



# Housing Act 1985

## 1985 CHAPTER 68

### PART VIII

#### AREA IMPROVEMENT

##### *General improvement areas*

#### **259 Contributions by Secretary of State.**

(1) The Secretary of State may pay contributions to a local housing authority towards such expenditure incurred by them under the provisions of this Part relating to general improvement areas as he may determine.

[<sup>F1</sup>(2) In the case of any expenditure, the contribution—

- (a) shall be equal to one-half of the amount of the expenditure; and
- (b) shall be payable in one sum or by two or more instalments, according as the Secretary of State may determine.]

(3) The aggregate of the expenditure towards which such contributions may be made with respect to a general improvement area shall not exceed the sum arrived at by multiplying—

- (a) [<sup>F2</sup>£600], by
- (b) the number of dwellings stated by the local housing authority under section 254(4) to be in the areaX;

but two adjoining general improvement areas may for this purpose be treated as one.

(4) The Secretary of State may, with the consent of the Treasury—

- (a) by order substitute in subsections (2) and (3) another fraction for one-half and another amount for £400;
- (b) direct that those subsections shall have effect, in the case of a general improvement area specified in the direction or of a description so specified, with the substitution of a higher fraction or a greater amount than that for the time being specified in the subsection.

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*Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1985, Section 259 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 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*

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- (5) An order under subsection (4)(a)—
- (a) may make different provision for different cases or descriptions of case, including different provision for different areas, and
  - (b) shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons.
- (6) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) the cost of acquiring an estate or interest in a case where periodical payments fall to be made in connection with the acquisition shall be taken to include such sum as the Secretary of State may determine to be the capital equivalent of those payments; and
  - (b) the cost of works shall be taken to include the cost of the employment in connection with the works of an architect, engineer, surveyor, land-agent or other person in an advisory or supervisory capacity.
- (7) In the case of contributions payable in respect of—
- (a) works to which the <sup>M1</sup>Housing Act 1971 applied (works in certain areas completed before 23rd June 1974), or
  - (b) expenditure on providing land treated as expenditure on such works by virtue of section 2(4) of that Act,
- subsection (2)(b) above has effect with the substitution of “75 per cent.” for “one-half”.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 259(2) substituted by [Local Government and Housing Act 1989 \(c. 42, SIF 61\)](#), **s. 98(6)**  
**F2** “£600” substituted by [S.I. 1988/1258](#), **art. 2**

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1971 c. 76.

**Changes to legislation:**

Housing Act 1985, Section 259 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 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 :**

- specified provision(s) savings for amendments by 2018 anaw 1, s. 6, Sch. 6 by [S.I. 2019/110 reg. 5](#)

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

- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by [S.I. 2022/1166](#) by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

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

- s. 81A-81D and cross-heading inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 4](#) (This provision is amended by [2021 c. 7, ss. 79\(3\), 90\(6\)](#); [S.I. 2021/1038, reg. 3\(c\)](#))
- s. 81B(1)(b) words inserted by [2018 c. 11 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 81B(2A)-(2C) inserted by [2018 c. 11 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 81B(2C) words substituted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of s. 81B by [2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4](#) is still prospective)
- s. 81B(2C) words substituted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of s. 81B by [2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4](#) is still prospective)
- s. 81B(2D) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of s. 81B by [2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4](#) is still prospective)
- s. 82(A1)(A2) inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 119\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 82A(4A)(4B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 7\(2\)](#)
- s. 86(1A)(1B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 10\(3\)](#)
- s. 86(1C) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 2](#)
- s. 86A-86F and cross-headings inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 11](#)
- s. 86G s. 86A renumbered as s. 86G by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 3\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 86G(8) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 3\(2\)](#)
- s. 88(1)(ba) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 4](#)
- s. 89(2A)-(2D) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 5\(3\)](#)
- s. 97(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 99A(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 13\(3\)](#)
- s. 115B115C inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 15](#)
- s. 115B115C inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 15](#)
- s. 305(1A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 68\(b\)](#)
- s. 306(1A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 69\(b\)](#)
- s. 353A inserted by [1996 c. 52 s. 73\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 73 repealed (6.4.2006 for E., 16.6.2006 for W.) by [2004 c. 34, Sch. 16](#); [S.I. 2006/1060, art. 2\(1\)\(e\), Sch.](#); [S.I. 2006/1535, art. 2\(c\), Sch.](#))
- s. 582(6)(aa)-(ac) substituted for s. 582(6)(a) by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 1ZA and cross-heading inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 17\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 5A para. 3(3)(aa) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 5A para. 3(6A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(3\)\(d\)](#)