



Highways Act 1980

1980 CHAPTER 66

PART IX

LAWFUL AND UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH HIGHWAYS AND STREETS

Obstruction of highways and streets

154 Cutting or felling etc. trees etc. that overhang or are a danger to roads or footpaths.

- (1) Where a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a highway or any other road or footpath to which the public has access so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, or obstructs or interferes with the view of drivers of vehicles or the light from a public lamp, [^{F1}or overhangs a highway so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of horse-riders,] a competent authority may, by notice either to the owner of the hedge, tree or shrub or to the occupier of the land on which it is growing, require him within 14 days from the date of service of the notice so to lop or cut it as to remove the cause of the danger, obstruction or interference.

For the purposes of this section the following are competent authorities—

- (a) in relation to a highway for which the Minister [^{F2}or a strategic highways company] is the highway authority and which is in a district or London borough, the [^{F3}highway authority] and also the council of the district or, as the case may be, borough;
- (b) in relation to a highway for which a local highway authority are the highway authority, that authority and also [^{F4}, if the highway is situated in a non-metropolitan district, the council of that district;]
- (c) in relation to a road or footpath that is not a highway, the local authority in whose area the road or footpath is situated;

and “hedge, tree or shrub” includes vegetation of any description.

[^{F5}(1A) In subsection (1)(a) above, any reference to a district includes a reference to a Welsh county or county borough.]

Changes to legislation: Highways Act 1980, Section 154 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 May 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

- (2) Where it appears to a competent authority for any highway, or for any other road or footpath to which the public has access—
- (a) that any hedge, tree or shrub is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted, and
 - (b) that by reason of its condition it, or part of it, is likely to cause danger by falling on the highway, road or footpath,
- the authority may, by notice either to the owner of the hedge, tree or shrub or to the occupier of the land on which it is situated, require him within 14 days from the date of service of the notice so to cut or fell it as to remove the likelihood of danger.
- (3) A person aggrieved by a requirement under subsection (1) or (2) above may appeal to a magistrates' court.
- (4) Subject to any order made on appeal, if a person on whom a notice is served under subsection (1) or (2) above fails to comply with it within the period specified in those subsections, the authority who served the notice may carry out the work required by the notice and recover the expenses reasonably incurred by them in so doing from the person in default.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 154(1) inserted (30.1.2001) by [2000 c. 37, ss. 65, 103\(2\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 154(1)(a) inserted (5.3.2015) by [Infrastructure Act 2015 \(c. 7\), s. 57\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 41\(a\)](#); [S.I. 2015/481, reg. 2\(a\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 154(1)(a) substituted (5.3.2015) by [Infrastructure Act 2015 \(c. 7\), s. 57\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 41\(b\)](#); [S.I. 2015/481, reg. 2\(a\)](#)
- F4** Words substituted by [Local Government Act 1985 \(c. 51, SIF 81:1\), s. 8, Sch. 4 para. 27](#)
- F5** S. 154(1A) inserted (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19, s. 22\(1\), Sch. 7 Pt. I para. 14](#) (with s. 54(7), Sch. 17 paras. 22(1), 23(2)); [S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, Sch. 1.](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 154(1) applied (with modifications) (21.9.2008) by [London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2008 \(c. iii\), ss. 1\(2\), 10](#)

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):

- s. 79(15)(aa) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 54\(b\)](#)
- s. 90B(1A) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 15\(3\)](#)
- s. 90C(2)(2A) substituted for s. 90C(2) by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 16\(3\)](#)
- s. 90FA inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 20](#)
- s. 118ZA(5)(a) words inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 25\(3\)](#)
- s. 120(3ZA) inserted by [2000 c. 37 Sch. 6 para. 13\(6\)](#)
- s. 121E(1A)(1B) inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 23\(5\)](#)
- s. 146(6) inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 24\(6\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 147(1A) inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 24\(3\)](#)
- s. 147(5A) inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 24\(5\)](#)
- s. 203(2)(b)(ia) inserted by [S.I. 2023/908 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 219(1)(a)(i)(ii) inserted by [S.I. 2023/908 reg. 6\(3\)](#)
- s. 220(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/908 reg. 6\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 223(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/908 reg. 6\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 223(5A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/908 reg. 6\(5\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 223(5B)-(6) s. 223(6) renumbered as s. 223(5B)(6) by [S.I. 2023/908 reg. 6\(5\)\(e\)](#)
- s. 322(5)(ab) inserted by [2004 c. 18 s. 64\(2\)](#)
- s. 325(2B) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 10 para. 21](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 1(3ZA) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 2(2ZA)-(2ZE) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 2(4) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 2(5)(6) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 2ZZA inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 4A(2) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(7\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 5(ba) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(8\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 4A(1) words renumbered as Sch. 6 para. 4A(1) by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 6 para. 4A(1) words substituted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 8\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 6 Pt. 1 para. 2B(4) inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 25\(6\)](#)