



Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 52

PART I

TRADE UNIONS

CHAPTER II

STATUS AND PROPERTY OF TRADE UNIONS

Property of trade union

12 Property to be vested in trustees.

- (1) All property belonging to a trade union shall be vested in trustees in trust for it.
- (2) A judgment, order or award made in proceedings of any description brought against a trade union is enforceable, by way of execution, diligence, punishment for contempt or otherwise, against any property held in trust for it to the same extent and in the same manner as if it were a body corporate.
- (3) Subsection (2) has effect subject to section 23 (restriction on enforcement of awards against certain property).

13 Vesting of property in new trustees.

- (1) The provisions of this section apply in relation to the appointment or discharge of trustees in whom any property is vested in trust for a trade union whose name is entered in the list of trade unions.
- (2) In the following sections as they apply to such trustees references to a deed shall be construed as references to an instrument in writing—

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- (a) section 39 of the ^{M1}Trustee Act 1925 and section 38 of the ^{M2}Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 1958 (retirement of trustee without a new appointment), and
 - (b) section 40 of the Trustee Act 1925 and section 39 of the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 1958 (vesting of trust property in new or continuing trustees).
- (3) Where such a trustee is appointed or discharged by a resolution taken by or on behalf of the union, the written record of the resolution shall be treated for the purposes of those sections as an instrument in writing appointing or discharging the trustee.
- (4) In section 40 of the Trustee Act 1925 and section 39 of the Trustee Act (Northern Ireland) 1958 as they apply to such trustees, paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (4) (which exclude certain property from the section) shall be omitted.

Marginal Citations

M1 1925 c. 19.

M2 1958 c. 23 (N.I.).

14 Transfer of securities held in trust for trade union.

- (1) In this section—

“instrument of appointment” means an instrument in writing appointing a new trustee of a trade union whose name is entered in the list of trade unions, and

“instrument of discharge” means an instrument in writing discharging a trustee of such a trade union;

and for the purposes of this section where a trustee is appointed or discharged by a resolution taken by or on behalf of such a trade union, the written record of the resolution shall be treated as an instrument in writing appointing or discharging the trustee.

- (2) Where by any enactment or instrument the transfer of securities of any description is required to be effected or recorded by means of entries in a register, then if—
- (a) there is produced to the person authorised or required to keep the register a copy of an instrument of appointment or discharge which contains or has attached to it a list identifying the securities of that description held in trust for the union at the date of the appointment or discharge, and
 - (b) it appears to that person that any of the securities so identified are included in the register kept by him,

he shall make such entries as may be necessary to give effect to the instrument of appointment or discharge.

This subsection has effect notwithstanding anything in any enactment or instrument regulating the keeping of the register.

- (3) A document which purports to be a copy of an instrument of appointment or discharge containing or having attached to it such a list, and to be certified in accordance with the following subsection to be a copy of such an instrument, shall be taken to be a copy of such an instrument unless the contrary is proved.

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- (4) The certificate shall be given by the president and general secretary of the union and, in the case of an instrument to which a list of securities is attached, shall appear both on the instrument and on the list.
- (5) Nothing done for the purposes of or in pursuance of this section shall be taken to affect any person with notice of any trust or to impose on any person a duty to inquire into any matter.
- (6) In relation to a Scottish trust, references in this section to the appointment and discharge of a trustee shall be construed as including references to, respectively, the assumption and resignation of a trustee; and references to an instrument appointing or discharging a trustee shall be construed accordingly.

15 Prohibition on use of funds to indemnify unlawful conduct.

- (1) It is unlawful for property of a trade union to be applied in or towards—
 - (a) the payment for an individual of a penalty which has been or may be imposed on him for an offence or for contempt of court,
 - (b) the securing of any such payment, or
 - (c) the provision of anything for indemnifying an individual in respect of such a penalty.
- (2) Where any property of a trade union is so applied for the benefit of an individual on whom a penalty has been or may be imposed, then—
 - (a) in the case of a payment, an amount equal to the payment is recoverable by the union from him, and
 - (b) in any other case, he is liable to account to the union for the value of the property applied.
- (3) If a trade union fails to bring or continue proceedings which it is entitled to bring by virtue of subsection (2), a member of the union who claims that the failure is unreasonable may apply to the court on that ground for an order authorising him to bring or continue the proceedings on the union's behalf and at the union's expense.
- (4) In this section "penalty", in relation to an offence, includes an order to pay compensation and an order for the forfeiture of any property; and references to the imposition of a penalty for an offence shall be construed accordingly.
- (5) The Secretary of State may by order designate offences in relation to which the provisions of this section do not apply.

Any such order shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

- (6) This section does not affect—
 - (a) any other enactment, any rule of law or any provision of the rules of a trade union which makes it unlawful for the property of a trade union to be applied in a particular way; or
 - (b) any other remedy available to a trade union, the trustees of its property or any of its members in respect of an unlawful application of the union's property.
- (7) In this section "member", in relation to a trade union consisting wholly or partly of, or of representatives of, constituent or affiliated organisations, includes a member of any of the constituent or affiliated organisations.

