

Public Bodies Bill [HL]

[AS AMENDED ON REPORT]

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TO

Confer powers on Ministers of the Crown in relation to certain public bodies and offices; to confer powers on Welsh Ministers in relation to environmental public bodies; to make provision about amendment of Schedule 1 to the Superannuation Act 1972; and for connected purposes.

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:—

Powers of Ministers

1 Power to abolish

- (1) A Minister may by order abolish a body or office specified in Schedule 1.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may include provision transferring functions from the body or office being abolished to an eligible person. 5
- (3) In this Act, “eligible person” means—
 - (a) a Minister, the Scottish Ministers, a Northern Ireland department or the Welsh Ministers,
 - (b) any other person exercising public functions,
 - (c) a company limited by guarantee, 10
 - (d) a community interest company, or
 - (e) a body of trustees or other unincorporated body of persons.

2 Power to merge

- (1) A Minister may by order merge any group of bodies or offices specified in Schedule 2. 15
- (2) In this section, to “merge” a group means—

- (a) to abolish all the bodies or offices in the group, create a new body corporate or office and transfer some or all of the functions of the abolished bodies or offices to the new one, or
- (b) to abolish all but one of the bodies or offices in the group and to transfer some or all of the functions of the abolished bodies or offices to the remaining one. 5
- (3) An order under subsection (1) may include provision to transfer a function from a body or office being abolished to an eligible person not included in the group.
- 3 Power to modify constitutional arrangements 10**
- (1) A Minister may by order modify the constitutional arrangements of a body or office specified in Schedule 3.
- (2) In this Act, references to the constitutional arrangements of a body include matters relating to—
- (a) the name of the body; 15
- (b) the chair of the body (including qualifications and procedures for appointment and functions);
- (c) members of the body (including the number of members, qualifications and procedures for appointment and functions);
- (d) employees of the body exercising functions on its behalf (including qualifications and procedures for appointment and functions); 20
- (e) the body’s powers to employ staff;
- (f) governing procedures and arrangements (including the role and membership of committees and sub-committees);
- (g) reports and accounts; 25
- (h) the extent to which the body is accountable to Ministers;
- (i) the extent to which the body exercises functions on behalf of the Crown.
- (3) In this Act, references to the constitutional arrangements of an office include matters relating to—
- (a) the name of the office; 30
- (b) appointment of the office-holder (including qualifications and procedures for appointment);
- (c) the office-holder’s powers to employ staff;
- (d) reports and accounts;
- (e) the extent to which the office-holder is accountable to Ministers; 35
- (f) the extent to which the office-holder exercises functions on behalf of the Crown.
- 4 Power to modify funding arrangements**
- (1) A Minister may by order modify the funding arrangements of a body or office specified in Schedule 4. 40
- (2) In this Act, references to modifying the funding arrangements of a body or office include—
- (a) modifying the extent to which it is funded by a Minister;
- (b) conferring power on the body, or the office-holder, to charge fees for the exercise of a function (and to determine their amount). 45

5 Power to modify or transfer functions

- (1) A Minister may by order –
 - (a) modify the functions of a body, or the holder of an office, specified in Schedule 5, or
 - (b) transfer a function of such a person to an eligible person. 5
- (2) In this Act, references to modifying the functions of a person include –
 - (a) conferring a function on the person;
 - (b) abolishing a function of the person;
 - (c) changing the purpose or objective for which the person exercises a function; 10
 - (d) changing the conditions under which the person exercises a function.

6 Consequential provision etc

- (1) An order under sections 1 to 5 may make consequential, supplementary, incidental or transitional provision, or savings.
- (2) Where an order under sections 1, 2 or 5(1)(b) transfers functions, the power in subsection (1) includes power to make consequential or supplementary provision – 15
 - (a) to modify functions of the transferor or transferee;
 - (b) to modify the constitutional or funding arrangements of the transferor or transferee. 20
- (3) Where an order under section 5(1)(a) modifies functions of a body or office-holder, the power in subsection (1) includes power to make consequential or supplementary provision to modify the constitutional or funding arrangements of the body or office.
- (4) An order under sections 1 to 5 may include provision repealing the entry in the Schedule by virtue of which the order was made. 25

Powers of Ministers: supplementary

7 Restrictions on Ministerial powers

- (1) The modification or transfer of a function by an order under sections 1 to 5 must not prevent it (to the extent that it continues to be exercisable) from being exercised independently of Ministers in any of the following cases. 30
- (2) Those cases are –
 - (a) where the function is a judicial function (whether or not exercised by a court or a tribunal);
 - (b) where the function’s exercise involves enforcement activities in relation to obligations imposed on a Minister; 35
 - (c) where the function’s exercise otherwise constitutes the exercise of oversight or scrutiny of the actions of a Minister.
- (3) Provision made by an order under sections 1 to 5 must be proportionate to the reasons for the order. 40
- (4) In this section “enforcement activities” means –

