



**Law
Commission**
Reforming the law

Statute Law Repeals: Consultation Paper Poor Relief – Proposed Repeals

SLR 03/09: Closing date for responses – 30 October 2009

BACKGROUND NOTES ON STATUTE LAW REPEALS (SLR)

What is it?

1. Our SLR work involves repealing statutes that are no longer of practical utility. The purpose is to modernise and simplify the statute book, thereby reducing its size and thus saving the time of lawyers and others who use it. This in turn helps to avoid unnecessary costs. It also stops people being misled by obsolete laws that masquerade as live law. If an Act features still in the statute book and is referred to in text-books, people reasonably enough assume that it must mean something.

Who does it?

2. Our SLR work is carried out by the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission pursuant to section 3(1) of the Law Commissions Act 1965. Section 3(1) imposes a duty on both Commissions to keep the law under review “with a view to its systematic development and reform, including in particular ... the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments, the reduction of the number of separate enactments and generally the simplification and modernisation of the law”.

Statute Law (Repeals) Bill

3. Implementation of the Commissions’ SLR proposals is by means of special Statute Law (Repeals) Bills. 18 such Bills have been enacted since 1965 repealing more than 2000 whole Acts and achieving partial repeals in thousands of others. Broadly speaking the remit of a Statute Law (Repeals) Bill extends to any enactment passed at Westminster. Accordingly it is capable of repealing obsolete statutory text throughout the United Kingdom (i.e. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) as well as extending where appropriate to the Isle of Man.

Consultation

4. The Law Commission consults widely before finalising its repeal proposals. The purpose of consulting is to secure as wide a range of views on the proposals as is practicable from all categories of persons who may be affected by the proposals. So the consultation may be with central or local government, organisations, trade bodies, individuals or anyone else who appears to have an interest in a proposal.
5. So far as consulting central government is concerned, any Department or agency with an interest in the subject matter of the repeal proposal will be invited to comment. Because obsolete legislation often extends throughout the United Kingdom it may be necessary to invite comments from several different Departments. So the following will routinely be consulted-
 - ◆ The English Department or Departments with policy responsibility for the subject matter of the proposed repeal (this responsibility will extend to Scotland in appropriate cases)
 - ◆ The Welsh Assembly Government and the Wales Office (unless the proposed repeal relates only to England)
 - ◆ SLR colleagues at the Scottish Law Commission (if the proposed repeal extends to Scotland)
 - ◆ Northern Ireland officials (if the proposed repeal extends to Northern Ireland).

Selection of repeal candidates

6. Candidates for repeal are selected on the basis that they are no longer of practical utility. Usually this is because they no longer have any legal effect on technical grounds - because they are spent, unnecessary or obsolete. But sometimes they are selected because, although they strictly speaking do continue to have legal effect, the purposes for which they were enacted either no longer exist or are nowadays being met by some other means.
7. Provisions commonly repealed by Statute Law (Repeals) Acts include the following-
 - (a) references to bodies, organisations, etc. that have been dissolved or wound up or which have otherwise ceased to serve any purpose;
 - (b) references to issues that are no longer relevant as a result of changes in social or economic conditions (e.g. legislation about tithes or tin mines);
 - (c) references to Acts that have been superseded by more modern (or EU) legislation or by international Convention;
 - (d) references to statutory provisions (i.e. sections, schedules, orders, etc.) that have been repealed;
 - (e) repealing provisions e.g. "Section 33 is repealed/shall cease to have effect";
 - (f) commencement provisions once the whole of an Act is in force;
 - (g) transitional or savings provisions that are spent;
 - (h) provisions that are self-evidently spent - e.g. a one-off statutory obligation to do something becomes spent once the required act has duly been done;
 - (i) powers that have never been exercised over a period of many years or where any previous exercise is now spent.

General savings

8. Much SLR work is possible because of the general savings provisions of section 16(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978. This provides that where an Act repeals an enactment, the repeal does not (unless the contrary intention appears) -
 - “(a) revive anything not in force or existing at the time at which the repeal takes effect;
 - (b) affect the previous operation of the enactment repealed or anything duly done or suffered under that enactment;
 - (c) affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under that enactment;
 - (d) affect any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against that enactment;
 - (e) affect any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment;

and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced, and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if the repealing Act had not been passed”.

Gradual obsolescence

9. The obsolescence of statutes tends to be a gradual process. Usually there is no single identifiable event that makes a statute obsolete. The Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2008 contained several examples of legislation being overtaken by social and economic changes. A scheme to provide farming work for ex-servicemen after the First World War had long fallen into disuse. Changes in agriculture during the second half of the 20th century had greatly reduced the numbers of persons seeking employment in farming. An Act of 1792 that criminalised the giving of false character references to servants seeking domestic employment had become superseded by changes in the civil law. And a Victorian Act requiring noisy street musicians to leave the area on pain of a forty shilling fine had long become obsolete.

10. Even within individual statutes, the obsolescence tends to be gradual. Some provisions fade away more quickly than others. These include commencement and transitory provisions and ‘pump-priming’ provisions (e.g. initial funding and initial appointments to a Committee) to implement the new legislation. Next to go may be order-making powers that are no longer needed. Then the Committee established by the Act no longer meets and can be abolished. However, other provisions may be unrepealable for generations, particularly if they confer pensions rights or confer security of tenure or employment rights. Other provisions may be virtually unrepealable ever. Much of English property law relies on medieval statutes such as Quia Emptores (1290) which is regarded as one of the pillars of the law of real property. This last example usefully shows that just because a statute is ancient it is not necessarily obsolete.

Help from consultees

11. Sometimes it is impossible to tell whether a provision is repealable without factual information that is not readily ascertainable without ‘inside’ knowledge of a Department or other organisation. Examples of this include savings or transitional provisions which are there to preserve the status quo until an office-holder ceases to hold office or until repayment of a loan has been made. In cases like these the repeal notes drafted by the Law Commissions often invite the organisation being consulted to supply the necessary information. Any help that can be given to fill in the gaps is much appreciated.

POOR RELIEF REPEAL PROPOSALS

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THE POOR RELIEF: BACKGROUND NOTE

Introduction

1. The Acts identified in these notes for repeal are mostly relics of the “Old Poor Law” as it operated throughout England and Wales. By “Old Poor Law” is meant the parish-based poor law relief arrangements that existed before the implementation of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834. The Acts identified in these notes were enacted for the purpose of providing for the needs of the poor, particularly by providing the necessary powers to raise money from the inhabitants of a parish to build a workhouse to contain the poor.¹ The Acts have long ceased to serve any useful purpose and their repeal is proposed on that basis. Similarly obsolete, and also proposed for repeal, are a number of Acts that were passed to amend the operation of the poor law as it applied after the implementation of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834.

Background

2. The origin of the Old Poor Law, as well as the origin of the modern law of social welfare and of rating law, can be traced to enactments passed in 1597 and 1601.² The 1601 Act, which amended the 1597 Act, obliged each parish in England and Wales to relieve the aged and the helpless, to bring up unprotected children in habits of industry, and to provide work for those capable of it but lacking their usual trade. The Act established the parish as the administrative unit responsible for poor relief, with churchwardens or parish overseers collecting poor-rates from the inhabitants of a parish and then allocating relief, usually in the form of bread, clothing, fuel, the payment of rent, or cash. The poor-rate was originally a form of local income tax, but it gradually evolved into a property tax based on the value of a person’s real estate. A consequence of the 1601 Act was the parish workhouse which appeared around 1650 and became widespread throughout parishes in England and Wales by the 1770s.

¹ Although people needing assistance from the parish were generally categorised as “the poor”, poverty was not the only issue. Old age, illness, disability and unemployment were other issues. Moreover, the workhouse was not the only form of relief available from the parish. Assistance often took the form of “out relief” – that is, money, food or medical assistance provided while people continued to live in their own homes. Equally they might have been treated for illness in the workhouse infirmary or in the county lunatic asylum. Children of poor parents were brought up and educated in Poor Law schools and, in due course, apprenticed or placed in service.

² 39 Eliz.1 c.3 (1597); 43 Eliz.1 c.2 (1601).

3. Examples of early parish workhouses can be found in London (around 1650),³ Chichester (around 1681), Bristol (1696), Witham (1714) and Mildenhall (1720). Many more workhouses were set up following an Act of 1722⁴ which was known as Knatchbull's Act.⁵ This enabled workhouses to be established either by individual parishes or in combination with neighbouring parishes. A further purpose of the Act was to ensure that the prospect of the workhouse should act as a deterrent and that relief should be available only to those who were prepared to enter the workhouse. About 700 workhouses were estimated to be in operation in 1732. By 1777, a Parliamentary survey of poor law expenditure in England and Wales estimated that the number of parish workhouses had risen to 1873 (approximately one parish in seven) with a total capacity of over 90,000 places.⁶

4. Not every workhouse was run by the parish itself. The work was sometimes contracted out to a third party who would feed and house the poor, charging the parish a weekly rate for each inmate. The contractor would provide the inmates with work, any income thereby generated being kept by him. This system was known as "farming the poor".