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16 Remedy against trustees for unlawful use of union property.

- (1) A member of a trade union who claims that the trustees of the union’s property—
- (a) have so carried out their functions, or are proposing so to carry out their functions, as to cause or permit an unlawful application of the union’s property, or
 - (b) have complied, or are proposing to comply, with an unlawful direction which has been or may be given, or purportedly given, to them under the rules of the union,
- may apply to the court for an order under this section.
- (2) In a case relating to property which has already been unlawfully applied, or to an unlawful direction that has already been complied with, an application under this section may be made only by a person who was a member of the union at the time when the property was applied or, as the case may be, the direction complied with.
- (3) Where the court is satisfied that the claim is well-founded, it shall make such order as it considers appropriate.
- The court may in particular—
- (a) require the trustees (if necessary, on behalf of the union) to take all such steps as may be specified in the order for protecting or recovering the property of the union;
 - (b) appoint a receiver of, or in Scotland a judicial factor on, the property of the union;
 - (c) remove one or more of the trustees.
- (4) Where the court makes an order under this section in a case in which—
- (a) property of the union has been applied in contravention of an order of any court, or in compliance with a direction given in contravention of such an order, or
 - (b) the trustees were proposing to apply property in contravention of such an order or to comply with any such direction,
- the court shall by its order remove all the trustees except any trustee who satisfies the court that there is a good reason for allowing him to remain a trustee.
- (5) Without prejudice to any other power of the court, the court may on an application for an order under this section grant such interlocutory relief (in Scotland, such interim order) as it considers appropriate.
- (6) This section does not affect any other remedy available in respect of a breach of trust by the trustees of a trade union’s property.
- (7) In this section “member”, in relation to a trade union consisting wholly or partly of, or of representatives of, constituent or affiliated organisations, includes a member of any of the constituent or affiliated organisations.

17 Nominations by members of trade unions.

- (1) The Secretary of State may make provision by regulations for enabling members of trade unions who are not under 16 years of age to nominate a person or persons to become entitled, on the death of the person making the nomination, to the whole or part of any money payable on his death out of the funds of the trade union.

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- (2) The regulations may include provision as to the manner in which nominations may be made and as to the manner in which nominations may be varied or revoked.
- (3) The regulations may provide that, subject to such exceptions as may be prescribed, no nomination made by a member of a trade union shall be valid if at the date of the nomination the person nominated is an officer or employee of the trade union or is otherwise connected with the trade union in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.
- (4) The regulations may include such incidental, transitional or supplementary provisions as the Secretary of State may consider appropriate.
- (5) They may, in particular, include provision for securing, to such extent and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed in the regulations, that nominations made under the ^{M3}Trade Union Act 1871 Amendment Act 1876 have effect as if made under the regulations and may be varied or revoked accordingly.
- (6) Regulations under this section shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Marginal Citations

M3 1876 c. 22.

18 Payments out of union funds on death of member.

- (1) The Secretary of State may make provision by regulations for enabling money payable out of the funds of a trade union on the death of a member, to an amount not exceeding £5,000, to be paid or distributed on his death without letters of administration, probate of any will or confirmation.
- (2) The regulations may include such incidental, transitional and supplementary provisions as the Secretary of State may consider appropriate.
- (3) Regulations under this section shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (4) The Treasury may by order under section 6(1) of the ^{M4}Administration of Estates (Small Payments) Act 1965 direct that subsection (1) above shall have effect with the substitution for the reference to £5,000 of a reference to such higher amount as may be specified in the order.

Marginal Citations

M4 1965 c. 32.

19 Application of certain provisions relating to industrial assurance or friendly societies.

[^{F1}(1) Section 99 of the Friendly Societies Act 1992 (insurance of lives of children under 10) applies to a trade union as to [^{F2}a friendly society]].

^{F3}(2)

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- (3) Section 52 of the Friendly Societies Act 1974 (charitable subscriptions and contributions to other registered societies) extends to a trade union, or branch of a trade union, as regards contributing to the funds and taking part in the government of a medical society, that is, a society for the purpose of relief in sickness by providing medical attendance and medicine.

A trade union, or branch of a trade union, shall not withdraw from contributing to the funds of such a society except on three months notice to the society and on payment of all contributions accrued or accruing due to the date of the expiry of the notice.

- (4) ^{F4}.....

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Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 19(1) substituted (1.1.1994) by S.I. 1993/3084, **reg. 7**
- F2** Words in s. 19(1) substituted (1.12.2001) by S.I. 2001/3649, **arts. 1, 332**
- F3** S. 19(2) repealed (1.1.1994) by S.I. 1993/3084, **reg.8**
- F4** S. 19(4) repealed (6.4.2005) by Employment Relations Act 2004 (c. 24), ss. 57(1)(2), 59(2)-(4), Sch. 1 para. 3, **Sch. 2**; S.I. 2005/872, **art. 4**, Sch. (with arts. 6-21)

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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. 212A(1)(zb) inserted by [2023 c. 46 Sch. para. 1](#)