



Public Health Act 1875

1875 CHAPTER 55

PART III

SANITARY PROVISIONS.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Regulations as to Sewers and Drains.

13 Sewers vested in local authority.

All existing and future sewers within the district of a local authority, together with all buildings works materials and things belonging thereto,

Except

- (1) Sewers made by any person for his own profit, or by any company for the profit of the shareholders ; and
- (2) Sewers made and used for the purpose of draining preserving or improving land under any local or private Act of Parliament, or for the purpose of irrigating land ; and
- (3) Sewers under the authority of any commissioners of sewers appointed by the Crown, shall vest in and be under the control of such local authority.

Provided that sewers within the district of a local authority which have been or which may hereafter be constructed by or transferred to some other local authority or by or to a sewage board or other authority empowered under any Act of Parliament to construct sewers shall (subject to any agreement to the contrary) vest in and be under the control of the authority who constructed the same or to whom the same have been transferred.

14 Power to purchase sewers.

Any local authority may purchase or otherwise acquire from any person any sewer, or any right of making or of user or other right in or respecting a sewer (with or without

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any buildings works materials or things belonging thereto), within their district, and any person may sell or grant to such authority any such sewer right or property belonging to him ; and any purchase money paid by such authority in pursuance of this section shall be subject to the same trusts (if any) as the sewer right or property sold was subject to.

But any person who, previously to the purchase of a sewer by such authority, has acquired a right to use such sewer shall be entitled to use the same, or any sewer substituted in lieu thereof, to the same extent as he would or might have done if the purchase had not been made.

15 Maintenance and making of sewers.

Every local authority shall keep in repair all sewers belonging to them, and shall cause to be made such sewers as may be necessary for effectually draining their district for the purposes of this Act.

16 Powers for making sewers.

Any local authority may carry any sewer through across or under any turnpike road, or any street or place laid out as or intended for a street, or under any cellar or vault which may be under the pavement or carriageway of any street, and, after giving reasonable notice in writing to the owner or occupier (if on the report of the surveyor it appears necessary), into through or under any lands whatsoever within their district.

They may also (subject to the provisions of this Act relating to sewage works without the district of the local authority) exercise all or any of the powers given by this section without their district for the purpose of outfall or distribution of sewage.

17 Sewage to be purified before being discharged into streams.

Nothing in this Act shall authorise any local authority to make or use any sewer drain or outfall for the purpose of conveying sewage or filthy water into any natural stream or water course, or into any canal pond or lake until such sewage or filthy water is freed from all excrementitious or other foul or noxious matter such as would affect or deteriorate the purity and quality of the water in such stream or watercourse or in such canal pond or lake.

18 Alteration and discontinuance of sewers.

Any local authority may from time to time enlarge lessen alter the course of cover in or otherwise improve any sewer belonging to them, and may discontinue close up or destroy any such sewer that has in their opinion become unnecessary, on condition of providing a sewer as effectual for the use of any person who may be deprived in pursuance of this section of the lawful use of any sewer : Provided that the discontinuance closing up or destruction of any sewer shall be so done as not to create a nuisance.

19 Cleansing sewers.

Every local authority shall cause the sewers belonging to them to be constructed covered ventilated and kept so as not to be a nuisance or injurious to health, and to be properly cleansed and emptied.

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20 Map of system of sewerage.

An urban authority may, if they think fit, provide a map exhibiting a system of sewerage for effectually draining their district, and any such map shall be kept at their office, and shall at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the ratepayers of their district.

21 Power of owners and occupiers within district to drain into sewers of local authority.

The owner or occupier of any premises within the district of a local authority shall be entitled to cause his drains to empty into the sewers of that authority on condition of his giving such notice as may be required by that authority of his intention so to do, and of complying with the regulations of that authority in respect of the mode in which the communications between such drains and sewers are to be made, and subject to the control of any person who may be appointed by that authority to superintend the making of such communications.