5. In 1832 the Government appointed a Royal Commission to review the existing arrangements for poor relief. This was at least partly in response to growing dissatisfaction with the current system, not least from the land-owning classes who carried much of the poor-rate burden. The Royal Commission reported⁷ in 1834 making a number of recommendations that resulted in the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834.⁸

6. The 1834 Act established a new poor law system. A Poor Law Commission was set up to administer the new system. It divided the 15,000 or so parishes of England and Wales into new administrative units called "Poor Law Unions",⁹ each run by a locally elected Board of Guardians who took over responsibility for poor relief in that Union area. The funding of each Union and its workhouses continued to

³ The London Corporation of the Poor was set up in 1647 to erect workhouses and houses of correction, enforce the law against vagabonds and set the poor to work.

⁴ 9 Geo.1 c.7.

⁵ Sir Edward Knatchbull, MP for Kent, promoted this enactment.

⁶ Report from the Committee appointed to inspect and consider the returns made by the Overseers of the Poor, 15 May 1777.

⁷ Royal Commission on the Administration and Practical Operation of the Poor Laws. *Administration and Practical Operation of the Poor Laws*, 1834 Sessional Papers, vol xxvii, number 44.

⁸ 4 & 5 Will.4 c.76.

⁹ "Union" meant union of a group of parishes, with each Union operating one or more workhouses in that Union area.

be provided by the local poor rate within each parish. The Poor Law Commission was abolished and replaced by a new Poor Law Board in 1847¹⁰ which itself was replaced by the Local Government Board in 1871.¹¹

7. The workhouse system continued until well into the twentieth century and until 1930 the parish remained the basis for the funding of poor relief. In 1913, the terminology was changed so that workhouses became known as “poor law institutions”. It was only on 1 April 1930, when the Local Government Act 1929 came into force, that Boards of Guardians and Poor Law Unions were abolished, their functions being transferred to local government. The 1920s had seen these unions amass huge debts which they were unable to meet. The only option was a more centralised system. Their functions were transferred to public assistance authorities run by county boroughs and county councils.

Centralisation

8. It was becoming apparent that a fully centralised system was needed. Section 1 of the National Assistance Act 1948 swept aside the 1930s system by providing that:

the existing poor law shall cease to have effect, and shall be replaced by the provisions of Part 2 of this Act as to the rendering, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of assistance to persons in need....

9. Accordingly, the National Assistance Act 1948 terminated the existing poor law and replaced it with new arrangements whereby persons in need were assisted by the National Assistance Board. The National Assistance Act 1948 was one of three Acts which, coming into force on the same day, changed the face of the welfare state in Britain. The National Insurance Act 1946 created the National Insurance system we have today. The National Health Service Act 1948 introduced a health care system providing free health care to all. The Board was abolished by the Ministry of Social Security Act 1966, and its functions under Part 2 of the 1948 Act

¹⁰ The Poor Law Board Act 1847 (10 & 11 Vict c.109) abolished the Poor Law Commission and allowed the appointment of members of the new Poor Law Board. Problems with the Poor Law Commission had been brought to the public's attention by the Andover Scandal in 1845. The scandal revealed systematic abuses of paupers which had gone unnoticed for a considerable number of years, and may have been encouraged by the Poor Law Commission's permissive attitude to its institutions. The Poor Law Board was intended to exercise greater control, and prevent these problems happening again. See A Brundage, *The English Poor Laws, 1700-1930* (2002, Palgrave).

¹¹ The Local Government Board Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict c.70) established the Local Government Board which was to be responsible for supervising the laws relating to public health, local government, and the relief of the poor. Upon the establishment of the Local Government Board, the Poor Law Board would cease to exist, and all its powers and duties were to vest in the newly formed Local Government Board.

were transferred to the Minister of Social Security.¹² The 1960s saw significant changes to the welfare state which was increasing in cost. There were additional reforms in the 1980s to deal with rising unemployment rates. The modern equivalent of assistance under Part 2 of the 1948 Act is income support under the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992¹³ and payments out of the social fund.¹⁴

Abolition of parish overseers

10. So far as the overseers of the parish were concerned, their duties of raising money by rates for the poor of their parish under the 1601 Act were extended by later legislation so as to enable them to levy rates for other purposes. These purposes included raising money for general county purposes under section 26 of the County Rates Act 1852, and meeting the expenses of lighting public thoroughfares under section 33 of the Lighting and Watching Act 1833. Outside London these functions in relation to the making, levying and collecting of rates remained with the overseers until they were transferred to rating authorities in 1927 by the Rating and Valuation Act 1925.¹⁵ Thereafter the poor-rate became part of the consolidated general rate for each area. In London, other than the City, the metropolitan borough councils became overseers for rating purposes in 1899.¹⁶ In the City of London the Common Council became overseers of the parish of the City of London in 1908.¹⁷

Modern rating system

11. The 1601 Act survived until 1 April 1967 when it was repealed by the General Rate Act 1967.¹⁸ The 1967 Act consolidated the existing statutory powers of local rating authorities¹⁹ to set rates for their areas, and to apply the money raised to local purposes. Any rate made by a rating authority was levied as a single consolidated rate known as the *general rate*.²⁰

¹² The 1966 Act, ss 2, 39(3), Sch 8.

¹³ The 1992 Act, Pt 7.

¹⁴ The 1992 Act, Pt 8.

¹⁵ Rating and Valuation Act 1925, ss 1(2), 68(1). The 1925 Act abolished overseers (s 62(1)(2)), and their miscellaneous functions and powers were transferred to other authorities by the Overseers Order 1927, SR & O 1927 No 55.

¹⁶ London Government Act 1899, s 11(1).

¹⁷ City of London (Union of Parishes) Act 1907, s 11.

¹⁸ The 1967 Act, s 117(1), Sch 14, Pt 1; General Rate Act 1967 (Commencement) Order 1967, SI 1967/499. The 1967 Act also repealed many other obsolete public general rating Acts. The 1597 Act was repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1863.

¹⁹ Rating authorities were the borough councils, the district councils, the Common Council of the City of London, the Sub-Treasurer of the Inner Temple and the Under-Treasurer of the Middle Temple: the 1967 Act, s 1(1).

²⁰ The 1967 Act, s 2(3).

12. Modern rating law is provided by the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992. The 1988 Act repealed the 1967 Act²¹ and replaced the old rating system with a new local taxation system. Part 3 of the 1988 Act provided for non-domestic rating whilst the 1992 Act established the council tax.

Conclusion

13. The abolition of parish-run poor law by the Local Government Act 1929 and the abolition of the existing poor law system itself by the National Assistance Act 1948 has made nearly all of the poor law legislation dating back to the seventeenth century unnecessary. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from central funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation. The funding by local government of “poor-law type” assistance (for example, the provision of social services functions such as accommodation for elderly or disabled persons) derives not from parish rates but from the modern system of non-domestic rating and council tax established under the Local Government Finance Acts 1988 and 1992.

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²¹ The 1988 Act, ss 117(1), 149, Sch 13, Pt 1.

POOR RELIEF REPEAL PROPOSALS

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
9 Will.3 c.17 (1697) <i>(Crediton Workhouse Act)</i>	The whole Act.

9 Will.3 c.17 (1697) *(Crediton Workhouse Act)*

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 17th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in Crediton, Devon.

2. The *preamble* to the 1697 Act recorded that:

The poor who are very numerous within the Bounds and Parish of Crediton alias Kyrton in the County of Devon and hamlett of Sandford within the said Parish doe dayly multiply and Idlenesse and Debauchery increase for want of workhouses to sett them at work.

