



# Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

## CHAPTER 69

### WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

#### PART I

#### WILDLIFE

##### *Protection of birds and prevention of poaching*

- 1 Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs.
- 2 Exceptions to s. 1.
- 3 Areas of special protection.
- 4 Exceptions to ss. 1 and 3.
- 5 Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds.
- 6 Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc.
- 7 Registration etc. of certain captive birds.
- 8 Protection of captive birds.

##### *Protection of other animals and prevention of poaching*

- 9 Protection of certain wild animals.
- 10 Exceptions to s. 9.
- 10A Protection of wild hares etc.
- 10B Exceptions to s. 10A
- 11 Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals.
- 11A Snares: training, identification numbers, tags etc.
- 11B Snares: duty to inspect etc.
- 11C Snares: authorisation from landowners etc.
- 11D Snares: presumption arising from identification number
- 11E Snares: record keeping
- 11F Snaring: review and report to the Scottish Parliament
- 11G Prevention of poaching: wild hares, rabbits etc.

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- 11H Exceptions to s. 11G
- 11I Sale, possession etc. of wild hares, rabbits etc. killed or taken unlawfully
- 12YA Relaxation of restriction on night shooting of hares and rabbits
- 12 Protection of certain mammals.

#### *Protection of plants*

- 13 Protection of wild plants.

#### *Miscellaneous*

- 14 Introduction of new species etc.
- 14ZA Sale etc. of certain animals and plants included in Schedule 9
- 14ZB Codes of practice in connection with species which are non-native or included in Schedule 9
- 14ZC Prohibition on keeping etc. of invasive animals or plants
- 14A Prohibition on sale etc. of invasive animals or plants
- 14AA Contravention of Invasive Alien Species Regulation
- 14AB Contravention of emergency measures (1) Section (2) applies where regulations...
- 14B Notification of presence of invasive animals or plants etc.
- 14C Non-native species etc.: code of practice
- 14D Power to make species control orders
- 14E Emergency species control orders
- 14F Content of species control orders
- 14G Notice of species control orders
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- 14I Coming into effect of species control orders
- 14J Review of species control orders
- 14K Offences in relation to species control orders
- 14L Enforcement of operations under species control orders
- 14M Species control orders: powers of entry
- 14N Species control orders: entry by warrant etc.
- 14O Species control orders: powers of entry: supplemental
- 14P Interpretation of sections 14 to 14O
- 15 Endangered species (import and export).
- 15A Possession of pesticides

#### *Supplemental*

- 16 Power to grant licences.
- 16A Delegation of licence-granting power: Scotland
- 17 False statements made for obtaining registration, identification number or licence etc.
- 18 Attempts to commit offences etc.
- 18A Wildlife inspectors
- 18B Group 1 offences and licences: power to enter premises
- 18C Group 1 offences and licences: examining specimens and taking samples
- 18D Group 2 offences and licences etc. : power to enter premises
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- 18F Restrictions on taking of samples from live specimens
- 19 Enforcement.

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- 19XA Constables' powers in connection with samples
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- 19ZB Power to take samples.
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  - 20 Proceedings for summary offences.
  - 21 Penalties, forfeitures etc.
  - 22 Power to vary Schedules.
  - 23 Advisory bodies and their functions.
  - 24 Functions of GB conservation bodies
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  - 26 Regulations, orders, notices etc.
- 26A Enforcement of wildlife legislation
- 26B Annual report on wildlife crime
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#### *Sites of special scientific interest and limestone pavements*

- 27A Construction of references to Nature Conservancy Council.
- 27AA Application of sections 28 to 34 in Wales
  - 28 Sites of special scientific interest.
  - 28A Variation of notification under section 28.
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34 Limestone pavement orders.