- (a) the bringing of legal proceedings or the provision of assistance with the bringing of legal proceedings;
- (b) the carrying out of an investigation with a view to bringing legal proceedings or to providing such assistance; or
- (c) the taking of steps preparatory to any of those things. 5

8 Purpose and conditions

- (1) A Minister may make an order under sections 1 to 5 only if the Minister considers that the order serves the purpose of improving the exercise of public functions, having regard to—
 - (a) efficiency, 10
 - (b) effectiveness,
 - (c) economy, and
 - (d) securing appropriate accountability to Ministers.
- (2) A Minister may make an order under those sections only if the Minister considers that— 15
 - (a) the order does not remove any necessary protection, and
 - (b) the order does not prevent any person from continuing to exercise any right or freedom which that person might reasonably expect to continue to exercise.

9 Devolution 20

- (1) An order under sections 1 to 5 requires the consent of the Scottish Parliament to make provision—
 - (a) which would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were contained in an Act of that Parliament, or
 - (b) which modifies the functions of the Scottish Ministers. 25
- (2) Consent is not required under subsection (1)(b) in relation to provision abolishing a function of the Scottish Ministers which relates to a body abolished under section 1 or 2.
- (3) An order under sections 1 to 5 requires the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly to make provision— 30
 - (a) which would be within the legislative competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly if it were contained in an Act of the Assembly, or
 - (b) which modifies the functions of a person within subsection (4).
- (4) The persons referred to in subsection (3)(b) are— 35
 - (a) the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland;
 - (b) a Northern Ireland Minister;
 - (c) the Attorney General for Northern Ireland;
 - (d) a Northern Ireland department;
 - (e) a person exercising public functions in relation to a transferred matter (within the meaning of the Northern Ireland Act 1998). 40
- (5) Consent is not required under subsection (3)(a) in relation to any provision if a Bill for an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly containing the provision would require the consent of the Secretary of State under section 8 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the provision does not affect, other than incidentally, a transferred matter (within the meaning of that Act). 45

- (6) An order under sections 1 to 5 requires the consent of the National Assembly for Wales to make provision which would be within the legislative competence of the Assembly if it were contained in an Act of the Assembly.
- (7) An order under sections 1 to 5 requires the consent of the Welsh Ministers to make provision not falling within subsection (6) – 5
- (a) which modifies the functions of the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister for Wales or the Counsel General to the Welsh Assembly Government, or
- (b) which could be made by any of those persons.
- (8) In subsection (7), references to a function do not include – 10
- (a) a function of giving consent to, or being consulted about, the exercise of a function by a Minister, or
- (b) a function relating to the constitutional arrangements of a body or office.
- 10 Consultation** 15
- (1) A Minister proposing to make an order under sections 1 to 5 must consult –
- (a) the body or the holder of the office to which the proposal relates,
- (b) such other persons as appear to the Minister to be representative of interests substantially affected by the proposal,
- (c) the Scottish Ministers, if the proposal relates to any matter, so far as applying in or as regards Scotland, in relation to which the Scottish Ministers exercise functions (and where the consent of the Scottish Parliament is not required under section 9), 20
- (d) a Northern Ireland department, if the proposal relates to any matter, so far as applying in or as regards Northern Ireland, in relation to which the department exercises functions (and where the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly is not required under section 9), 25
- (e) the Welsh Ministers, if the proposal relates to any matter, so far as applying in or as regards Wales, in relation to which the Welsh Ministers exercise functions (and where the consent of the National Assembly for Wales is not required under section 9), 30
- (f) where the functions affected by the proposal relate to the administration of justice, the Lord Chief Justice, and
- (g) such other persons as the Minister considers appropriate.
- (2) If, as a result of consultation under subsection (1), it appears to the Minister appropriate to change the whole or part of the proposal, the Minister must carry out such further consultation with respect to the changes as seems appropriate. 35
- (3) It is immaterial for the purposes of this section whether consultation is carried out before or after the commencement of this section. 40
- 11 Procedure**
- (1) If after consultation under section 10 the Minister considers it appropriate to proceed with the making of an order under sections 1 to 5, the Minister may lay before Parliament –
- (a) a draft order, and 45
- (b) an explanatory document.