3. The 1697 Act provided as follows:²²

- (a) from 1 June 1698 a Corporation was to be established within the bounds and parish of Crediton comprising the 12 Governors of the Church of Crediton and 10 other inhabitants who would be elected by those Governors at a meeting held for that purpose
- (b) the 10 elected inhabitants would act as Assistants to the Governors; tenure of office of the Assistants and provisions for their replacement
- (c) the Governors and Assistants to meet annually to elect three of the Assistants as *Guardians of the Poor* for the next year
- (d) the Governors, Assistants and Guardians to be incorporated and known as the *Governors, Assistants and Guardians for the better relief of the Poor* of Crediton with power to hold and transfer land and other property; first meeting to be held on 1 June 1698 to elect a treasurer from within their number for the next year; power to appoint other officers
- (e) the Guardians authorised to convene a court or assembly of the Corporation every two months, or at any time with two days' notice; power to summon inhabitants to appear before the court; churchwardens and overseers required to attend meetings to produce all books and papers relating to the poor

²² The provisions of the 1697 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

- (f) the Corporation authorised to make bye laws for the better government of the Corporation and the poor; authority for the Corporation to buy a hospital, workhouse or house of correction and to provide whatever was required to set to work the poor of Crediton; power to compel the idle poor to take up employment, including employment in the workhouse; Corporation to have jurisdiction over poor children until they reach 16, whereupon they might be apprenticed for a period not exceeding 7 years
- (g) court authorised to punish the misbehaviour of any poor person in Corporation premises
- (h) Corporation authorised to assess the sum required to build and fit out a hospital or workhouse, such sum (not exceeding £600) to be raised over a 2 year period; Corporation also authorised to assess the weekly or monthly sum required to maintain the poor in such hospital or workhouse, such sum not to exceed the sums paid by the inhabitants to maintain the poor in the last 2 years; all such sums to be raised by taxation of every inhabitant of Crediton; churchwardens and overseers authorised to collect the tax; penalty for non-payment; appeals against assessment
- (i) Corporation authorised to confer the status of Assistant or Guardian on anyone making donations of £50 or more to the Corporation
- (j) Corporation to be responsible for the care and maintenance of all the poor of Crediton except in cases where the poor were already sufficiently provided for; power to apprehend vagrants or beggars and set them to work in the workhouse for a period not exceeding three years; power to obtain details from the churchwardens and overseers of every person in Crediton who received poor relief, ensuring that those able to work were sent to the workhouse and given such work as would be most advantageous to the Corporation; provisions for checking misbehaviour by workhouse inmates and Corporation officers
- (k) Corporation authorised to employ such officers as are necessary for the running of the Corporation's premises
- (l) accounts of the Corporation to be kept and made available for inspection; penalty for neglect or refusal to produce accounts
- (m) penalty for refusal by any Guardian or treasurer to take their oath of office
- (n) penalties imposed by this Act to be recoverable by seizure of the offender's goods
- (o) civil procedure; status of Act

- (p) *special provisions to apply to the hamlet of Sandford* parts of which, although falling within the parish of Crediton, were many miles away from the town of Crediton; Corporation's powers under this Act not to extend to Sandford; authority for those Governors living in Sandford to build a hospital, workhouse or house of correction in Sandford, and to administer the running of such buildings; provisions for charging and collecting the poor rate from the inhabitants of Sandford; penalties for non-payment and appeals; other provisions analogous to those in this Act relating to Crediton generally
- (q) provision in event of any justice of the peace neglecting their duties under this Act.

4. Workhouses at both Crediton and Sandford were indeed built pursuant to the 1697 Act. Parish records indicate that both had been built by around 1700. A Parliamentary report of 1777²³ recorded that parish workhouses continued to operate in both Crediton and Sandford (for up to 90 and 60 inmates respectively). However it seems probable that both workhouses closed in consequence of the Crediton Poor Law Union which came into existence in April 1836. That resulted in the building of a new union workhouse on a site to the west of Crediton. Designed to hold 300 inmates, this new workhouse superseded the existing workhouses in neighbouring parishes including Crediton and Sandford.

5. The 1697 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1697 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Devon.

²³ *Report from the Committee appointed to inspect and consider the returns made by the Overseers of the Poor, 15 May 1777.*

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Devon County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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9 Will.3 c.18 (1697) (Tiverton Workhouse Act)	The whole Act.
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9 Will.3 c.18 (1697) (Tiverton Workhouse Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 17th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in Tiverton, Devon.

2. The *preamble* to the 1697 Act recorded that:

the poor (who are very numerous) within the Towne and Parish of Tiverton in the County of Devon doe dayly multiply and idleness and debauchery amongst the meaner sort doth greatly increase for want of workhouses to sett them to work.

3. The 1697 Act provided as follows:²⁴

(a) from 6 June 1698 a Corporation was to be established within the town and parish of Tiverton comprising the Mayor, Recorder, Capital Burgesses²⁵ and 26 Assistants of the town and parish, the Port Reeve²⁶ and 25 other inhabitants who would be elected as Guardians of the poor of the town and parish by residents who contributed money for the relief of the poor

(b) the 25 Guardians to be elected on 6 June 1698; provisions for their replacement

(c) the Mayor to convene a meeting every three years for the election of new Guardians

(d) the Mayor, Recorder, Capital Burgesses, Assistants, Port Reeve and Guardians to be incorporated and known as the *Governor, Deputy Governor and Guardians of the Poor* of the town and parish of Tiverton, with power to hold and transfer land and other property; first meeting to be held on 20 June 1698 to elect a Governor, Deputy Governor, Treasurer and 12 Special Assistants

(e) the Governor authorised to convene a court or assembly of the Corporation every two months, or at any time with two days' notice; power to summon inhabitants to appear before the court; churchwardens

²⁴ The provisions of the 1697 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

²⁵ A burgess was an inhabitant of a town or borough who was entitled by payment of rates to be enrolled to elect the council. There were assistant burgesses and capital burgesses (the latter being elected from the ranks of the former). Capital burgesses commonly elected the Mayor each year.

²⁶ A port reeve was the chief officer of a town or borough.

and overseers required to attend meetings to produce all books and papers relating to the poor

- (f) the Corporation authorised to make bye laws for the better government of the Corporation and the poor; authority for the Corporation to buy a hospital, workhouse or house of correction and to provide whatever was required to set to work the poor of Tiverton; power to compel the idle poor to take up employment, including employment in the workhouse; Corporation to have jurisdiction over poor children until they reach 16, whereupon they might be apprenticed for a period not exceeding 7 years
- (g) court authorised to punish the misbehaviour of any poor person in Corporation premises
- (h) Corporation authorised to assess the sum required to build and fit out a hospital or workhouse, such sum (not exceeding £3000) to be raised over a 6 year period; Corporation also authorised to assess the weekly or monthly sum required to maintain the poor in such hospital or workhouse, such sum not to exceed the sums paid by the inhabitants to maintain the poor in the last 3 years; all such sums to be raised by taxation of every inhabitant of Tiverton; churchwardens and overseers authorised to collect the tax; penalty for non-payment; appeals against assessment
- (i) Corporation authorised to confer the status of Guardian on anyone making donations of £50 or more to the Corporation
- (j) Corporation to be responsible for the care and maintenance of all the poor of Tiverton except in cases where the poor were already sufficiently provided for; power to apprehend vagrants or beggars and set them to work in the workhouse for a period not exceeding three years
- (k) Corporation authorised to employ such officers as were necessary for the running of the Corporation's premises
- (l) accounts of the Corporation to be kept and made available for inspection; penalty for neglect or refusal to produce accounts
- (m) penalties imposed by this Act to be recoverable by seizure of the offender's goods
- (n) all charitable gifts given in the future for the use of the poor of the town or parish of Tiverton were to be paid to the Corporation for the uses of the poor of Tiverton
- (o) civil procedure; status of Act

(p) special provisions to amend 1695 Act relating to the poor in Bristol²⁷ authorised the Corporation established under that Act (“the 1695 Act Corporation”) to assess the sum required to build and fit out a hospital, workhouse or house of correction, such sum (not exceeding £5000) to be raised over a 3 year period; the 1695 Act Corporation also authorised to assess the weekly or monthly sum required to maintain the poor in such accommodation, such sum not to exceed the sums paid to maintain the poor in the last 3 years; all such sums to be raised by taxation of every inhabitant in the City and County of Bristol; Mayor and Aldermen to order churchwardens and overseers to collect the tax; default powers for the 1695 Act Corporation to enforce payment by seizure of the offender’s goods; all charitable gifts given on or after 12 May 1697 were to be paid to the 1695 Act Corporation for the uses of the poor of the City and County of Bristol [As explained in the footnote below, these Bristol provisions were repealed in 1822].

4. A workhouse/hospital at Tiverton was indeed built pursuant to the 1697 Act. The building was opened in 1704 and a Parliamentary report of 1777²⁸ recorded that it accommodated up to 400 inmates. Tiverton Poor Law Union came into existence in November 1835 and a new union workhouse was built in 1836-38 on the site of the old building in Belmont Road. Subsequently the workhouse buildings were used as a hospital (Belmont Hospital) used for the care of elderly people. The hospital has now closed and the site is likely to be developed for housing.

