

Must do Something Act 2023

An Act to make provision for circumstances in which His Majesty's Government considers that something must be done; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the King'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:—

PART 1

Powers relating to the doing of something

Power to announce the doing of something

1.—(1) The Secretary of State may make an announcement that something is being done in relation to a matter listed in Schedule 1.

(2) In particular the announcement may say that any of the following things are being done—

- (a) policy development;
- (b) commissioning of a report;
- (c) setting up of an inquiry or Royal Commission;
- (d) tackling;
- (e) setting out of goals;
- (f) establishing a task force.

(3) Schedule 1 has effect.

Power to announce the bringing forward of legislation

2. Where the Secretary of State has formed an intention to make regulations under section 5, they may make the following announcement—

“The Government intends to bring forward legislation in due course.”

Power to announce something has been done

3.—(1) The Secretary of State may make an announcement that something has been done in relation to a matter listed in Schedule 2.

(2) In particular the announcement may say the following things have been done—

- (a) publication of a report (including the report of an inquiry or Royal Commission);
- (b) publication of a consultation following the development of policy;
- (c) tackling of the matter;
- (d) setting out of goals;
- (e) establishment of a taskforce;
- (f) passing of legislation.

(3) Subsection (2)(f) includes the making of regulations under section 5.

(4) Schedule 2 has effect.

Restriction on Private Members Bills

4.—(1) A member of the House of Commons or the House of Lords may not introduce a Bill to Parliament, other than a Government Bill, prior to petitioning under this section.

(2) A member of the House of Commons or the House of Lords may petition the Secretary of State to exercise their powers under this Part.

(3) Following a petition under this section, the Secretary of State must exercise a power under this Part where they consider it would be expedient to do so.

(4) Where the Secretary of State has exercised a power under this Part after being petitioned under this section, no Bill, other than a Government Bill, may be introduced to Parliament.

PART 2

Powers to amend the Act

Power to add to list of matters about which something must be done

5. The Secretary of State may by regulation add matters to the list in Schedule 1.

Power to add to list of matters about which something has been done

6.—(1) The Secretary of State may by regulation add matters to the list in Schedule 2.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulation remove matters from the list in Schedule 1 but only where a corresponding addition to the list in Schedule 2 is made.

PART 3

Miscellaneous provisions

Control of regulations

7.—(1) Regulations made under this Act by the Secretary of State are to be made by statutory instrument.

(2) A power to make regulations under this Act includes a power to make different provisions for different purposes or cases.

(3) Regulations made under this Act are subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Extent

8.—(1) The provisions of this Act extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(2) The Secretary of State may not exercise a power or make regulations under this Act in relation to a devolution matter.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply where the matter in question is whether or not to amend the relevant devolution settlement.

(4) A “devolution matter” is anything which is devolved under—

- (a) The Northern Ireland Act 1998;
- (b) The Scotland Act 1998; or
- (c) The Government of Wales Act 2006.

(5) A matter is a question of whether or not to amend the relevant devolution settlement where a possible consequence is the amendment of any of the Acts listed in subsection (4) in a way which alters the legislative or executive competences.

Commencement

9. This Act comes into force on the day after which it is passed.

Short title

10. This Act may be cited as the Must do Something Act 2023.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 1

Matters about which something is being done

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SCHEDULE 2

Section 3

Matters about which something has been done

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This is not an Act of Parliament