



Local Government Act 1972

1972 CHAPTER 70

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS POWERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Land transactions — principal councils

121 Acquisition of land compulsorily by principal councils.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, for any purpose for which they are authorised by this or any other public general Act to acquire land, a principal council may be authorised by the Minister concerned with that purpose to purchase compulsorily any land, whether situated inside or outside their area.
- (2) A council may not be authorised under subsection (1) above to purchase land compulsorily—
 - (a) for the purpose specified in section 120(1)(b) above, or
 - (b) for the purpose of any of their functions under the ^{M1}Local Authorities (Land) Act 1963, or
 - (c) for any purpose in relation to which their power of acquisition is by any enactment expressly limited to acquisition by agreement.
- (3) Where one or more councils propose, in exercise of the power conferred by subsection (1) above, to acquire any land for more than one purpose, the Minister or Ministers whose authorisation is required for the exercise of that power shall not be concerned to make any apportionment between those purposes nor, where there is more than one council, between those councils, and—
 - (a) the purposes shall be treated as a single purpose and the compulsory acquisition shall be treated as requiring the authorisation of the Minister, or the joint authorisation of the Ministers, concerned with those purposes; and
 - (b) where there is more than one council concerned, the councils may nominate one of them to acquire the land on behalf of them all and the council so

Changes to legislation: Local Government Act 1972, Section 121 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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

nominated shall accordingly be treated as the acquiring authority for the purposes of any enactment relating to the acquisition.

- (4) The [^{F1}Acquisition of Land Act 1981] shall apply in relation to the compulsory purchase of land in pursuance of subsection (1) above ^{F2}. . .

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words substituted by [Acquisition of Land Act 1981 \(c. 67, SIF 28:1\)](#), s. 34(1), **Sch. 4 para. 1** Table
F2 Words repealed by [Acquisition of Land Act 1981 \(c. 67, SIF 28:1\)](#), s. 34(3), **Sch. 6 Pt. I**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 121 modified by [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976 \(c. 57, SIF 81:1\)](#), **s. 19(4)**
C2 S. 121 modified (07.08.1991) by S.I. 1991/1773, art. 8(2), **Sch.2**.
S. 121: certain functions transferred (07.08.1991) by S.I. 1991/1773, art. 8, **Sch. 2**.
S. 121: power conferred to make provisions about matters of the kind dealt with in this section (1.9.1997) by [1997 c. 50, s. 44\(1\)](#), **Sch. 4(a)(vii)**; S.I. 1997/1930, **art. 2(1)(2)(m)**
C3 S. 121 modified (10.01.1992) by S.I. 1991/2913, art. 8(2), **Sch. 2**.
S. 121: certain functions transferred (10.01.1992) by S.I. 1991/2913, art. 8, **Sch.2**.
C4 S. 121 applied (with modifications) (20.11.2006) by [The Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority \(Combination Scheme\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/2790\)](#), art. 2, **Sch. para. 15**
C5 S. 121 modified (E.) (6.4.2010) by [The Portsmouth Port Health Authority Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1217\)](#), arts. 1(1), 4, **Sch.**
C6 S. 121 modified (E.) (6.4.2010) by [The Cowes Port Health Authority Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1216\)](#), arts. 1(1), 4, **Sch.**
C7 Ss. 120-123 applied (with modifications) (E.) (24.3.2011) by [The Hull and Goole Port Health Authority Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/939\)](#), arts. 1(1), 7, **Sch. 1**
C8 S. 121 applied (with modifications) (1.4.2015) by [The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority \(Combination Scheme\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/435\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. para. 17**
C9 Ss. 120-123 applied (with modifications) (E.) (31.3.2017) by [The Weymouth Port Health Authority Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/558\)](#), arts. 1(1), 8, **Sch. 1**
C10 S. 121 modified (1.4.2018) by [The Sub-national Transport Body \(Transport for the North\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/103\)](#), regs. 1(2), **19(4)**
C11 S. 121 applied (with modifications) (1.4.2020) by [The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority \(Combination Scheme\) Order 2020 \(S.I. 2020/186\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. para. 17**
C12 S. 121(1) modified (1.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/672, art. 2, **Sch. 1**

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1963 c. 29.

Changes to legislation:

Local Government Act 1972, Section 121 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 80(3B) omitted by [2021 asc 1 Sch. 2 para. 1\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 101(6ZA) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 12 para. 2](#)
- s. 123(2C) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 75](#)
- s. 131(2)(n) and word inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 16](#)