5. The 1697 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1697 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

²⁷ 7 & 8 Will.3 c.32. The provisions of this 1695 Act for empowering local corporations to provide relief for the poor were followed by several later Acts including the present enactment concerning Tiverton. However, this 1695 Act (together the provisions in the present Tiverton enactment concerning Bristol) was repealed in 1822: 3 Geo.4 c.xxiv.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Devon.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Devon County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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²⁸ *Report from the Committee appointed to inspect and consider the returns made by the Overseers of the Poor, 15 May 1777.*

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
9 Will.3 c.33 (1697) (Exeter Workhouse Act)	The whole Act.
<hr/>	
9 Will.3 c.33 (1697) (<i>Exeter Workhouse Act</i>)	
1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 17 th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the City and County of Exeter.	
2. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1697 Act recorded that: <i>the poor of the City of Exon²⁹ do dayly multiply and idleness and debauchery ... doth greatly increase for want of workhouses to set them to work.</i>	
3. The 1697 Act provided as follows: ³⁰	
(a) from 30 June 1698 a Corporation was to be established within the City of Exeter comprising the Mayor, Aldermen and 40 other inhabitants of the City, all such persons to be known as <i>Guardians</i> of the poor; the 40 inhabitants were to be elected at meetings of those residents of the City who contributed to paying for the relief of the poor	
(b) tenure of office of the 40 inhabitants and provisions for their replacement	
(c) Mayor, Aldermen and 40 inhabitants to be incorporated and known as the <i>Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants and Guardians of the Poor of the City and County of Exon</i> with power to hold and transfer land and other property; first meeting to be held on 28 June 1698 to elect officers from within their number including a Governor and Deputy Governor; procedure for replacement of these officers	
(d) the Governor authorised to convene a court or assembly of the Corporation every two months, or at any time with two days' notice; penalty for any officers failing to carry out their official functions; power to summon inhabitants of the City to appear before the court	
(e) the Corporation authorised to make bye laws for the better government of the Corporation and the better employment of the poor of the City; authority for the Corporation to buy a hospital, workhouse or house of correction and to provide whatever was required to set to work the poor of the City; power to compel the idle poor to take up employment, including employment in the workhouse, Corporation to have jurisdiction	

²⁹ Exon is the old English name for Exeter.

- over poor children until they reach 16, whereupon they may be apprenticed for a period not exceeding 8 years
- (f) court authorised to punish the misbehaviour of any poor person in Corporation premises
 - (g) Corporation authorised to assess the sum required to build and fit out a hospital or workhouse, such sum (not exceeding £3000) to be raised over a 3 year period; Corporation also authorised to assess the weekly or monthly sum required to maintain the poor in such hospital or workhouse, such sum not to exceed the sums paid by the City to maintain the poor in the last 3 years; all such sums to be raised by taxation of every inhabitant in the City; churchwardens and overseers authorised to collect the tax; penalty for non-payment; appeals against assessment
 - (h) procedure for the Corporation collecting the taxes itself in the event of delay; penalties for bureaucratic delay
 - (i) Corporation authorised to confer the status of Guardian on anyone making donations of £50 or more to the Corporation
 - (j) Corporation to be responsible for the care and maintenance of all the poor of the City except in cases where the poor were already sufficiently provided for; power to apprehend vagrants or beggars and set them to work in the workhouse for a period not exceeding three years; this Act not to affect almshouses, hospitals or other charitable donations made within the City
 - (k) Corporation authorised to employ such officers as are necessary for the running of the Corporation's premises
 - (l) accounts of the Corporation to be kept and made available for inspection; penalty for neglect or refusal to produce accounts
 - (m) penalties imposed by this Act to be recoverable by seizure of the offender's goods
 - (n) all charitable gifts given in the future to the City were to be paid to the Corporation for the uses of the poor of the City
 - (o) civil procedure; status of Act
 - (p) authorised Mayor and Aldermen to use market toll receipts to promote employment schemes for the poor.

³⁰ The provisions of the 1697 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

4. The Corporation purchased a site at Heavitree (near Exeter) pursuant to the 1697 Act and the workhouse opened in 1701.³¹ It accommodated 400 inmates. The workhouse buildings continued to be used after 1834 by the Exeter Poor Law Union. By 1889 the workhouse buildings included a large hospital, schools, workshops and mental wards. Further additions of an infirmary and children's home were made in the early 1900s. The children's home was used as a military hospital during the First World War. The workhouse became a Public Assistance Institution before becoming the City Hospital in 1939, and later the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Bombing during the Second World War severely damaged the original workhouse and only the 20th century structures remain. The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital was rebuilt and still operates on this site.

5. The 1697 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1697 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the area of Exeter in Devon.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Exeter City Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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³¹ An earlier workhouse had been built in the 1670s in Summerland Street, Exeter following a bequest of Canon John Bury.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
9 Will.3 c.34 (1697) (Hereford Workhouse Act)	The whole Act.
<hr/>	
<i>9 Will.3 c.34 (1697) (Hereford Workhouse Act)</i>	
1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 17 th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the City of Hereford.	
2. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1697 Act recorded that: <i>the poor in the City of Hereford doe dayly multiply and through idleness or want of some fitting employment [have become] indigent and disorderly.</i>	
3. The 1697 Act provided as follows: ³²	
(a) from 14 June 1698 a Corporation was to be established within the City of Hereford comprising the Mayor and Justices of the City and 25 other inhabitants of the City; the 25 inhabitants were to be elected at meetings of those residents of the City who contributed to paying for the relief of the poor; tenure of office of the 25 inhabitants and provisions for their replacement	
(b) the Mayor, Justices and 25 inhabitants to be incorporated and known as the <i>Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants and Guardians of the Poor in the City of Hereford</i> with power to hold and transfer land and other property; first meeting to be held on 20 June 1698 to elect officers from within their number including a Governor and Deputy Governor; procedure for replacement of these officers	
(c) the Governor authorised to convene a court or assembly of the Corporation every two months, or at any time with two days' notice; power to summon inhabitants of the City to appear before the court	
(d) the Corporation authorised to make bye laws for the better government of the Corporation and the better employment of the poor of the City; authority for the Corporation to buy a hospital, workhouse or house of correction and to provide whatever was required to set to work the poor of the City; power to compel the idle poor to take up employment, including employment in the workhouse; Corporation to have jurisdiction	

³² The provisions of the 1697 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

over poor children until they reach 16, whereupon they may be apprenticed for a period not exceeding 7 years

- (e) court authorised to punish the misbehaviour of any poor person in Corporation premises
- (f) Corporation authorised to assess the sum required to build and fit out a hospital or workhouse, such sum (not exceeding £2000) to be raised over a 5 year period; Corporation also authorised to assess the weekly or monthly sum required to maintain the poor in such hospital or workhouse, such sum not to exceed the sums paid by the City to maintain the poor in the last 3 years; all such sums to be raised by taxation of every inhabitant in the City; churchwardens and overseers authorised to collect the tax; penalty for non-payment; appeals against assessment
- (g) procedure for the Corporation collecting the taxes itself in the event of delay; penalties for bureaucratic delay
- (h) Corporation authorised to confer the status of Guardian on anyone making donations of £50 or more to the Corporation
- (i) Corporation to be responsible for the care and maintenance of all the poor of the City except in cases where the poor were already sufficiently provided for; power to apprehend vagrants or beggars and set them to work in the workhouse for a period not exceeding three years; this Act not to affect almshouses, hospitals or other charitable donations made within the City
- (j) Corporation authorised to employ such officers as are necessary for the running of the Corporation's premises
- (k) accounts of the Corporation to be kept and made available for inspection; penalty for neglect or refusal to produce accounts
- (l) penalties imposed by this Act to be recoverable by seizure of the offender's goods
- (m) all charitable gifts given in the future for the use of the City or any parish in it were to be paid to the Corporation for the uses of the poor of the City
- (n) civil procedure; status of Act
- (o) authorised the Mayor, Aldermen and citizens of the City to use market toll receipts to promote employment schemes for the poor.

4. It is unclear whether any workhouse was eventually built in Hereford pursuant to the 1697 Act. It seems that, by the 1770s, five of the City's parishes were

operating their own small workhouses.³³ This perhaps indicates that no workhouse was actually built pursuant to the 1697 Act. In 1783 the City's six parishes agreed to maintain a joint workhouse.

5. The 1697 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1697 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the Hereford area.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Herefordshire Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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³³ These parishes were All Saints; St John Baptist; St Martin; St Nicholas; and St Peter.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
9 Will.3 c.37 (1697) <i>(Colchester Workhouse Act)</i>	The whole Act.

9 Will.3 c.37 (1697) (Colchester Workhouse Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 17th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in Colchester.

2. The *preamble* to the 1697 Act recorded that:

the poor in the Towne of Colchester in the County of Essex doe dayly multiply and idleness and debauchery ... doth greatly increase for want of workhouses to sett them to work.