Any person causing a drain to empty into a sewer of a local authority without complying with the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds, and the local authority may close any communication between a drain and sewer made in contravention of this section, and may recover in a summary manner from the person so offending any expenses incurred by them under this section.

22 Use of sewers by owners and occupiers without district.

The owner or occupier of any premises without the district of a local authority may cause any sewer or drain from such premises to communicate with any sewer of the local authority on such terms and conditions as may be agreed on between such owner or occupier and such local authority, or as in case of dispute may be settled, at the option of the owner or occupier, by a court of summary jurisdiction or by arbitration in manner provided by this Act.

23 Power of local authority to enforce drainage of undrain houses.

Where any house within the district of a local authority is without a drain sufficient for effectual drainage, the local authority shall by written notice require the owner or occupier of such house, within a reasonable time therein specified, to make a covered drain or drains emptying into any sewer which the local authority are entitled to use, and which is not more than one hundred feet from the site of such house ; but if no such means of drainage are within that distance, then emptying into such covered cesspool or other place not being under airy house as the local authority direct ; and the local authority may require any such drain or drains to be of such materials and size, and to be laid at such level, and with such fall as on the report of their surveyor may appear to them to be necessary.

If such notice is not complied with, the local authority may, after the expiration of the time specified in the notice, do the work required, and may recover in a summary manner the expenses incurred by them in so doing from the owner, or may by order declare the same to be private improvement expenses.

Provided that where, in the opinion of the local authority, greater expense would be incurred in causing the drains of two or more houses to empty into an existing sewer pursuant to this section, than in constructing a new sewer and causing such drains

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to empty therein, the local authority may construct such new sewer, and require the owners or occupiers of such houses to cause their drains to empty therein, and may apportion as they deem just the expenses of the construction of such sewer among the owners of the several houses, and recover in a summary manner the sums apportioned from such owners, or may by order declare the same to be private improvement expenses.

24 Power of local authority to require houses to be drained new sewers.

Where any house within the district of a local authority has a drain communicating with any sewer, which drain though sufficient for the effectual drainage of the house is not adapted to the general sewerage system of the district, or is in the opinion of the local authority otherwise objectionable, the local authority may, on condition of providing a drain or drains as effectual for the drainage of the house, and communicating with such other sewer as they think fit, close such first-mentioned drain, and may do any works necessary for that purpose, and the expenses of those works, and of the construction of any drain or drains provided by them under this section, shall be deemed to be expenses properly incurred by them in the execution of this Act.

25 Penalty on building house without drains in urban district.

It shall not be lawful in any urban district newly to erect any house or to rebuild any house which has been pulled down to or below the ground floor, or to occupy any house so newly erected or rebuilt, unless and until a covered drain or drains be constructed, of such size and materials, and at such level, and with such fall as on the report of the surveyor may appear to the urban authority to be necessary for the effectual drainage of such house ; and the drain or drains so to be constructed shall empty into any sewer which the urban authority are entitled to use, and which is within one hundred feet of some part of the site of the house to be built or rebuilt; but if no such means of drainage are within that distance, then shall empty into -such covered cesspool or other place, not being under any house, as the urban authority direct.

Any person who causes any house to be erected or rebuilt or any drain to be constructed in contravention of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds.

26 Penalty on unauthorised building over sewers and under streets in urban district.

Any person who in any urban district, without the written consent of the urban authority,—

- (1) Causes any building to be newly erected over any sewer of the urban authority ; or,
- (2) Causes any vault arch or cellar to be newly built or constructed under the carriageway of any street,

shall forfeit to the urban authority the sum of five pounds and a further sum of forty shillings for every day during which the offence is continued after written notice in this behalf from the urban authority ; and the urban authority may cause any building vault arch or cellar erected or constructed in contravention of this section to be altered pulled down or otherwise dealt with as they may think fit, and may recover in a summary manner any expenses incurred by them in so doing from the offender.

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Disposal of Sewage.