- (2) The explanatory document must –
- (a) introduce and give reasons for the order,
 - (b) explain why the Minister considers that –
 - (i) the order serves the purpose in section 8(1), and
 - (ii) the conditions in section 8(2)(a) and (b) are satisfied,
 - (c) if the order contains provision made by virtue of more than one entry in Schedules 1 to 5, explain why the Minister considers it appropriate for it to do so, and
 - (d) contain a summary of representations received in the consultation.
- (3) The Minister may not act under subsection (1) before the end of the period of twelve weeks beginning with the day on which the consultation began.
- (4) Subject as follows, if after the expiry of the 40-day period the draft order laid under subsection (1) is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament, the Minister may make an order in the terms of the draft order.
- (5) The procedure in subsections (6) to (9) shall apply to the draft order instead of the procedure in subsection (4) if –
- (a) either House of Parliament so resolves within the 30-day period, or
 - (b) a committee of either House charged with reporting on the draft order so recommends within the 30-day period and the House to which the recommendation is made does not by resolution reject it within that period.
- (6) The Minister must have regard to –
- (a) any representations,
 - (b) any resolution of either House of Parliament, and
 - (c) any recommendations of a committee of either House of Parliament charged with reporting on the draft order,
- made during the 60-day period with regard to the draft order.
- (7) If after the expiry of the 60-day period the draft order is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament, the Minister may make an order in the terms of the draft order.
- (8) If after the expiry of the 60-day period the Minister wishes to proceed with the draft order but with material changes, the Minister may lay before Parliament –
- (a) a revised draft order, and
 - (b) a statement giving a summary of the changes proposed.
- (9) If the revised draft order is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament, the Minister may make an order in the terms of the revised draft order.
- (10) For the purposes of this section an order is made in the terms of a draft order or revised draft order if it contains no material changes to its provisions.

Powers of Welsh Ministers

12 Powers relating to environmental bodies

- (1) The Welsh Ministers may by order modify –
- (a) the functions of the Countryside Council for Wales (“the CCW”),

- (b) the Welsh devolved functions of the Environment Agency,
 - (c) the Welsh devolved functions of the Forestry Commissioners, or
 - (d) the functions of a Welsh Flood and Coastal Committee.
- (2) The Welsh Ministers may by order transfer any function of the CCW to—
- (a) a new body, 5
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers,
 - (c) the Environment Agency or the Forestry Commissioners, or
 - (d) any other person exercising Welsh devolved functions.
- (3) The Welsh Ministers may by order transfer any Welsh devolved function of the Environment Agency or the Forestry Commissioners to—
- (a) a new body, 10
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers,
 - (c) the CCW, or
 - (d) any other person exercising Welsh devolved functions.
- (4) The Welsh Ministers may by order transfer any function of a Welsh Flood and Coastal Committee to—
- (a) a new body, 15
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers, or
 - (c) any other person exercising Welsh devolved functions.
- (5) The Welsh Ministers may by order transfer any function of theirs relating to the environment to—
- (a) a new body, 20
 - (b) the CCW, or
 - (c) the Environment Agency or the Forestry Commissioners.
- (6) The Welsh Ministers may by order transfer any Welsh devolved function relating to the environment from the person whose function it is to—
- (a) a new body, 25
 - (b) the CCW, or
 - (c) the Environment Agency or the Forestry Commissioners.
- (7) The Welsh Ministers may by order establish a body corporate for the purposes of this section; and in this section references to a “new body” are to any body so established. 30
- (8) In this section “Welsh Flood and Coastal Committee” means a Regional Flood and Coastal Committee established under section 22(1)(c) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for a region wholly or mainly in Wales. 35
- (9) The Welsh Ministers must consult the Secretary of State before making an order under subsection (1) or (4) relating to a Welsh Flood and Coastal Committee for a region not wholly in Wales.

13 Powers relating to other bodies

- (1) The Welsh Ministers may by order abolish any of the following—
- (a) an agricultural dwelling-house advisory committee for an area in, or consisting of, Wales; 40
 - (b) an agricultural wages committee for an area in, or consisting of, Wales;

- (c) the Environment Protection Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 12(6) of the Environment Act 1995 (Wales);
 - (d) the regional and local fisheries advisory committee established pursuant to section 13(5) of that Act (Wales);
 - (e) a regional advisory committee maintained under section 37(1)(b) of the Forestry Act 1967 for a conservancy in, or consisting of, Wales. 5
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may include provision transferring functions from the body being abolished to—
- (a) the Welsh Ministers, or
 - (b) any other person exercising Welsh devolved functions. 10
- (3) The Welsh Ministers may by order modify the funding arrangements of inspectors appointed by the Welsh Ministers under section 86 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (assessors for the enforcement of water quality).
- (4) In subsection (3), the reference to modifying funding arrangements has effect as if the reference in section 4(2)(a) to a Minister were to the Welsh Ministers. 15
- (5) The Welsh Ministers may by order do any of the following in relation to an internal drainage board for an area wholly or mainly in Wales—
- (a) modify its constitutional arrangements;
 - (b) modify its functions;
 - (c) transfer any of its functions to— 20
 - (i) the Welsh Ministers;
 - (ii) any other person exercising Welsh devolved functions;
 - (iii) a company limited by guarantee;
 - (iv) a community interest company;
 - (v) a body of trustees or other unincorporated body of persons. 25
- (6) The Welsh Ministers must consult the Secretary of State before making an order under subsection (5) relating to an internal drainage board not wholly in Wales.