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- 35 National nature reserves.
- 35A Power to call in subtidal declarations
- 36 Marine nature reserves.
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- 37A Ramsar sites.
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- 39 Management agreements with owners and occupiers of land.
- 40 Experimental schemes.
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- 41A Application of sections 42 to 45 in Wales
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- 43 Maps of National Parks showing certain areas of moor or heath.
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  - 73 Repeals and savings.
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SCHEDULE A1 — Protected nests and nest sites: birds

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Part I — AT ALL TIMES

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Part IA — ALIVE IF TAKEN IN CAPTIVITY OR BY CERTAIN PERSONS OUTSIDE  
CLOSE SEASON OR DURING FIRST 28 DAYS OF CLOSE SEASON

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SCHEDULE 5A — Animals which are Protected under Section 10A in their Close Season

SCHEDULE 6 — Animals which may not be Killed or Taken by Certain Methods

SCHEDULE 6ZA — Animals which may not be killed or taken by trapping or snaring

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SCHEDULE 7 — Amendment of Acts In Relation To Night Shooting of Hares and Rabbits

*The Ground Game Act 1880*

1 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of the Ground...

*The Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948*

2 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 50(1)(a) of the Agriculture...

*The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953*

3 (1) At the end of subsection (2) of section 1...

*The Deer Act 1963*

4 For subsection (3) of section 10 of the Deer Act...

5 (1) After section 10 of that Act there shall be...

6 (1) In paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to that Act...

*The Conservation of Seals Act 1970*

7 (1) In subsection (1)(c) of section 10 of the Conservation...

*The Badgers Act 1973*

8 Amendment of Acts In Relation To Night Shooting of Hares and Rabbits

9 Amendment of Acts In Relation To Night Shooting of Hares and Rabbits

10 Amendment of Acts In Relation To Night Shooting of Hares and Rabbits

11 Amendment of Acts In Relation To Night Shooting of Hares and Rabbits

12 Amendment of Acts In Relation To Night Shooting of Hares and Rabbits

SCHEDULE 8 — Plants which are Protected

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- SCHEDULE 9 — Animals and Plants to which Section 14 Applies
  - Part I — NON-NATIVE ANIMALS WHICH ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE WILD
  - PART IA — NATIVE ANIMALS
  - PART IB — ANIMALS NO LONGER NORMALLY PRESENT
  - Part II — PLANTS

- SCHEDULE 9A — Species control agreements and orders (England and Wales)
  - PART 1 — OVERVIEW AND INTERPRETATION

*Overview*

- 1 (1) This Schedule provides for— (a) species control agreements between...

*Definitions relating to species*

- 2 (1) “Species ” means any kind of animal or...

*Environmental authorities*

- 3 (1) “Environmental authority ”, in relation to premises in...

*Owners and dwellings*

- 4 (1) “Owner ”, in relation to premises consisting of...

*Operations*

- 5 (1) “Species control operations” are operations to do one or...  
PART 2 — SPECIES CONTROL AGREEMENTS

*Making of species control agreements*

- 6 (1) An environmental authority may enter into a “species control...

*Content of species control agreements*

- 7 (1) A species control agreement must provide for—

*Notice of compliance*

- 8 Where an environmental authority considers that an owner of premises...

*Liability*

- 9 An environmental authority is not liable to a person with...  
PART 3 — SPECIES CONTROL ORDERS

*When a species control order may be made*

- 10 (1) An environmental authority may make a species control order...

*What an order must do*

- 11 (1) A species control order under paragraph 10(2)(a) or (b)...
- 12 (1) A species control order must— (a) specify the species...

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*What an order may do*

- 13 (1) A species control order may contain provision supplementary to...

*Notice*

- 14 (1) After making a species control order, an environmental authority...

*Revocation*

- 15 (1) An environmental authority may at any time revoke a...

*Appeals*

- 16 (1) An owner of premises in relation to which a...

*Notice of compliance*

- 17 Where an environmental authority considers that an owner of premises...

*Enforcement*

- 18 (1) This paragraph applies where an environmental authority considers that...

*Offences*

- 19 (1) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply...

*Liability*

- 20 (1) An owner of premises is not liable to any...  
PART 4 — POWERS OF ENTRY

*Powers of entry*

- 21 (1) A person who is authorised to do so may...

*Authorisation by justice of the peace*

- 22 (1) To enter premises under paragraph 21 a person must...

