



Prices Act 1974

1974 CHAPTER 24

An Act to authorise the payment of food subsidies; to confer on the Secretary of State power to regulate the price of food and certain other goods and on the Price Commission additional powers for preventing or restricting increases in prices and charges; to make provision for requiring prices to be indicated on or in relation to goods offered or exposed for sale by retail and for requiring information as to the range within which food and certain other goods are commonly being sold by retail within the United Kingdom to be displayed by retailers dealing in those goods; to confer power to abolish the Pay Board; and for purposes connected with those matters. [9th July 1974]

Commencement Information

II Act wholly in force at Royal Assent.

1 ^{F1}

Textual Amendments

F1 Ss. 1, 6, 8(2), Sch. paras. 1, 2, 4 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. II**

F2 **Power of Secretary of State to regulate price of food and certain other goods.**
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Textual Amendments

F2 S. 2 repealed (22.7.2004) by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), **Sch. 1 Pt. 16** Group 2

Status: Point in time view as at 28/06/2022.

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3 F3

Textual Amendments

F3 S. 3 repealed by [Price Commission Act 1977 \(c. 33\)](#), [Sch. 3](#)

4 Price marking.

- [^{F4}(1) The Secretary of State may by order make provision for securing—
- (a) that prices are indicated on or in relation to goods which a person indicates are or may be for sale by retail, whether or not the goods are in existence when he does so;
 - (b) that charges are indicated for services which a person indicates are or may be provided, except services which he indicates are or may be provided only for the purposes of businesses carried on by other persons;
 - (c) that prices of such goods or charges for such services are not indicated in a manner which the Secretary of State considers inappropriate and that no part of a penny except one half-penny is specified in the amount of an indicated price or charge.]
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, an order under this section [^{F5}may specify the kinds of goods or services to which and the circumstances in which the order applies and]—
- (a) may make provision as to the manner in which any price is to be indicated;
 - (b) may require that the price [^{F5}or charge] to be indicated on or in relation to any goods [^{F5}or services] shall be, or shall include, a price [^{F5}or charge] expressed by reference to such unit or units of measurement as may be specified in the order;
 - (c) may, in relation to goods [^{F5}or services] subject to value added tax, make provision as to the circumstances in which the price [^{F5} or charge] to be indicated may or may not be exclusive of the tax and as to the indication to be given of the tax included in, or payable in addition to, the price [^{F5}or charge;]
 - (d) may make different provision in relation to different circumstances and may contain such supplementary provisions as the Secretary of State thinks necessary or expedient.
- [^{F6}(3) Before making an order under this section the Secretary of State shall consult, in such manner as appears to him to be appropriate having regard to the subject-matter and urgency of the order, with such organisations representative of interests substantially affected by the order as appear to him, having regard to those matters, to be appropriate.]
- (4) The power to make an order under this section shall be exercisable by statutory instrument and includes power to vary or revoke a previous order; and a statutory instrument containing an order under this section shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (5) In the application of this section to Northern Ireland for any reference to the Secretary of State there shall be substituted a reference to the Department of Commerce for Northern Ireland and any order made by the Department under this section shall be [^{F7}a statutory rule for the purposes of the ^{M1}Statutory Rules Act (Northern Ireland)

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1958 and be] subject to negative resolution within the meaning of section 41(6) of the ^{M2}Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 as if it were a statutory instrument within the meaning of that Act; and subsection (4) above shall not apply to any such order except in so far as that subsection confers a power to vary or revoke a previous order.

Subordinate Legislation Made

- P1** S. 4: s. 4 power exercised by [S.I. 1991/206](#).
- S. 4: s. 4 power exercised by [S.I. 1991/1382](#)
- S. 4: s. 4 power exercised by [S.I.1991/1690](#)
- S. 4: for exercises of this power see Index to Government Orders.

