29
30 As from the appointed day, section 2(2)(e) of the Execution...
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39, 40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55 As from the appointed day, the reference to the Post...
56
57
58
59 (1) Where any work proposed to be done on or...
60
61
62—64
65
66
67 As from the appointed day, section 7(1) of the Payment...
68
69
70 As from the appointed day, Schedule 4 to the Public...
71
72
73 As from the appointed day, the references to the Postmaster...
74
75
76
77 As from the appointed day, the reference in section 1(4)...
78
79
80 As from the appointed day, the Schedule to the Building...
81
82

Changes to legislation: Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

83	.....
84	.....
85	.....
86	.....
87	.....
88	.....
89	.....
90	As from the appointed day, the authority shall be deemed...
91	.....
92	.....
93	(1) A universal service provider ... in connection with the...
94	.....
	Part III — ADAPTATIONS OF LOCAL ENACTMENTS
95	.....
96	(1) Nothing in— (a) the London Building Acts 1930 to...
97	.....
98	.....
99	.....
100	.....
101, 102	.....
	Part IV — ADAPTATION OF ORDERS IN COUNCIL
103	.....
104	.....

SCHEDULE 5 — Repair of minor Deficiencies in certain Acts

- (1) In any proceedings against a person in respect of...
-
- Section 63 of the Post Office Act 1953 shall have...

SCHEDULE 6 — Amendments of Acts consequential on Section 94 of this Act
Parts I and II

Part III — AMENDMENTS OF OTHER ENACTMENTS

Enactments of the Parliament of the United Kingdom

Enactments of the Parliament of Northern Ireland

SCHEDULE 7 —

SCHEDULE 8 — Obsolete, &c., Enactments ceasing to have Effect

Part I — ENACTMENTS CEASING TO HAVE EFFECT ON THE PASSING OF
THIS ACT

Enactment of the Parliament of England

.....

Enactments of the Parliament of the United Kingdom

.....

Enactments of the Parliament of Northern Ireland

.....

Changes to legislation: Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Part II — ENACTMENTS CEASING TO HAVE EFFECT ON THE APPOINTED DAY

Enactment of the Parliament of the United Kingdom

.....

Enactment of the Parliament of Northern Ireland

.....

SCHEDULE 9 — General transitional Provisions

- 1 (1) Section 3(1) of this Act shall not affect the...
- 2 (1) Any agreement, and any provision in a document not...
- 3 (1) (2)
- 4, 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9 (1) This paragraph applies to the following instruments, namely,—
- 10 (1) Any licence operating by way of exception from the...
- 11 A notice or certificate given, request made or requirement imposed...
- 12 An authority granted under section 5(1) of the Telegraph Act...
- 13 Any such council as is mentioned in the Telegraph Act...
- 14 (1) A notice given under section 26 of the Electric...
- 15, 16
- 17 (1) No steps shall be taken for the enforcement of...
- 18, 19
- 20
- 21
- 22—26
- 27 (1) Where, between the passing of this Act and the...
- 28 (1) Notwithstanding section 245 of the Town and Country Planning...
- 29 No enforcement notice shall be served by virtue of paragraph...
- 30 Neither an interim development authority, nor, where the Department of...
- 31, 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36—47
- 48
- 49
- 50
- 51 An indemnity given under section 13 of the National Debt...
- 52 Any reference to the Postmaster General in a prospectus issued...
- 53 Where the Crown retains possession of any documents of title...
- 54 Any legal proceedings or applications pending on the appointed day...

SCHEDULE 10 — Special transitional Provisions with respect to Patents for Inventions and Registered Designs

Part I — PATENTS FOR INVENTIONS

- 1 For the purposes of so much of section 32(1) of...
- 2 (1) Where an agreement in the case of which rights...

Changes to legislation: Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- 3 Where, by an agreement in force immediately before the appointed...
 - 4 (1) If an obligation of the department of the Postmaster...
 - 5 Where, in the case of an invention, an authority for...
 - 6 The authority of the Post Office in respect of an...
 - 7 (1) The Post Office shall have power to use, for...
 - 8 (1) In relation to any use of a patented invention...
 - 9 (1) Any dispute as to the exercise by the Post...
 - 10 (1) Where, in pursuance of an agreement made before the...
 - 11 Expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Patents Act...
- Part II — REGISTERED DESIGNS
- 12 (1) Where an agreement in the case of which rights...
 - 13 Where, by an agreement in force immediately before the appointed...
 - 14 (1) If an obligation of the department of the Postmaster...
 - 15 Where, in the case of a design, an authority for...
 - 16 The authority of the Post Office in respect of a...
 - 17 (1) In the case of articles vested in the Post...
 - 18 (1) In relation to any use of a registered design...
 - 19 (1) Any dispute as to the exercise by the Post...
 - 20 (1) Where, in pursuance of an agreement made before the...
 - 21 Expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Registered Designs...

SCHEDULE 11 — Repeals and Revocations

Part I — ENACTMENTS REPEALED ON THE PASSING OF THIS ACT

.....

Part II — ENACTMENTS REPEALED ON THE APPOINTED DAY

Enactment of the Parliament of the Great Britain

.....

Enactments of the Parliament of the United Kingdom

.....

Enactments of the Parliament of Northern Ireland

.....

Part III — ORDERS IN COUNCIL REVOKED ON THE APPOINTED DAY

.....

Changes to legislation:

Post Office Act 1969 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 74 repealed by [2000 c. 26 Sch. 9](#)