*Authorisation by environmental authority*

- 23 (1) To enter premises under paragraph 21 in circumstances other...

*Exercise of right of entry*

- 24 (1) A right of entry under paragraph 21 is exercisable...  
PART 5 — SUPPLEMENTARY

*Compensation*

- 25 (1) The Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers may...

*Codes of practice*

- 26 (1) The Secretary of State must issue a code of...  
27 (1) The Welsh Ministers must issue a code of practice...



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28 (1) A person's failure to comply with a provision of...

SCHEDULE 9B — Invasive alien species: defences and licences

Part 1 — INTERPRETATION

1 Interpretation

Part 2 — DEFENCES

2 Companion animals

3 Commercial stocks

4 Non-commercial owners: receipt of commercial stocks

Part 3 — LICENCES

5 Restrictions

6 Research etc.

7 Keeping animals until the end of their natural lives

8 Eradication measures

9 Management measures

SCHEDULE 10 — Amendment of the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act  
1976

Part I — THE AMENDMENTS

*Licences*

1 (1) After subsection (3) of section 1 of the 1976...

*Expenses of returning animals and plants to the wild*

2 After subsection (8) of section 1 of the 1976 Act...

*Powers of entry*

3 After the subsection inserted by paragraph 2 as subsection (9)...

*Power to modify Schedules*

4 (1) In paragraph (c) of section 3 of the 1976...

*Sale of certain animals or plants or their derivatives*

5 (1) In subsection (1) of section 4 of the 1976...

Part II — SCHEDULE INSERTED AS SCHEDULE 4

**SCHEDULE 4**

ANIMALS THE SALE ETC. OF WHICH IS RESTRICTED

**MAMMALS**

1 The kinds of mammal specified in the first column below—...

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*Marsupials*

*Primates*

*Edentates*

*Pangolins*

*Rabbits and hares*

*Rodents*

*Cetaceans*

*Carnivores*

*Seals*

*Elephants*

*Sea-cows*

*Odd-toed ungulates*

*Even-toed ungulates*

## **BIRDS**

- 2 The kinds of bird specified in the first column below—...

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*Rheas*

*Tinamous*

*Penguins*

*Grebes*

*Albatrosses*

*Pelican-like birds*

*Storks*

*Waterfowl*

*Diurnal Birds of Prey*

*Gamebirds*

*Cranes and rails*

*Waders and Gulls*

*Pigeons and doves*

*Parrots*

*Hummingbirds*

*Trogons*

*Owls*

*Hornbills*

*Woodpeckers*

*Songbirds*

— REPTILES THE KINDS OF REPTILE SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST  
COLUMN BELOW—...

REPTILES

3 The kinds of reptile specified in the first column below—...

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*Crocodylians*

*Iguanas*

*Lizards*

*Snakes*

*Tuatara*

*Chelonians*

— AMPHIBIANS THE KINDS OF AMPHIBIAN SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST COLUMN...

AMPHIBIANS

The kinds of amphibian specified in the first column below—...

— FISH THE KINDS OF FISH SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST COLUMN BELOW—...

FISH

5 The kinds of fish specified in the first column below—...

— MOLLUSCS THE KINDS OF MOLLUSC SPECIFIED BELOW—  
CONRADILLA CAELATA DROMUS DROMAS...

MOLLUSCS

6 The kinds of mollusc specified below— Conradilla caelata Dromus dromas...

Part III

SCHEDULE INSERTED AS SCHEDULE 5

SCHEDULE 5

PLANTS THE SALE ETC. OF WHICH IS RESTRICTED

SCHEDULE 10A — Delegation of Appellate Functions

*Interpretation*

1 In this Schedule— “ appointed person ” means a person...

*Appointments*

2 An appointment under section 28F(8) or 28L(10) must be in...

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*Powers of appointed person*

3 Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, an appointed person...

*Holding of local inquiries and other hearings by appointed persons*

4 (1) If either of the parties to an appeal or...

*Revocation of appointments and making of new appointments*

5 (1) Where under paragraph 2(c) the appointment of the appointed...