Textual Amendments

- F4** S. 4(1) substituted by [Price Commission Act 1977 \(c. 33\), s. 16\(1\)](#)
- F5** Words inserted by [Price Commission Act 1977 \(c. 33\), s. 16\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- F6** [S. 4\(3\)](#) substituted (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\), Sch. 2 para. 11](#)
- F7** Words inserted by [Price Commission Act 1977 \(c. 33\), s. 16\(3\)](#)

Marginal Citations

- M1** [1958 c.18 \(N.I.\)](#)
- M2** [1954 c. 33 \(N.I.\)](#)

^{F8}5 Price range notices.

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Textual Amendments

- F8** [S. 5](#) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\), Sch. 1 Pt. 16](#) Group 2

6 ^{F9}

Textual Amendments

- F9** [Ss. 1, 6, 8\(2\), Sch. paras. 1, 2, 4](#) repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1989 \(c. 43\), s. 1\(1\), Sch. 1 Pt. II](#)

7 Enforcement.

The Schedule to this Act shall have effect ^{F10}... for the enforcement of orders under sections ^{F10}... 4 ^{F10}... above.

Textual Amendments

- F10** Words in [s. 7](#) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\), Sch. 1 Pt. 16](#) Group 2

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8 Financial provisions.

- (1) There shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament—
 - (a) the expenses of any government department in respect of the administration of this Act;
 - (b) any increase attributable to this Act in the sums so payable under any other Act.

(2) ^{F11}

Textual Amendments
F11 Ss. 1, 6, 8(2), Sch. paras. 1, 2, 4 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. II**

9 Short title and interpretation.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Prices Act 1974.
- (2) In this Act “food” means food and drink for human consumption.
- (3) In this Act any reference to any enactment is a reference to that enactment as amended by or under any subsequent enactment.

^{F12}(4)

Textual Amendments
F12 S. 9(4) repealed (22.7.2004) by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), **Sch. 1 Pt. 16** Group 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)
C1 S. 9(4) amended by Prices Act 1975 (c. 32), s. 2(1)

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SCHEDULE

Section 7.

ENFORCEMENT

Food subsidies

1 ^{F13}

Textual Amendments

F13 Ss. 1, 6, 8(2), Sch. paras. 1, 2, 4 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II

2 ^{F14}

Textual Amendments

F14 Ss. 1, 6, 8(2), Sch. paras. 1, 2, 4 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II

^{F15}3

Textual Amendments

F15 Sch. para. 3 omitted (1.10.2015) by virtue of Consumer Rights Act 2015 (c. 15), s. 100(5), Sch. 6 para. 11(2); S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i) (with art. 8)

4 ^{F16}

Textual Amendments

F16 Ss. 1, 6, 8(2), Sch. paras. 1, 2, 4 repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1989 (c. 43), s. 1(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II

Price regulation, price marking and price range notices

- 5 (1) Any person who contravenes an order under section ^{F17}... 4 ^{F17}... of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and liable—
- (a) on conviction on indictment, to a fine;
 - (b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £400.

^{F18}(2)

- (3) Section 23 of the ^{M3}Trade Descriptions Act 1968 (offences due to fault of other person) and section 24(1) and (2) of that Act (defence of mistake, accident, etc.) shall have effect in relation to an offence in respect of an order under section 4 of this Act as they have effect in relation to an offence under that Act.

Textual Amendments

F17 Words in Sch. para. 5(1) repealed (22.7.2004) by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), Sch. 1 Pt. 16 Group 2

F18 Sch. para. 5(2) repealed (22.7.2004) by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), Sch. 1 Pt. 16 Group 2

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 Para. 5 extended by [Price Commission Act 1977 \(c. 33\)](#), s. 13(5); modified by S.I. 1977/1224, reg. 2

Marginal Citations

M3 1968 c.29.

6 It shall be the duty of every local weights and measures authority to enforce within their area any such order as is mentioned in paragraph 5(1) above.