3. The 1697 Act provided as follows:³⁴

- (a) from 24 June 1698 a Corporation was to be established within the town of Colchester comprising the Mayor, Aldermen and 48 other inhabitants of the town, such inhabitants to be known as *Guardians of the poor* of the town; the 48 inhabitants were to be elected at meetings of those residents of the town who contributed to paying for the relief of the poor
- (b) tenure of office of the 48 inhabitants and provisions for their replacement
- (c) in June 1700 the Mayor and Aldermen were required to hold a meeting of the Corporation to arrange elections for new guardians in each ward
- (d) Mayor, Aldermen and Guardians to be incorporated and known as the *Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants and Guardians of the Poor* in the town of Colchester with power to hold and transfer land and other property; first meeting to be held on 6 July 1698 to elect officers from within their number including a Governor and Deputy Governor; procedure for replacement of these officers
- (e) penalty for any officers failing to carry out their official functions
- (f) the Governor authorised to convene a court or assembly of the Corporation every two months, or at any time with two days' notice; power to summon inhabitants of the town to appear before the court
- (g) the Corporation authorised to make bye laws for the better government of the Corporation and the better employment of the poor of the town; authority for the Corporation to buy a hospital, workhouse or house of correction and to provide whatever was required to set to work the poor

of the town; power to compel the idle poor to take up employment, including employment in the workhouse, Corporation to have jurisdiction over poor children until they reach 16, whereupon they may be apprenticed for a period not exceeding 7 years

- (h) court authorised to punish the misbehaviour of any poor person in Corporation premises
- (i) Corporation authorised to assess the sum required to build and fit out a hospital or workhouse, such sum (not exceeding £5000) to be raised over a 3 year period; Corporation also authorised to assess the weekly or monthly sum required to maintain the poor in such hospital or workhouse, such sum not to exceed the sums paid by the town to maintain the poor in the last 3 years; all such sums to be raised by taxation of every inhabitant in the town; churchwardens and overseers authorised to collect the tax; penalty for non-payment; appeals against assessment
- (j) procedure for the Corporation collecting the taxes itself in the event of delay; penalties for bureaucratic delay
- (k) Corporation authorised to confer the status of Guardian on anyone making donations of £100 or more to the Corporation
- (l) Corporation to be responsible for the care and maintenance of all the poor of the town except in cases where the poor were already sufficiently provided for; power to apprehend vagrants or beggars and set them to work in the workhouse for a period not exceeding three years; this Act not to affect almshouses, hospitals or other charitable donations made within the town
- (m) Corporation authorised to employ such officers as are necessary for the running of the Corporation's premises
- (n) accounts of the Corporation to be kept and made available for inspection; penalty for neglect or refusal to produce accounts
- (o) penalties imposed by this Act to be recoverable by seizure of the offender's goods
- (p) civil procedure; status of Act
- (q) no apprenticeships within the town to be given to poor children resident outside the town without the consent of the Governor; no weaver to take on more than two apprentices at any one time

³⁴ The provisions of the 1697 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

- (r) no-one eligible to be a Guardian without being a ratepayer or benefactor to the town.

4. The workhouse at Colchester was duly constructed pursuant to the 1697 Act in or around 1700 in the old Crutched Friars building in Crouch Street. By 1711, however, the workhouse moved away to East Street. A report by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in 1725 confirmed that the workhouse inmates included 40-50 children at work carding and spinning wool. By 1745, however, it seems that the workhouse had ceased to operate because of the collapse of the Corporation in that year. This failure obliged adjacent parishes to provide their own workhouses. Shortly after the Colchester Poor Law Union formally came into being on 19 October 1836, a new Colchester Union workhouse was opened. The site of this new workhouse was redeveloped for residential use in the 1990s.

5. The 1697 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1697 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.³⁵

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the area of Colchester, Essex.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Essex County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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³⁵ An Act of 1741 (15 Geo.2 c.18) amending the 1697 Act was repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950, s 1, Sch 1.

9 Will.3 c.48 (1697) (Shaftesbury Workhouse Act)	The whole Act.
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9 Will.3 c.48 (1697) (Shaftesbury Workhouse Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 17th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the borough of Shaftesbury, Dorset.

2. The *preamble* to the 1697 Act recorded that:

the poor of the several parishes of the Holy Trinity and Saint Peter which said parishes doe lye as well without as within the Burrough of Shaston alias Shaftsbury in the County of Dorsett doe daily multiply and idleness and debauchery ... doth greatly increase for want of workhouses to set them to work.

3. The 1697 Act provided as follows:³⁶

- (a) from 10 August 1698 a Corporation was to be established within the parishes of Holy Trinity and St Peter (“the Parishes”) in Shaftesbury comprising the Mayor, Recorder, 12 Capital Burgesses³⁷ and 24 other inhabitants of the Parishes, all such persons to be known as *Guardians* of the poor; the 24 inhabitants were to be elected at a meeting of those residents of the Parishes who contributed to paying for the relief of the poor
- (b) tenure of office of the 24 inhabitants and provisions for their replacement
- (c) Mayor, Recorder, Capital Burgesses and 24 inhabitants to be incorporated and known as the *Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants and Guardians of the Poor* of [the Parishes] with power to hold and transfer land and other property; first meeting to be held on 1 September 1698 to elect officers from within their number including a Governor and Deputy Governor
- (d) penalty for any officers failing to carry out their official functions

³⁶ The provisions of the 1697 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

³⁷ Shaftesbury received a Charter of Incorporation from James I in 1604. The Charter confirmed rights to self government under a Mayor, a Recorder and Capital Burgesses. A burgess was an inhabitant of a borough who was entitled by payment of rates to be enrolled to elect the council. There were assistant burgesses and capital burgesses (the latter being elected from the ranks of the former). Capital burgesses commonly elected the Mayor each year. A further Charter was granted to Shaftesbury in 1665 and the town was governed in accordance with it until the passage of the Municipal Corporations Act 1835.

- (e) the Governor authorised to convene a court or assembly of the Corporation every two months, or at any time with two days' notice; power to summon inhabitants of the Parishes to appear before the court
- (f) the Corporation authorised to make bye laws for the better government of the Corporation and the better employment of the poor of the Parishes; authority for the Corporation to buy a hospital, workhouse or house of correction and to provide whatever is required to set to work the poor of the Parishes; power to compel the idle poor to take up employment; Corporation to have jurisdiction over poor children until they reach 16, whereupon they may be apprenticed for a period not exceeding 8 years
- (g) court authorised to punish the misbehaviour of any poor person in Corporation premises
- (h) Corporation authorised to assess the sum required to build and fit out a hospital or workhouse, such sum (not exceeding £500) to be raised over a 7 year period; Corporation also authorised to assess the monthly sum required to maintain the poor in such hospital or workhouse, such sum not to exceed the sums paid by the Parishes to maintain the poor in the last 3 years; all such sums to be raised by taxation of every inhabitant in the Parishes; churchwardens and overseers authorised to collect the tax; penalty for non-payment; appeals against assessment
- (i) procedure for the Corporation collecting the taxes itself in the event of delay
- (j) Corporation authorised to confer the status of Guardian on anyone making donations to the Corporation
- (k) Corporation to be responsible for the care and maintenance of all the poor of the Parishes except in cases where the poor were already sufficiently provided for; power to apprehend vagrants or beggars and set them to work in the workhouse for a period not exceeding one year; this Act not to affect almshouses, hospitals or other charitable donations made within the Parishes
- (l) Corporation authorised to employ such officers as are necessary for the running of the Corporation's premises
- (m) accounts of the Corporation to be kept and made available for inspection; penalty for neglect or refusal to produce accounts
- (n) penalties imposed by this Act to be recoverable by seizure of the offender's goods

- (o) all charitable gifts given in the future to the Parishes were to be paid to the Corporation for the uses of the poor of the Parishes
- (p) civil procedure; status of Act.

4. Although the 1697 Act authorised the construction of a workhouse (and other buildings) in Shaftesbury, there is no evidence that any such building was ever constructed. Historical records indicate that at least one workhouse was subsequently built in Shaftesbury and was functioning by the early 19th century.³⁸ The Shaftesbury Poor Law Union was formed in 1836 following which a new workhouse in Shaftesbury was opened. However it does not appear that any of these later workhouses derived in any way from the 1697 Act.

5. The 1697 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1697 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the Shaftesbury area of Dorset.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, North Dorset District Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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³⁸ Workhouses had been established in the neighbouring areas of Alcester and Gillingham by the 1770s.