14 Powers of Welsh Ministers: consequential provision etc

- (1) An order under section 12 or 13 may contain consequential, supplementary, incidental or transitional provision, or savings. 30
- (2) Where an order under either of those sections transfers functions, the power in subsection (1) includes power to make consequential or supplementary provision—
- (a) to modify the constitutional or funding arrangements of the transferor or transferee (subject to subsection (4)), 35
 - (b) to modify functions of the transferor or transferee, or
 - (c) to confer powers of direction on the Welsh Ministers in relation to functions transferred.
- (3) Where an order under either of those sections modifies functions of a body or office-holder, the power in subsection (1) includes power to make consequential or supplementary provision to modify the constitutional or funding arrangements of the body or office (subject to subsection (4)). 40
- (4) Subsections (2)(a) and (3) do not confer power on the Welsh Ministers to modify the constitutional or funding arrangements of— 45

- (a) the Environment Agency,
 - (b) the Forestry Commissioners, or
 - (c) any other cross-border operator.
- (5) In subsections (2) to (4) references to modifying funding arrangements have effect as if the reference in section 4(2)(a) to a Minister were to the Welsh Ministers. 5
- (6) The Secretary of State may by order modify the constitutional or funding arrangements of a person referred to in subsection (4)(a) to (c) in consequence of an order made by the Welsh Ministers under section 12 or 13.
- (7) The reference in subsection (6) to modifying the funding arrangements of a person includes modifying the extent to which the person is funded by the Welsh Ministers, but the Secretary of State may only modify the extent to which a person is funded by the Welsh Ministers with their consent. 10
- 15 Delegation etc**
- (1) A person to whom this section applies may make arrangements with another such person for – 15
- (a) a Welsh devolved function relating to the environment exercised by one to be exercised by the other;
 - (b) co-operation in relation to the exercise of their respective Welsh devolved functions relating to the environment; 20
 - (c) the provision of administrative, professional or technical services by one to the other for purposes relating to the exercise of functions in or as regards Wales.
- (2) This section applies to – 25
- (a) the Environment Agency;
 - (b) the Forestry Commissioners;
 - (c) any other person exercising Welsh devolved functions relating to the environment.
- (3) The Welsh Ministers may by order make provision about how the function of making arrangements under subsection (1) is to be discharged (including provision about the extent to which a fee may be charged in respect of anything done under the arrangements). 30
- (4) The Secretary of State’s consent is required for arrangements under this section involving, or an order under subsection (3) which affects – 35
- (a) the Environment Agency,
 - (b) the Forestry Commissioners, or
 - (c) any other cross-border operator.

Powers of Welsh Ministers: supplementary

16 Purpose and conditions for orders made by Welsh Ministers

- (1) The Welsh Ministers may make an order under section 12 or 13 only if they consider that the order serves the purpose of improving the exercise of public functions having regard to – 40
- (a) efficiency,

- (b) effectiveness,
 - (c) economy, and
 - (d) securing appropriate accountability to the Welsh Ministers.
- (2) The Welsh Ministers may make an order under either of those sections only if they consider that – 5
 - (a) the order does not remove any necessary protection, and
 - (b) the order does not prevent any person from continuing to exercise any right or freedom which that person might reasonably expect to continue to exercise.

- 17 Consent of UK Ministers** 10
- (1) The Secretary of State’s consent is required for an order under section 12 or 13 which transfers a function to, or confers a function on –
 - (a) the Environment Agency,
 - (b) the Forestry Commissioners, or
 - (c) any other cross-border operator. 15
- (2) The Secretary of State’s consent is required for an order under section 12 or 13 made by virtue of section 14 which in any other way modifies the functions, other than Welsh devolved functions, of a person referred to in subsection (1).
- (3) A Minister’s consent is required for an order under section 12 or 13 which transfers a function to, or modifies the functions of, the Minister. 20

- 18 Consultation by Welsh Ministers**
- (1) Where the Welsh Ministers propose to make an order under sections 12 to 15 they must consult –
 - (a) any body or person exercising public functions to which the proposal relates, 25
 - (b) such other persons as appear to them to be representative of interests substantially affected by the proposal, and
 - (c) such other persons as they consider appropriate.
- (2) If, as a result of consultation under subsection (1), it appears to the Welsh Ministers appropriate to change the whole or part of the proposal, they must carry out such further consultation with respect to the changes as seems appropriate. 30
- (3) It is immaterial for the purposes of this section whether consultation is carried out before or after the commencement of this section.