^{F19}7

Textual Amendments

F19 Sch. para. 7 omitted (1.10.2015) by virtue of [Consumer Rights Act 2015 \(c. 15\)](#), s. 100(5), [Sch. 6 para. 11\(2\)](#); S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i) (with art. 8)

8 (1) Proceedings for an offence under paragraph 5 above shall not be instituted except by or on behalf of a local weights and measures authority.

(2) Proceedings for any such offence shall not be instituted—

- (a) unless there has been served on the person charged a notice in writing of the date and nature of the offence alleged, being (except where he is a street trader) a notice served before the expiration of the period of thirty days beginning with that date; or
- (b) after the expiration of the period of three months beginning with that date.

(3) Such a notice as is mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)(a) above may be served on any person ^{F20}—

- (a) if the proceedings are to be instituted in England and Wales, in accordance with Criminal Procedure Rules; or
- (b) otherwise,] either by serving it on him personally or by sending it to him by post at his usual or last known residence or place of business in the United Kingdom or, in the case of a company, at the company's registered office.

^{F21}(3A) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3)(a)—

- (a) Criminal Procedure Rules (as they have effect from time to time) apply to the notice as if it were a document to be served in criminal proceedings before a magistrates' court, and
- (b) any magistrates' court may discharge functions conferred on a court by those Rules in relation to such service.]

(4) Sub-paragraph (1) above does not apply to Scotland.

Textual Amendments

F20 Words in [Sch. para. 8\(3\)](#) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 51(3), [Sch. 1 para. 3\(a\)](#)

F21 [Sch. para. 8\(3A\)](#) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Judicial Review and Courts Act 2022 \(c. 35\)](#), s. 51(3), [Sch. 1 para. 3\(b\)](#)

^{F22}9

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Textual Amendments

F22 Sch. para. 9 omitted (1.10.2015) by virtue of Consumer Rights Act 2015 (c. 15), s. 100(5), Sch. 6 para. 11(2); S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i) (with art. 8)

F23 10

Textual Amendments

F23 Sch. para. 10 omitted (1.10.2015) by virtue of Consumer Rights Act 2015 (c. 15), s. 100(5), Sch. 6 para. 11(2); S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i) (with art. 8)

F24 11

Textual Amendments

F24 Sch. para. 11 repealed (22.7.2004) by Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), Sch. 1 Pt. 16 Group 2

Restriction on disclosure of information

F25 12

Textual Amendments

F25 Sch. para. 12 repealed (20.6.2003) by Enterprise Act 2002 (c. 40), ss. 247(c), 279, Schs. 26; S.I. 2003/1397, art. 2(1), Sch. (with art. 6)

Offences by bodies corporate

13 Where an offence under this Schedule committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Northern Ireland

14 (1) In the application of this Schedule to Northern Ireland for any reference to a local weights and measures authority there shall be substituted a reference to the Department of Commerce for Northern Ireland ^{F26}....

(2) ^{F27}... in paragraph 12(2)(b) above references to a Minister of the Crown include references to a Northern Ireland department and the head of a Northern Ireland department.

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Textual Amendments

- F26** Words in [Sch. para. 14\(1\)](#) omitted (1.10.2015) by virtue of [Consumer Rights Act 2015 \(c. 15\)](#), s. 100(5), [Sch. 6 para. 11\(3\)](#); S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i) (with art. 8)
- F27** Words in [Sch. para. 14\(2\)](#) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. 16](#) Group 2

[^{F28}15 For the investigatory powers available to a local weights and measures authority or the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland for the purposes of the duty in paragraph 6, see Schedule 5 to the Consumer Rights Act 2015.]

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Textual Amendments

- F28** [Sch. para. 15](#) inserted (1.10.2015) by [Consumer Rights Act 2015 \(c. 15\)](#), s. 100(5), [Sch. 6 para. 11\(4\)](#); S.I. 2015/1630, art. 3(i)

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