27 Powers for disposing of sewage.

For the purpose of receiving storing disinfecting distributing or otherwise disposing of sewage any local authority may—

- (1) Construct any works within their district, or (subject to the provisions of this Act as to sewage works without the district of the local authority) without their district; and
- (2) Contract for the use of purchase or take on lease any land buildings engines materials or apparatus either within or without their district ; and
- (3) Contract to supply for any period not exceeding twenty-five years any person with sewage, and as to the execution and costs of works either within or without their district for the purposes of such supply :

Provided that no nuisance be created in the exercise of any of the powers given by this section.

28 Power to agree for communication of sewers with sewers of adjoining district.

The local authority of any district may, by agreement with the local authority of any adjoining district, and with the sanction of the Local Government Board, cause their sewers to communicate with the sewers of such last-mentioned authority, in such manner and on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be agreed on between the local authorities, or, in case of dispute may be settled by the Local Government Board: Provided that so far as practicable storm waters shall be prevented from flowing from the sewers of the first-mentioned authority into the sewers -of the last-mentioned authority, and that the sewage of other districts or places shall not be permitted by the first-mentioned authority to pass into their sewers so as to be discharged into the sewers of the last-mentioned authority without the consent of such last-mentioned authority.

29 Power to deal with land appropriated to sewage purposes.

Any local authority may deal with any lands held by them for the purpose of receiving storing disinfecting or distributing sewage in such manner as they deem most profitable, either by leasing the same for a period not exceeding twenty-one years for agricultural purposes, or by contracting with some person to take the whole or a part of the produce of such land, or by farming such land and disposing of the produce thereof ; subject to this restriction, that in dealing with land for any of the above purposes provision shall be made for effectually disposing of all the sewage brought to such land without creating a nuisance.

30 Contribution to works under agreement for supply distribution of sewage.

Where any local authority agree with any person as to the supply of sewage and as to works to be made for the purpose of such supply, they may contribute to the expense of carrying into execution by such person all or any of the purposes of such agreement, and may become shareholders in any company with which any agreement in relation to the matters aforesaid has been or may hereafter be entered into by such local authority,

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or to or in which the benefits and obligations of such agreement may have been or may be transferred or vested.

31 Application of 27 & 28 Vict. c.114 to works for supply sewage.

The making of works, of distribution and service for the supply of sewage to lands for agricultural purposes shall be deemed an "improvement of land" authorised by "The Improvement of Land Act, 1864," and the provisions of that Act shall apply accordingly.

As to Sewage Works without District.

32 Notice to be given before commencing sewage works without district.

A local authority shall, three months at least before commencing the construction or extension of any sewer or other work for sewage purposes without their district, give notice of the intended work by advertisement in one or more of the local newspapers circulated within the district where the work is to be made. Such notice shall describe the nature of the intended work, and shall state the intended termini thereof, and the names of the parishes, and the turnpike roads and streets, and other lands (if any) through across under or on which the work is to be made, and shall name a place where a plan of the intended work is open for inspection at all reasonable hours ; and a copy of such notice shall be served on the owners or reputed owners, lessees or reputed lessees, and occupiers of the said lands, and on the overseers of such parishes, and on the trustees, surveyors of highways, or other persons having the care of such roads or streets.

33 In case of objection, works not to be commenced without sanction of Local Government Board.

If any such owner, lessee, or occupier, or any such overseer, trustee,-surveyor, or other person as aforesaid, or any other owner, lessee, or occupier who would be affected by the intended work, objects to such work, and serves notice in writing of such objection on the local authority at any time within the said three months, the intended work shall not be commenced without the sanction of the Local Government Board after such inquiry as herein-after mentioned, unless such objection is withdrawn.

34 Inspector to hold inquiry and report to Local Government Board.

The Local Government Board may, on application of the local authority, appoint an inspector to make inquiry on the spot into the propriety of the intended work and into the objections thereto, and to report to the Local Government Board on the matters with respect to which such inquiry was directed, and on receiving the report of such inspector, the Local Government Board may make an order disallowing or allowing, with such modifications (if any) as they may deem necessary, the intended work.