Reference	Extent of repeal or revocation
16 Geo.2 c.9 (1742) (St Botolph, Aldgate Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
6 Geo.3 c.64 (1766) (St Botolph, Aldgate Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

16 Geo.2 c.9 (1742) (St Botolph, Aldgate Poor Relief Act)

6 Geo.3 c.64 (1766) (St Botolph, Aldgate Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of two obsolete enactments relating to the raising of money in the parish of St Botolph without Aldgate in the City of London³⁹ for the relief of the poor.

16 Geo.2 c.9 (1742) (St Botolph, Aldgate Poor Relief Act)

2. According to the long title, the purpose of the 1742 Act was:

to enable the Parishioners of the Parish of Saint Botolph without Aldgate, in the City of London, to raise a certain sum of Money, for Payment of Debts already contracted for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor of the said Parish.

3. The *preamble* to the 1742 Act recorded that the money raised in recent years for the relief of the poor of the parish of St Botolph without Aldgate had not been sufficient for that purpose. Moreover the parish had incurred debts from loans raised to meet the shortfall, and the creditors were commencing legal action to secure repayment of these debts.

4. The 1742 Act provided as follows:⁴⁰

- (a) trustees to be appointed to raise a sum not exceeding £2400 by means of levying a rate or assessment on the inhabitants of the parish, such rate not to exceed 6 pence (6d) in each pound of the rental value of the land and property in the parish owned by each inhabitant
- (b) appointment of trustees (including the parish churchwardens) to carry Act into effect; powers to seize property in the event of non-payment of any rate

³⁹ At that time the parish of St Botolph without Aldgate was partly in the City of London and partly in the County of Middlesex. Today it extends from Aldgate High Street to the junction of Fenchurch Street and Leadenhall Street. "Aldgate" derives from one of the eight gates (ie *old* gate) to the walled City of London. The present church of St Botolph without Aldgate was completed in 1744. It replaced earlier churches on the site.

⁴⁰ The provisions of the 1742 and 1766 Acts are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Acts themselves were not divided into sections.

- (c) overseers of the poor authorised to collect the rate; arrangements for accounts to be kept; penalties for overseers failure to account or carry out the collection duties
- (d) trustees empowered to borrow money on the credit of this Act (such moneys to be repaid by means of annuities); application of rate receipts to pay parish debts; provisions as to payment of annuities and as to record-keeping; rights of annuitants
- (e) election and qualification of trustees
- (f) the Act, and its authority to levy rates, to continue only so long as any annuity granted under the Act continues (Act and its powers thereafter to cease)
- (g) trustees' expenses; civil procedure issues; status of Act.

6 Geo.3 c.64 (1766) (St Botolph, Aldgate Poor Relief Act)

5. According to the long title, this 1766 Act was enacted for:

the better maintaining, regulating, and employing, the Poor within the Parish of Saint Botolph, Aldgate, in the City of London .

6. The *preamble* to the 1766 Act recorded that “the Poor of the Parish of Saint Botolph, Aldgate, in the City of London, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a very great Expence by the said Parish.” It also recorded the need to provide a place for those persons whose age or infirmities rendered them incapable of supporting themselves, as well as for the better employment of the able and industrious, the correction and punishment of the profligate and idle, and for the education of poor children.

7. The 1766 Act provided as follows:

- (a) churchwardens, overseers of the poor and vestrymen of the parish of St Botolph, Aldgate were authorised to meet annually to ascertain the sums needed to provide for the relief and employment of the poor of the parish; qualification of vestrymen
- (b) churchwardens, overseers of the poor and vestrymen authorised to levy a poor rate on all inhabitants of the parish; property owners to be liable for the poor rate assessed on tenants and lodgers; tenants and lodgers to be liable to pay any rates not paid by their landlord (up to the amount of the rent due) upon pain of having their goods seized

- (c) churchwardens, overseers and vestrymen authorised to purchase or lease land and property for the purpose of receiving, employing and maintaining the poor of the parish in a workhouse
- (d) churchwardens, overseers and vestrymen authorised to raise money for the purchase and furnishing of the workhouse by selling annuities, such annuities to be entered in a book and to be secured upon the poor rates raised under the Act
- (e) power for the churchwardens, overseers and a special committee to make orders for regulating the running of the workhouse and its inmates; penalties for inmates' misbehaviour
- (f) churchwardens and overseers authorised to send any child under 12 found wandering or begging in the parish to the workhouse for employment
- (g) recovery of unpaid rates including seizure of goods in event of non-payment; penalties for theft of workhouse clothes, goods or materials; overseers and other collectors of rates to account on oath
- (h) expenses of enactment; civil procedure issues; status of Act.

8. The 1742 and 1766 Acts have long been obsolete. They date back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

9. Accordingly the 1742 and 1766 Acts have long been obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

10. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside central London.

Consultation

11. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, St Botolph's Aldgate, the City of London Corporation, the City Remembrancer and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
19 Geo.2 c.15 (1745) <i>(Bethnal Green, Church Completion and Poor Relief Act)</i>	The whole Act.

19 Geo.2 c.15 (1745) (Bethnal Green, Church Completion and Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1745 Act passed to raise money for a church and for poor relief in Bethnal Green in London.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1745 Act was:

for enabling the Inhabitants of the Hamlet of Bethnal Green, in the County of Middlesex,⁴¹ to compleat their Church, and to pay for Debts already contracted, for the Relief of the Poor of the said Hamlet.

3. The preamble to the 1745 Act recorded that the Act was consequential upon an Act passed in 1742⁴² for the purpose of (1) making the hamlet of Bethnal Green (in the parish of St Dunstan, Stepney) a separate and distinct parish and (2) erecting a new parish church (and Minister's house) there.⁴³ The preamble also recorded that the arrangements set out in the 1742 Act for raising the necessary funds – including the levying of funeral rates and duties and the sale of annuities (up to £5000) – had proved insufficient to permit the completion of the church building or the commencement of the building of the Minister's house. Moreover some of the administrative arrangement provided for in the 1742 Act for the meetings of the trustees appointed by that Act and the collection of rate moneys were not working properly.

4. The 1745 Act provided as follows:⁴⁴

(a) repeal of 1742 Act arrangements for electing trustees; appointment of new and future trustees to implement the 1745 Act; punishment of neglectful rate collectors

(b) additional sum of £1300 to be raised by annuities; trustees empowered to levy additional rates on all houses and land in the hamlet of Bethnal

⁴¹ Bethnal Green today is within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

⁴² 16 Geo.2 c.28. This 1742 Act has since been repealed by 53 Geo.3 c.cxxiii (1813) (Bethnal Green Improvement), 8 & 9 Vict. c.clxxx (1845) (St Matthew's Church, Bethnal Green) and SR & O 1901/212(L), art 4.

⁴³ The need for a new parish arose because of a considerable increase in the population in that area in the latter half of the seventeenth century.

⁴⁴ The provisions of the 1745 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

Green for so long as these annuities remained payable, such rates (together with those authorised in the 1742 Act) not to exceed 1 shilling and 4 pence in the pound; payment of additional rates to give no right of settlement in the parish; additional rate to cease to be levied once all the annuities had ceased to be payable

- (c) the money raised under this Act to be applied (1) for paying part of the costs of the enactment process (2) for completing the building of the church and Minister's house, and (3) for the use of the church
- (d) appointment of rate collectors; continuation of powers of 1742 Act for collecting and disposing of rate moneys
- (e) debts built up by parish inhabitants in recent years to raise money to provide relief for the poor of the hamlet were to be settled by a rate to be levied on all parish inhabitants; such rate was not to exceed six pence in the pound; trustees appointed to receive this money and apply it in repaying the debts
- (f) churchwardens and overseers of the poor authorised to be the collectors of the rate moneys referred to in (e) above; accounting for such moneys; penalties for failings by churchwardens or overseers
- (g) authority for selling further annuities to help meet the debts referred to in (e) above; administrative provisions concerning annuities
- (h) rates levied in accordance with (e) above to cease to be levied once all the annuities referred to in (g) above had ceased to be payable
- (i) trustees to pay their own expenses, civil procedure issues; status of Act.

5. The church (St Matthew's, Bethnal Green) was finally completed and dedicated on 15 July 1746. The church still exists today, although it was rebuilt in 1859 following a fire and remodelled after severe damage in the Second World War.

6. The 1745 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. The 1745 Act, however, ceased to serve any useful purpose long before the end of the poor law system. The provisions of the Act concerned with raising money for completing the church and the Minister's house would have become unnecessary, at the latest, when the annuities sold for the purpose ceased to be payable. The Act itself provided that the additional rate would cease to be levied at that point. Similarly the provisions of the Act concerned with repayment of the poor relief debts incurred before 1745 would have become unnecessary, at the latest, when the annuities sold for that purpose ceased to be payable. Again the Act provided that the rates being levied for that purpose would cease to be levied at that point. In either case, the annuities would have ceased to be payable upon the death of the persons who had bought the annuities. It may be assumed that anyone buying an annuity in or around 1745 would have died by around 1800, whereupon the provisions of the 1745 Act became unnecessary.