*Certain acts and omissions of appointed persons  
to be treated as those of the Secretary of State*

6 (1) Anything done or omitted to be done by an...

SCHEDULE 11 — Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Coming into operation*

1 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Publicity for orders*

2 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Unopposed orders*

3 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Opposed orders*

4 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Restriction on power to amend orders or confirm them with modifications*

5 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Notice of final decision on orders*

6 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Proceedings for questioning validity of orders*

7 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

*Interpretation*

8 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders under Part II

SCHEDULE 12 — Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Consultation*

1 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Publicity for draft orders*

2 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

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*Unopposed orders*

- 3 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Opposed orders*

- 4 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Restriction on power to make orders with modifications*

- 5 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Local inquiries*

- 6 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Notice of making of orders*

- 7 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Proceedings for questioning validity of orders*

- 8 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

*Supplemental*

- 9 Procedure in Connection With Orders Under Section 36

SCHEDULE 13 —

SCHEDULE 14 — Applications for Certain Orders Under Part III

*Form of applications*

- 1 An application shall be made in the prescribed form and...

*Notice of applications*

- 2 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the applicant shall serve a...

*Determination by authority*

- 3 (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after receiving a certificate...

*Appeal against a decision not to make an order*

- 4 (1) Where the authority decide not to make an order,...

*Interpretation*

- 5 (1) In this Schedule— “ application ” means an application...

SCHEDULE 15 — Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders Under Part III

*Consultation*

- 1 Before making an order, the authority shall consult with every...

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*Coming into operation*

- 2 An order shall not take effect until confirmed either by...

*Publicity for orders*

- 3 (1) On making an order, the authority shall give notice...

*Representations or objections made with respect to abandoned surveys or reviews*

- 4 (1) This paragraph applies where a survey begun under sections...

*Severance of orders*

- 5 (1) Where at any time representations or objections duly made...

*Unopposed orders*

- 6 (1) If no representations or objections are duly made, or...

*Opposed orders*

- 7 (1) If any representation or objection duly made is not...

*Restriction on power to confirm orders with modifications*

- 8 (1) The Secretary of State shall not confirm an order...

*Local inquiries*

- 9 Procedure in Connection with Certain Orders Under Part III

*Appointment of inspectors etc.*

- 10 (1) A decision of the Secretary of State under paragraph...

*Hearings and local inquiries*

- 10A (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), subsections (2) to (5) of...

*Notice of final decisions on orders*

- 11 (1) As soon as practicable after a decision to confirm...

*Proceedings for questioning validity of orders*

- 12 (1) If any person is aggrieved by an order which...

*Supplemental*

- 13 (1) The Secretary of State may, subject to the provisions...

SCHEDULE 16 — Orders Creating, Extinguishing or Diverting Footpaths or  
Bridleways

- 1—4 Orders Creating, Extinguishing or Diverting Footpaths or Bridleways

*The Highways Act 1980*

- 5 (1) In subsection (1) of section 119 of the Highways...

- 6 (1) In sub-paragraphs (1)(b) and 2(b) of paragraph I of...

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- 7 After paragraph 2 of that Schedule there shall be inserted...
- 8 (1) In paragraph 4 of that Schedule after the words...
- 9 After that paragraph there shall be inserted the following paragraph—...

*Supplemental*

- 10 (1) The amendments made by the foregoing provisions of this...

