



# Water Industry Act 1991

## 1991 CHAPTER 56

An Act to consolidate enactments relating to the supply of water and the provision of sewerage services, with amendments to give effect to recommendations of the Law Commission. [25th July 1991]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### Extent Information

**E1** Act extends to England and Wales; for minor variations see s. 223(3)

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** A reference to a detention centre within the meaning of [Part VIII of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 \(c. 33\)](#) to be construed as a reference to a removal centre within the meaning of that Part (10.2.2003) by virtue of [2002 c. 41, s. 66\(4\)](#); S.I. 2003/1, [art. 2](#), [Sch.](#)
- C2** Act modified (temp.) (29.3.2005) by [The Water Act 2003 \(Commencement No. 4, Transitional Provisions and Savings\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/968\)](#), [art. 4](#), {[Sch. 2 paras. 3, 4](#)}
- C3** Act: certain provisions modified (temp.) (8.3.2004) by [The Water Act 2003 \(Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2004 \(S.I. 2004/641\)](#), [art. 6](#), [Sch. 3 para. 7](#)
- C4** Act: transfer of functions (W.) (except ss. 1, 14, 15, 17, 24(2)(d), 27(3), 32-35, 152(2), 193(3), 206(3) (e), [Schs. 1, 4](#) and subject to entry in [Sch. 1](#) of the amending S.I.) (1.7.1999) by [1999/672](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#) (as amended by [2003 c. 37, s. 100\(2\)\(4\)\(6\)\(7\)](#); S.I. 2004/2528, [art. 2\(s\)](#); S.I. 2006/3334, [Sch.](#))
- C5** Act restricted (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 15\(2\)\(a\)](#), 225(2).
- C6** Act restricted (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 18\(2\)](#), 225(2).
- C7** Act: definitions of "service pipe" and "water main" applied (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 162\(6\)](#), 225(2).  
Act: definition of "sewerage services" applied (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 173](#), [Sch. 20 para. 8\(1\)](#), [s. 207\(8\)](#), 225(2).  
Act: definition of "service pipe" applied (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 176\(7\)](#) and 195(7), 225(2).

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**Changes to legislation:** Water Industry Act 1991, Introductory Text is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 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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Act: definition of "stopcock" applied (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 176\(7\)](#) and 221(1), 225(2).

Act: definition of "trunk main" applied (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 186\(1\)](#), 225(2).

Act: definition of "drain" applied (01.12.1991) by [Water Resources Act 1991 \(c. 57, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 221\(1\)](#), 225(2).

**C8** [A table showing the derivation of the provisions of this Consolidation Act will be found at the end of the Act. The table has no official status.]

**C9** Act excluded (01.12.1991) by [Statutory Water Companies Act 1991 \(c. 58, SIF 130\)](#), [ss. 11\(2\)](#), 17(2).

**C10** Act: definition of "public sewers" applied (01.12.1991) by [Land Drainage Act 1991 \(c. 59, SIF 73:1\)](#), [ss. 72\(1\)](#), 76(2) (with [ss. 67\(3\)\(5\)\(8\)](#), [72\(6\)\(8\)](#), [74\(3\)\(4\)](#)).

**C11** Act applied (8.8.2017) by [The Wrexham Gas Fired Generating Station Order 2017 \(S.I. 2017/766\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 34](#)

**C12** Act applied (Isles of Scilly) (with modifications) (1.11.2019) by [The Isles of Scilly \(Application of Water Legislation\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1259\)](#), arts. 2(1), 4 (as amended (27.3.2020) by [The Isles of Scilly \(Application of Water Legislation\) Order 2020 \(S.I. 2020/214\)](#), [art. 6](#))

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#### Commencement Information

**I1** Act wholly in force at 1.12.1991 see s. 223(2)

**Changes to legislation:**

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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):

- Pt. 3 Ch. 2B inserted by [2014 c. 21 s. 12](#)
- s. 17(2)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 1 para. 4(4)(b) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 21](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- s. 17A(c) repealed by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 17A(d) repealed by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 17A(2)(ba) and word inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 17R(2)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 1 para. 4(7)(b) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 21](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- s. 17AA(1)(ba)(bb) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 5\(2\)](#)
- s. 17BA(5A) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 7\(3\)](#)
- s. 17HA(9)(b)(ia) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 16\(2\)](#)
- s. 23(2AA) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 7 para. 35\(4\)](#)
- s. 23(8)(9) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 7 para. 35\(10\)](#)
- s. 39E-39H inserted by [2021 c. 30 s. 78\(7\)](#)
- s. 87(7C)-(7F) inserted by [2012 c. 7 s. 35\(6\)](#)
- s. 94A-94E inserted by [2021 c. 30 s. 79](#)
- s. 95ZA(6) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 39\(4\)](#)
- s. 96ZA(2)-(5) substituted for s. 96ZA(2) by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 40](#)
- s. 106B(3A) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 7 para. 94](#)
- s. 117G(2)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 41\(2\)](#)
- s. 117G(4)-(4D) substituted for s. 117(4) by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 41\(3\)](#)
- s. 117G(6)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 41\(4\)](#)
- s. 117K(2)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 42\(2\)](#)
- s. 117K(5)(5A) substituted for s. 117(5) by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 42\(3\)](#)
- s. 117L(9) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 43\(3\)](#)
- s. 117N(4)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 45\(2\)](#)
- s. 117N(8)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 45\(3\)](#)
- s. 117N(11)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 45\(4\)](#)
- s. 117O(4)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 46\(2\)](#)
- s. 117O(8)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 46\(3\)](#)
- s. 117S(7)-(9) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 49](#)
- s. 119(2)(ab) inserted by [2003 c. 37 s. 89\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 119(3) inserted by [2003 c. 37 s. 89\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 121(1)(ba) inserted by [2003 c. 37 s. 89\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 141DA inserted by [2021 c. 30 s. 81](#)
- s. 141DC inserted by [2021 c. 30 s. 83](#)
- s. 177K(7)(aa) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 42\(4\)](#)
- s. 207D and cross-heading inserted by [2014 c. 21 s. 39](#)
- s. 207D(5) word repealed by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 52\(a\)](#)
- s. 207D(5) words inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 52\(b\)](#)

- s. 213(1ZA) inserted by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 7 para. 119\(3\)](#)
- s. 213(1ZA) repealed by [2014 c. 21 Sch. 5 para. 53](#)