- 19 Procedure for orders by Welsh Ministers etc** 35
- (1) If after consultation under section 18 the Welsh Ministers consider it appropriate to proceed with the making of an order under sections 12 to 15, the Welsh Ministers may lay before the National Assembly for Wales –
 - (a) a draft order, and
 - (b) an explanatory document. 40
- (2) The explanatory document must –
 - (a) introduce and give reasons for the order,

- (b) explain, in the case of an order under section 12 or 13, why the Welsh Ministers consider that—
 - (i) the order serves the purpose in section 16(1), and
 - (ii) the conditions in section 16(2)(a) and (b) are satisfied, and
 - (c) contain a summary of representations received in the consultation. 5
- (3) The Welsh Ministers may not act under subsection (1) before the end of the period of twelve weeks beginning with the day on which the consultation began.
- (4) Subject as follows, if after the expiry of the 40-day period the draft order laid under subsection (1) is approved by a resolution of the National Assembly for Wales, the Welsh Ministers may make an order in the terms of the draft order. 10
- (5) The procedure in subsections (6) to (9) shall apply to the draft order instead of the procedure in subsection (4) if—
 - (a) the National Assembly for Wales so resolves within the 30-day period, or 15
 - (b) a committee of the Assembly charged with reporting on the draft order so recommends within the 30-day period and the Assembly does not by resolution reject the recommendation within that period.
- (6) The Welsh Ministers must have regard to—
 - (a) any representations, 20
 - (b) any resolution of the National Assembly for Wales, and
 - (c) any recommendations of a committee of the Assembly charged with reporting on the draft order,

made during the 60-day period with regard to the draft order.
- (7) If after the expiry of the 60-day period the draft order is approved by a resolution of the National Assembly for Wales, the Welsh Ministers may make an order in the terms of the draft order. 25
- (8) If after the expiry of the 60-day period the Welsh Ministers wish to proceed with the draft order but with material changes, the Welsh Ministers may lay before the National Assembly for Wales—
 - (a) a revised draft order, and
 - (b) a statement giving a summary of the changes proposed. 30
- (9) If the revised draft order is approved by a resolution of the National Assembly for Wales, the Welsh Ministers may make an order in the terms of the revised draft order. 35
- (10) For the purposes of this section an order is made in the terms of a draft order or revised draft order if it contains no material changes to its provisions.
- (11) An order may not be made by the Secretary of State under section 14(6) unless a draft of the instrument containing the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament. 40

Restrictions on powers of Ministers and Welsh Ministers

20 Restriction on creation of functions

- (1) An order under the preceding provisions of this Act may not create or authorise the creation of—

- (a) a power to make subordinate legislation,
 - (b) a power of forcible entry, search or seizure, or
 - (c) a power to compel the giving of evidence.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not prevent an order from repealing and re-enacting a power. 5

21 Restriction on transfer and delegation of functions

- (1) An order under the preceding provisions of this Act may not transfer any function to—
- (a) a charity, or
 - (b) a person not otherwise exercising public functions who is not a charity, unless the charity or person has consented. 10
- (2) An order under the preceding provisions of this Act may not—
- (a) transfer an excluded function to a person not otherwise exercising public functions, or
 - (b) authorise arrangements for an excluded function to be exercised by such a person. 15
- (3) In subsection (2) “excluded function” means—
- (a) a function of a tribunal exercising the judicial power of the State,
 - (b) a power to make subordinate legislation,
 - (c) a power of forcible entry, search or seizure, 20
 - (d) a power to compel the giving of evidence, or
 - (e) any other function the exercise or non-exercise of which would necessarily interfere with, or otherwise affect, the liberty of an individual.

22 Restriction on creation of criminal offences 25

- (1) An order under the preceding provisions of this Act may not, in relation to any transfer or modification of functions, create or authorise the creation of a criminal offence that is punishable—
- (a) on indictment, with imprisonment for a term exceeding two years, or
 - (b) on summary conviction, with— 30
 - (i) imprisonment for a term exceeding the normal maximum term, or
 - (ii) a fine exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (2) In subsection (1)(b)(i) “the normal maximum term” means—
- (a) in relation to England and Wales— 35
 - (i) in the case of a summary offence, 51 weeks, and
 - (ii) in the case of an offence triable either way, twelve months;
 - (b) in relation to Scotland—
 - (i) in the case of an offence triable only summarily, six months, and
 - (ii) in the case of an offence triable either summarily or on indictment, twelve months; 40
 - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, six months.