SCHEDULE 17 — Enactments repealed

Part I — ENACTMENTS REPEALED ONE MONTH AFTER THE PASSING OF  
THIS ACT

Part II — ENACTMENTS REPEALED ON A DAY TO BE APPOINTED



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### Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 17 heading substituted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(5)(b)
- s. 5(1)(a) words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 1(6)(a)
- s. 11(1A) repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(2)(b)
- s. 11(2)(a) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(2)(c)(i)
- s. 11(3C) words substituted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(2)(d)
- s. 11A-11F repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(3)
- s. 16(1A)(a) word repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(a)(i)
- s. 16(3) word repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(b)
- s. 16(3) words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(3)
- s. 16(3ZA) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(d)
- s. 16(3ZB)(a) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(e)(i)
- s. 16(3ZB)(b) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(e)(ii)
- s. 16(3ZB)(c) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(e)(iii)
- s. 16(3ZC) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(f)
- s. 16(3ZD) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(g)
- s. 16(3ZE)(a) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(h)
- s. 16(3ZG) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(i)
- s. 16(3ZH)(a) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(j)
- s. 16(3ZI)(a) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(k)(i)
- s. 16(3ZI)(b) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(k)(ii)
- s. 16(3ZI)(c) words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(k)(iii)
- s. 16(3ZZA) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(c)
- s. 16A(3) words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(3)(b)
- s. 16A(7) words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(4)(d)
- s. 16A(7) words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(3)(e)
- s. 17 word inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(5)
- s. 17 words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(4)
- s. 17 words repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(5)(a)
- s. 21(1A)(e)-(g) repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(6)(a)
- s. 21(1C)(e) repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(6)(b)
- s. 26(2)(a) word repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(7)(a)(i)
- s. 26(3)(a) word repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(7)(b)(i)
- s. 27(1) words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(8)
- s. 27(1) words inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 9(4)
- s. 28E excluded by S.I. 2020/1297 art. 3(1)(a) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S.I. 2020/1297 was withdrawn following a request from the Department of Transport dated 9th August 2021 which followed the decision of the High Court of Justice to quash this Order in the judgement dated 2nd August 2021 (High Court of Justice — Planning Court — The Queen (on the application of Save Stonehenge World Heritage Site) v. Secretary of State for Transport — Case No. CO/4844/2020))
- s. 53(3)(c)(i) words omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 2(a)
- s. 53(5) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 10(a)
- s. 53(6) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 10(b)
- s. 54A inserted by 2000 c. 37 Sch. 5 para. 4
- Sch. 7 word substituted by 2011 asp 6 s. 11(4)(b) (Effect not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The text of the section reference is not available to edit.)
- Sch. 14 heading word inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 11(2)
- Sch. 14 para. 5(1) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 11(3)
- Sch. 15 heading word inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 12(2)

- Sch. 15 para. 13(2) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 12(3)

**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. 2(1A)-(1D) substituted for s. 2(1A) by 2024 asp 4 s. 9(2)(a)
- s. 2(3A)(a)(ii) word repealed by 2024 asp 4 s. 9(2)(b)(i)
- s. 2(3C)(c) and word inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 9(2)(b)(ii)
- s. 11(1)(ab)-(ad) substituted for s. 11(1)(a)(aa) by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(2)(a)
- s. 11(2)(aa)(ab) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(2)(c)(ii)
- s. 11(2A) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 1(6)(b)
- s. 11(3CA) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(2)(e)
- s. 12A-12G and cross-heading inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(2)
- s. 16(1A)(c)(d) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(4)(a)(ii)
- s. 16A(ab) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(4)(b)
- s. 16A(1A) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(4)(a)
- s. 16A(1B) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(3)(a)
- s. 16A(5)(aa) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(3)(c)
- s. 16A(5A) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(3)(d)
- s. 16A(5B) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(4)(c)
- s. 16AA-16AF inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(2)
- s. 21(ga)(gb) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(6)
- s. 26(2)(c) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(7)(a)(ii)
- s. 26(2)(d) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 9(3)(a)
- s. 26(2)(d)(e) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(5)(a)
- s. 26(2)(f) and word inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(7)(a)
- s. 26(3)(c) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 7(7)(b)(ii)
- s. 26(3)(d) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 9(3)(b)
- s. 26(3)(d)(e) inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 10(5)(b)
- s. 26(3)(f) and word inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 6(7)(b)
- s. 53(3)(c)(ia) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 2(b)
- s. 53B(4A)(4B) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 4
- s. 53ZA inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 3
- s. 54B54C inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 5
- Sch. 2 Pt. 1B inserted by 2024 asp 4 s. 9(5)
- Sch. 13A inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 6
- Sch. 14A inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 7