8. Accordingly the 1745 Act may now be repealed on the basis that it is obsolete.

Extent

9. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside east London.

Consultation

10. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Church Commissioners, St Matthew's Church, Bethnal Green, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
4 Geo.3 c.90 (1764) (Loddon and Clavering (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

4 Geo.3 c.90 (1764) (Loddon and Clavering (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1764 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the hundreds of Loddon and Clavering, in Norfolk.⁴⁵

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1764 Act was:

for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundreds of Loddon and Clavering, in the County of Norfolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1764 Act recorded that the poor living in the hundreds of Loddon and Clavering were “very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expençe by their respective Parishes”. The *preamble* also recorded the desirability for “the granting of proper Powers for the better Government and Regulation of the Poor” and for establishing a place for the general reception of the poor to provide them with effective relief and assistance.

4. The 1764 Act provided as follows:⁴⁶

- (a) establishment of corporation to be known as *The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of Loddon and Clavering in the County of Norfolk* (“the Guardians”) comprising all local residents owning land rated at £30 and certain other persons; women qualifying as Guardians to act by proxy
- (b) poor to continue to be under the care of the churchwardens and overseers until the workhouse is built; thereafter the poor to be managed by the Guardians
- (c) authority for children to be bound as apprentices for terms not exceeding seven years (subject to upper age limits) including as apprentices to the governor or steward; authority to hire out poor persons for harvest work or hop-picking work or other suitable work; poor children to be handed over to relatives or friends willing and able to receive them; discharge of poor persons capable of looking after themselves

⁴⁵ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁴⁶ The provisions of the 1764 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

- (d) Guardians to meet to appoint 24 of their number to be Directors of the poor; appointment of treasurer and clerk; remuneration and removal of officers
- (e) Directors to purchase land not exceeding 40 acres for use as workhouse and house of correction; workhouse and house of correction to be operational within 2 years of such purchase; Directors to furnish workhouse
- (f) Directors authorised to make bye-laws; Directors to hold meetings quarterly; appointment of quarterly committees to be responsible for the care of the poor in each quarter; accounts to be settled each quarter
- (g) Directors and acting Guardians authorised to borrow money (not exceeding £8000) using the poor rates as security for the loan
- (h) Directors and acting Guardians authorised to assess the amount of poor rate necessary to repay the loan interest and capital and meet their obligations; churchwardens and overseers required to raise the necessary money by taxing the inhabitants of each parish, the amount of this poor rate not to exceed the average poor rate for the previous 7 years; parish of Yelverton deemed to be within the hundreds of Loddon and Clavering for the purposes of this Act; delivery of books and accounts; churchwardens to assist and obey orders of Guardians
- (i) Directors authorised to grant certificates of settlement; any person allowed to live in a parish without a settlement certificate should be maintained by that parish without help from the Corporation
- (j) appointment of governor or steward to oversee the running of the workhouse; appointment of workhouse matron and clergyman
- (k) punishment of misbehaving workhouse inmates; penalties for stealing or receiving workhouse clothing; rewards for industrious inmates out of the profits of their work; profits generally to be applied to reduce the poor rate
- (l) penalty for thefts by workhouse officers; justices of the peace empowered to act upon complaints by the Directors or acting Guardians; forfeitures to be paid to the treasurer; expenses of this Act; Guardians' expenses; strong liquor banned from workhouse; election of Directors and Guardians; civil procedure issues; status of Act.

5. A workhouse was duly opened in 1765 at Heckingham. It was adopted as the workhouse for the Loddon and Clavering Union in 1836. The workhouse was closed

in 1927 and was converted to use as a hospital and become known as Hales Hospital. Hales Hospital closed in 1997 and the buildings await redevelopment.

6. The 1764 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1764 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Norfolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, South Norfolk District Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

7 Geo.3 c.72 (1767) (Queenborough Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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7 Geo.3 c.72 (1767) (Queenborough Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1767 enactment passed to raise money for the relief of the poor living in the parish of Queenborough in Kent. Queenborough is a small town on the Isle of Sheppey.

2. According to its long title, the 1767 Act was passed for:

the better and more effectual Maintenance and Relief of the Poor of the Borough and Parish of Queenborough, in the County of Kent.

3. The *preamble* to the 1767 Act recorded that Queenborough, though small, was “burdened with many necessitous Poor”. It also recorded that the existing custom of raising money through levying rates on the inhabitants to meet the needs of the poor was not legally enforceable. As a result the parish was finding it impossible to raise enough money for these needs.

4. The 1767 Act provided as follows:⁴⁷

- (a) the churchwardens and overseers of the poor for the borough and parish of Queenborough were authorised to levy rates on every inhabitant and occupier of property within the borough and parish to provide for the maintenance and relief of the poor in that borough and parish
- (b) in the event that such rates should be insufficient, the churchwardens and overseers were authorised to make up the deficiency by imposing additional rates on the inhabitants according to their status. Thus magistrates might have to pay a further 12 shillings, traders 8 shillings, other inhabitants 5 shillings (2 shillings in the case of widows)
- (c) all such rates to be signed off by the churchwardens and overseers and approved by two justices of the peace
- (d) all such rates to be collected and enforced in accordance with the general law
- (e) expenses and status of enactment.

⁴⁷ The provisions of the 1767 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

5. The 1767 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1767 Act has long been obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Kent.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Swale Borough Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
15 Geo.3 c.13 (1775) <i>(East and West Flegg Poor Relief Act)</i>	The whole Act.

15 Geo.3 c.13 (1775) (East and West Flegg Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1775 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the hundreds of East and West Flegg, Norfolk.⁴⁸ This was an area on the eastern side of Norfolk, near Rollesby.

2. According to its long title, the 1775 Act was passed for:

the better Relief and Employment of the poor within the Hundreds of East and West Flegg, in the County of Norfolk.

3. The preamble to the 1775 Act recorded that the poor living in the hundreds of East and West Flegg “are very numerous, and are maintained at a great Expense”. It also recorded the need to provide a place⁴⁹ to assist the elderly and infirm and the able unemployed, to correct the profligate and idle and to educate poor children.

4. The 1775 Act provided as follows:⁵⁰

(a) appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of East and West Flegg, in the County of Norfolk” (“the Guardians”)

(b) poor persons currently under the charge of the parish churchwardens and overseers to be transferred to the Guardians once the workhouse had been built; thereafter the Guardians to have charge of all poor children and other persons incapable of providing for themselves

(c) the Guardians to have the care of workhouse boys till they reach 16 and workhouse girls till they reach 14, the Guardians empowered to bind children to apprenticeships and to hire out poor inmates to bring in the harvest; the Guardians empowered to hand over poor inmates to any relatives or other responsible persons willing to take them on

(d) the Guardians to meet in April 1776 to appoint 24 of their number to be Directors of the poor (“the Directors”)

⁴⁸ The ‘hundred’ is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁴⁹ The ‘place’ referred to was sometimes described as the “house of industry”. More commonly, as in the present note, it was described as “the workhouse”.

⁵⁰ The provisions of the 1775 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

- (e) qualification of the Directors; appointment of treasurer and clerk
- (f) the Directors empowered to contract to buy or rent land on which they would build the workhouse (2 year time limit to build the workhouse and associated buildings)
- (g) the Directors empowered to make bye-laws governing the Guardians; meetings of the Directors; the Directors empowered to pay money to relieve poor persons living outside the workhouse
- (h) the Directors empowered to borrow up to £6000 upon the security of the workhouse buildings and the poor rates; the Directors empowered to raise up to £3000 of this £6000 upon the security of annuities, all such transactions to be properly recorded
- (i) the Directors empowered to assess the sums needed to service the debts incurred pursuant to their borrowing powers and to pay the expenses of providing for the poor; churchwardens and overseers of the poor authorised to raise the necessary money by way of taxation of every inhabitant in their respective areas
- (j) churchwardens and overseers to produce accounts for the years 1764 to 1774 and to assist the Directors in the working of this Act
- (k) procedure in event of the Directors failing to hold meetings
- (l) arrangements concerning removal of poor persons between parishes; appointments of workhouse staff and clergy
- (m) punishing workhouse inmates for misbehaviour; rewards for hard work; contracting out the services of inmates; punishments for fraudulent workhouse staff
- (n) expenses of enactment, and of the Guardians and the Directors; civil procedure issues; status of Act.

5. The workhouse was duly built near Rollesby in 1776. It was enlarged in 1818 and 1834, by which time it could accommodate 400 persons. The inmates were employed in the making of rope, twine, fishing nets and sacks. After closing as a workhouse in the late nineteenth century, the building became used as a court house before being converted into a hotel and, more recently, used as a private residence.