- (3) In Scotland, in the case of an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable either on indictment or summarily and is not an offence triable on indictment only by virtue of –
- (a) Part 5 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, or
 - (b) section 292(6) and (7) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, the reference in subsection (1)(b)(ii) to a fine exceeding level 5 on the standard scale is to be construed as a reference to the statutory maximum. 5
- (4) In England and Wales –
- (a) in the case of a summary offence committed before the coming into force of section 281(5) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the reference in subsection (2)(a)(i) to 51 weeks is to be read as a reference to six months, and 10
 - (b) in the case of an offence triable either way which is committed before the coming into force of section 154(1) of that Act, the reference in subsection (2)(a)(ii) to twelve months is to be read as a reference to six months. 15
- (5) Subsection (1) does not prevent an order from repealing and re-enacting a criminal offence.

Transfer of property, rights and liabilities

- 23 Transfer schemes** 20
- (1) A scheme for the transfer of property, rights and liabilities (a “transfer scheme”) may be made by –
- (a) a Minister, in connection with an order under sections 1 to 5;
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers, in connection with an order under section 12 or 13.
- (2) In the case of a transfer scheme under subsection (1)(a), property, rights and liabilities must be transferred to – 25
- (a) a Minister, where the scheme is made in connection with an order under section 3 or 4 (modification of constitutional or funding arrangements), or
 - (b) an eligible person or a body corporate, in any other case. 30
- (3) In the case of a transfer scheme under subsection (1)(b), property, rights and liabilities must be transferred to –
- (a) the Welsh Ministers,
 - (b) a person exercising Welsh devolved functions, or
 - (c) a body corporate. 35
- (4) A transfer scheme may not transfer anything to a charity unless it has consented.
- (5) The things that may be transferred under a transfer scheme include –
- (a) property, rights and liabilities that could not otherwise be transferred;
 - (b) property acquired, and rights and liabilities arising, after the making of the scheme. 40
- (6) A transfer scheme may make consequential, supplementary, incidental or transitional provision and may in particular –

- (a) create rights, or impose liabilities, in relation to property or rights transferred;
- (b) make provision about the continuing effect of things done by the transferor in respect of anything transferred;
- (c) make provision about the continuation of things (including legal proceedings) in the process of being done by, on behalf of or in relation to the transferor in respect of anything transferred; 5
- (d) make provision for references to the transferor in an instrument or other document in respect of anything transferred to be treated as references to the transferee; 10
- (e) make provision for the shared ownership or use of property;
- (f) if the TUPE regulations do not apply in relation to the transfer, make provision which is the same or similar.
- (7) A transfer scheme may provide –
- (a) for modification by agreement; 15
- (b) for modifications to have effect from the date when the original scheme came into effect.
- (8) For the purposes of this section –
- (a) an individual who holds employment in the civil service is to be treated as employed by virtue of a contract of employment, and 20
- (b) the terms of the individual’s employment in the civil service are to be regarded as constituting the terms of the contract of employment.
- (9) In this section –
- “civil service” means the civil service of the State;
- “TUPE regulations” means the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/246); 25
- references to rights and liabilities include rights and liabilities relating to a contract of employment;
- references to the transfer of property include the grant of a lease.
- 24 Transfer schemes: procedure 30**
- (1) A transfer scheme made by a Minister under section 23(1)(a) may be included in an order under sections 1 to 5; but if not so included must be laid before Parliament after being made.
- (2) A transfer scheme made by the Welsh Ministers under section 23(1)(b) may be included in an order under section 12; but if not so included must be laid before the National Assembly for Wales after being made. 35
- (3) The Secretary of State’s consent is required for a transfer scheme under section 23(1)(b) transferring anything from or to the Environment Agency or the Forestry Commissioners or a cross-border operator.
- 25 Transfer schemes: taxation 40**
- (1) The Treasury may by order make provision varying the way in which a relevant tax has effect in relation to –
- (a) anything transferred under a scheme under section 23, or
- (b) anything done for the purposes of, or in relation to, a transfer under such a scheme. 45

- (2) The provision which may be made under subsection (1)(a) includes in particular provision for –
- (a) a tax provision not to apply, or to apply with modifications, in relation to anything transferred;
 - (b) anything transferred to be treated in a specified way for the purposes of a tax provision; 5
 - (c) the person making the scheme to be required or permitted, with the consent of the Treasury, to determine, or specify the method for determining, anything which needs to be determined for the purposes of any tax provision so far as relating to anything transferred. 10
- (3) The provision which may be made under subsection (1)(b) includes in particular provision for –
- (a) a tax provision not to apply, or to apply with modifications, in relation to anything done for the purposes of or in relation to the transfer;
 - (b) anything done for the purposes of, or in relation to, the transfer to have or not have a specified consequence or be treated in a specified way; 15
 - (c) the person making the scheme to be required or permitted, with the consent of the Treasury to determine, or specify the method for determining, anything which needs to be determined for the purposes of any tax provision so far as relating to anything done for the purposes of, or in relation to, the transfer. 20
- (4) An order under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons.
- (5) In this section –
- “relevant tax” means income tax, corporation tax, capital gains tax, stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax; 25
 - “tax provision” means a provision of an enactment about a relevant tax; references to the transfer of property include the grant of a lease.

Superannuation

26 Scope of power to amend Schedule 1 to Superannuation Act 1972 30

In section 1 of the Superannuation Act 1972 (superannuation schemes as respects civil servants etc), in subsection (6) (restriction on addition to Schedule 1), after “unless” there is inserted “at the date from which the addition has effect”.

Final 35

27 Orders: supplementary

- (1) An order under this Act must be made by statutory instrument.
- (2) The provision which may be made by an order under this Act may be made by repealing, revoking or amending an enactment (whenever passed or made).
- (3) The powers conferred by this Act are without prejudice to any other power conferred on a Minister or the Welsh Ministers. 40

- (4) If the draft of an instrument containing an order under this Act (alone or with other provision) would, apart from this section, be a hybrid instrument for the purposes of the standing orders of either House of Parliament, it is to proceed in that House as if it were not such an instrument.

28 Interpretation

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- (1) In this Act –

“charity” has the meaning given in section 1(1) of the Charities Act 2006;

“constitutional arrangements” is to be construed in accordance with section 3(2) and (3);

“cross-border operator” means a person exercising functions or carrying on activities in or with respect to Wales (or any part of it) and England (or any part of it), but does not include –

(a) an internal drainage board, or

(b) a Regional Flood and Coastal Committee established under section 22(1)(c) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010;

“eligible person” has the meaning given in section 1(3);

“enactment” means any primary or subordinate legislation;

“Minister” means –

(a) a Minister of the Crown (as defined by section 8 of the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975), or

(b) the Commissioners for Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs;

“modify”, in relation to functions, is to be construed in accordance with section 5(2);

“modify”, in relation to funding arrangements, is to be construed in accordance with section 4(2);

“primary legislation” means any Act, Act of the Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland legislation or Measure or Act of the National Assembly for Wales;

“public function” means a function conferred under an enactment or royal charter;

“subordinate legislation” means an instrument made under primary legislation;

“Wales” has the same meaning as in the Government of Wales Act 2006;

“Welsh devolved function” means –

(a) a function conferred under an Act or Measure of the National Assembly for Wales,

(b) a function which is exercisable in or as regards Wales and could be conferred by an Act of the Assembly, or

(c) a function in relation to which a function (other than a function of being consulted) is exercisable by the Welsh Ministers, the First Minister or the Counsel General to the Welsh Assembly Government,

and references to a person exercising a Welsh devolved function do not include a person exercising such a function by virtue of arrangements under section 15.

- (2) In this Act, references to the “30-day”, “40-day” and “60-day” periods in relation to any draft order are to the periods of 30, 40 and 60 days beginning with the day on which the draft order was laid before Parliament or the National Assembly for Wales.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) in relation to an order laid before Parliament no account is to be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which either House is adjourned for more than four days.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (2) in relation to an order laid before the National Assembly for Wales, no account is to be taken of any time during which the Assembly is dissolved or is in recess for more than four days.

5

29 Extent

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (2) An order under this Act which repeals, revokes or amends an enactment extending to any other jurisdiction may also extend there.

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30 Commencement

This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.

31 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Public Bodies Act 2011.

15

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 1

POWER TO ABOLISH: BODIES AND OFFICES

Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council.	
Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances (established under section 140(5) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990).	5
Advisory Committee on Pesticides and Advisory Committee on Pesticides for Northern Ireland (bodies established under section 16(7) of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985).	
Agricultural dwelling-house advisory committees for areas in England.	10
Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales.	
Agricultural wages committees for areas in England.	
Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Arbitration Tribunal.	
British Shipbuilders and any subsidiary of British Shipbuilders (within the meaning of section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006).	15
BRB (Residuary) Limited.	
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.	
Commission for Rural Communities.	
Committee on Agricultural Valuation (the body established under section 92 of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986).	20
Competition Service.	
Courts boards.	
Crown Court Rule Committee.	
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board.	
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee.	25
Environment Protection Advisory Committees established under section 12 of the Environment Act 1995 other than the one established pursuant to subsection (6) of that section (Wales).	
Food from Britain.	
Football Licensing Authority.	30
Home Grown Timber Advisory Committee.	

	Inland Waterways Advisory Council.	
	Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Court Administration.	
	Library Advisory Council for England.	
	Magistrates’ Courts Rule Committee (established under section 144 of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980).	5
	National Consumer Council (“Consumer Focus”).	
	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts.	
	Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal.	
	Public Guardian Board.	
	Railway Heritage Committee.	10
	Regional and local fisheries advisory committees established under section 13 of the Environment Act 1995 other than the one established pursuant to subsection (5) of that section (Wales).	
	Regional development agency for the East Midlands.	
	Regional development agency for the Eastern Region.	15
	Regional development agency for the North East.	
	Regional development agency for the North West.	
	Regional development agency for the South East.	
	Regional development agency for the South West.	
	Regional development agency for the West Midlands.	20
	Regional development agency for Yorkshire and the Humber.	
	Valuation Tribunal Service.	
	Victims’ Advisory Panel.	
	NOTES	
1	For the purposes of making a transfer scheme under section 23 in relation to the abolition of British Shipbuilders –	25
	(a) a subsidiary of British Shipbuilders dissolved before the coming into force of the scheme is to be treated as not having been dissolved, and	
	(b) the scheme may make provision for the transfer of liabilities as if the subsidiary had not been dissolved.	30
2	For the purposes of the abolition of a regional development agency, the power in section 1(2) includes power to transfer a function of the agency to any body corporate.	
3	In this Schedule, references to a regional development agency are to a development agency established under the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998.	35

SCHEDULE 2

Section 2

POWER TO MERGE: BODIES AND OFFICES

Group 1

Central Arbitration Committee.	
Certification Officer.	5

Group 2

Gambling Commission.	
National Lottery Commission.	

Group 3

Pensions Ombudsman.	10
Ombudsman for the Board of the Pension Protection Fund.	

Group 4

Director of Public Prosecutions.	
Director of Revenue and Customs Prosecutions.	

Group 5

Competition Commission.	
Office of Fair Trading (“OFT”).	15

Group 6

Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council.	
Civil Justice Council.	20

SCHEDULE 3

Section 3

POWER TO MODIFY CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: BODIES AND OFFICES

Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council.	
British Hallmarking Council.	
Broads Authority.	25
Civil Justice Council.	
Commission for Equality and Human Rights.	
English Tourist Board.	
Internal drainage boards for areas wholly or mainly in England.	

Joint Nature Conservation Committee.	
National Park authorities in England.	
Passengers’ Council (“Passenger Focus”).	
Sianel Pedwar Cymru (“S4C”).	
Theatres Trust.	5

SCHEDULE 4

Section 4

POWER TO MODIFY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS: BODIES AND OFFICES

Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council.	
Civil Justice Council.	
Commission for Equality and Human Rights.	10
Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State under section 86 of the Water Industry Act 1991.	
Marine Management Organisation.	
Natural England.	
Office of Communications (“Ofcom”).	15
Sianel Pedwar Cymru (“S4C”).	

SCHEDULE 5

Section 5

POWER TO MODIFY OR TRANSFER FUNCTIONS: BODIES AND OFFICES

Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council.	
Advisory Council on Public Records.	20
British Hallmarking Council.	
British Waterways Board.	
Civil Justice Council.	
Commission for Equality and Human Rights.	
Environment Agency.	25
Horserace Betting Levy Board.	
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.	
Human Tissue Authority.	
Internal drainage boards for areas wholly or mainly in England.	
Keeper of Public Records.	30

Office of Communications (“Ofcom”).

Office of Fair Trading (“OFT”).

Public Records Office.

NOTE

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Section 21(2)(a) does not apply to an order under section 5 which provides for – | 5 |
| | (a) functions of the British Waterways Board falling within section 21(3)(b) to (e) to be transferred to another person; | |
| | (b) functions of the Environment Agency falling within section 21(3)(b) to (e) to be transferred to a person to whom functions of the British Waterways Board are transferred by virtue of paragraph (a). | 10 |

Public Bodies Bill [HL]

A

B I L L

[AS AMENDED ON REPORT]

To confer powers on Ministers of the Crown in relation to certain public bodies and offices; to confer powers on Welsh Ministers in relation to environmental public bodies; to make provision about amendment of Schedule 1 to the Superannuation Act 1972; and for connected purposes.

Lord Taylor of Holbeach

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