6. The 1775 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself

finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1775 Act has long been obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Norfolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Norfolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
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15 Geo.3 c.59 (1775) (Mitford and Launditch (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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41 Geo.3 c.lxiii (1801) (Mitford and Launditch (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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15 Geo.3 c.59 (1775) (Mitford and Launditch (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)

41 Geo.3 c.lxiii (1801) (Mitford and Launditch (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of two obsolete 18th and early 19th century Acts passed to provide relief for the poor living in the hundreds of Mitford and Launditch, Norfolk.⁵¹ This was an area comprising 50 parishes between Swaffham and Dereham and included Gressenhall, where the workhouse or house of industry referred to in these Acts was situated.

15 Geo.3 c.59 (1775) (Mitford and Launditch (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1775 Act was:

for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor within the Hundreds of Mitford and Launditch, in the County of Norfolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1775 Act recorded that

The Poor within the hundreds of Mitford and Launditch, in the County of Norfolk, might be better and more comfortably maintained and supported, and at a less Expence than they are at present, if convenient Houses were provided for their Reception, and proper Materials and Utensils furnished for employing such of them as are able to work.

4. The 1775 Act provided as follows:⁵²

(a) appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “*The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of Mitford and Launditch, in the County of Norfolk*” (“the Guardians”); women to be able to act as guardians by proxy

(b) poor persons currently under the care of the parish churchwardens and overseers to be transferred to the Guardians once the workhouse had

⁵¹ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁵² The provisions of the 1745 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

- been built; thereafter the Guardians to have charge of all poor children and other persons incapable of providing for themselves
- (c) the Guardians empowered to bind children to apprenticeships and to hire out poor inmates to farmers and others; Guardians empowered to hand over poor children to any parents willing to take them on; discharge of inmates capable of maintaining themselves
 - (d) the Guardians to meet in June 1775 to appoint a President and 36 of their number to be Directors of the poor (“the Directors”)
 - (e) qualification of the Directors; appointment of treasurer and clerk and others at a salary
 - (f) the Directors empowered to contract to buy land (including common land) on which they would build the workhouse; procedure for agreeing value of land to be bought; two year time limit to build the workhouse and associated buildings; penalty for obstruction; committee to supervise building works
 - (g) the Directors empowered to make rules and bye-laws for the governing and employment of the poor; quarterly meetings of the Directors to be held; procedure for such meetings; penalty for non-attendance
 - (h) the Directors empowered to borrow up to £15,000 upon the security of the poor rates; the Directors empowered to raise up to £7,500 of the £15,000 upon the security of annuities, all such transactions to be properly recorded
 - (i) the Directors empowered to assess the sums needed to service the debts incurred pursuant to their borrowing powers and to pay the expenses of providing for the poor; churchwardens and overseers of the poor authorised to raise the necessary money by way of taxation of every occupier in their respective areas; money assessed not to exceed the average poor rate in the previous seven years; appeals against assessments; churchwardens and overseers to produce accounts and to assist the Guardians in the working of this Act (penalty for failure to comply)
 - (j) procedure and penalties in the event of the Directors failing to hold meetings
 - (k) the Directors empowered to issue settlement certificates to poor persons wishing to move away; appointment of workhouse staff including governor, matron and clergyman; penalties for misbehaving staff

- (l) rewards for industrious workhouse inmates; rules governing workhouse work; punishment of misbehaving or fraudulent workhouse inmates; penalties for receiving stolen workhouse property; justices authorised to act upon complaints of the Directors
- (m) application of fines; expenses of enactment; penalty for bringing alcohol into workhouse; civil procedure issues; status of Act.

41 Geo.3 c.lxiii (1801) (Mitford and Launditch (Norfolk) Poor Relief Act)

5. According to its long title, the purpose of this 1801 Act was “to alter, amend, and render more effectual” the 1775 Act.

6. The *preamble* to the 1801 Act recorded that, although a large workhouse had been built in accordance with the 1775 Act, considerable debts had been incurred in the process. Moreover the provisions of the 1775 Act for raising money to cover the cost of servicing such debts and to maintain the poor had proved to be inadequate in that insufficient moneys were being raised and that the tax burden was being borne unfairly amongst the various parishes.

7. The 1801 Act provided as follows:

- (a) the repeal of provisions of the 1775 Act about poor children being dismissed from the care of the Guardians once they attain a particular age; new powers for the Guardians to be able to have workhouse children apprenticed up to the maximum age of 21 (for males) or 18 (for females); the Directors empowered to enquire as to the nature of an apprenticeship trade or business and its scope for maintaining an apprenticed child (*sections 1 to 5*)
- (b) repeal of 1775 Act provisions about the dismissal from the workhouse of certain inmates including children to the care of parents willing to take them on; Directors to be required to hand over children if parents or other relatives are willing and able to maintain them; penalties for any employer mistreating an apprenticed child (*sections 6 to 8*)
- (c) churchwardens and overseers required to procure the employment of poor persons able and willing to work; punishment of workhouse inmates who misbehave (*sections 9 and 10*)
- (d) repeal of certain of the 1775 Act provisions as to the election of acting Guardians and attendance of weekly meetings by acting Guardians and Directors; new provisions as to election and appointment of acting

Guardians and Directors and about attendance at meetings; neglectful churchwardens and overseers to be summoned to attend meetings of Directors and acting Guardians (*sections 11 to 17*)

- (e) because the workhouse was inconveniently situated for some parishes, the churchwardens and overseers of individual parishes were empowered to use rate moneys to provide relief for the poor of their parishes (*sections 18 and 19*)
- (f) expenses of workhouse to be met by each parish in proportion to the number of workhouse inmates coming from that parish; rates to be levied and collected on that basis; calculations of such expenses to be made weekly (*sections 20 and 21*)
- (g) clothing of workhouse inmates to be paid for out of the rates; all costs of running the workhouse, including repairs and salaries, to be met by each parish in proportion to the number of workhouse inmates coming from that parish, the rates for this being calculated each year on the basis of the previous four years' expenses (*sections 22 and 23*)
- (h) continuation of provisions of 1775 Act whereby the poor rates were charged as security for moneys borrowed; certain poor rate payments to continue to be levied until capital and interest on loans were repaid (*sections 24 and 25*)
- (i) authorised the parish of East Dereham with Dillington to be exempted from the provisions of the 1775 Act and this Act and to make its own arrangements for the poor of that parish; that parish to sever its connection with the workhouse established under the 1775 Act; consequential financial provisions (*sections 26 to 31*)
- (j) saving provisions for creditors; 1775 Act and this Act to be construed as one (*sections 32 and 33*).

8. The workhouse was built at Chapel Farm in Gressenhall in 1777 at a cost of £16,242. The workhouse buildings were altered in the mid-1830s to meet the demands of the new poor law. In 1930 responsibility for the buildings (re-named as the *Gressenhall Poor Law Institution*) passed to Norfolk County Council. After 1948 the buildings were used to provide accommodation for old people and homeless families. In 1975 the entire site was transferred to the Norfolk Museums Service. Since 1977 the Gressenhall workhouse has been used as a museum.

9. The 1775 and 1801 Acts have long been obsolete. They date back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

10. Accordingly the 1775 and 1801 Acts are obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

11. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Norfolk.

Consultation

12. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, Breckland District Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
16 Geo.3 c.9 (1776) (Forehoe Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
54 Geo.3 c.xliv (1814) (Forehoe Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
3 & 4 Will.4 c.cvii (1833) (Forehoe Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

16 Geo.3 c.9 (1776) (Forehoe Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of three obsolete Acts passed to provide relief for the poor living within the hundred⁵³ of Forehoe in Norfolk, near Wymondham.

2. According to its long title, the 1776 Act was passed for:

the better Relief and Employment of the Poor within the Hundred of Forehoe, in the County of Norfolk.

3. The preamble to the 1776 Act recorded that:

the Poor within the Hundred of Forehoe, in the County of Norfolk, might be better and more comfortably maintained and supported, and at a less Expence than they are at present, if a convenient Place was provided for their Reception, and proper Materials and Utensils furnished for employing such of them as are able to work.

4. The 1776 Act provided as follows:⁵⁴

- (a) appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of Forehoe, in the County of Norfolk” (“the Guardians”)
- (b) limit on the corporation’s power to hold land; women able to act as Guardians by proxy
- (c) poor persons currently under the charge of the parish churchwardens and overseers to be transferred to the Guardians once the workhouse had been built;
- (d) the Guardians to have the care of workhouse boys till they reach 16 and workhouse girls till they reach 14, the Guardians empowered to bind children to apprenticeships for a maximum of 7 years; no boy to be apprenticed beyond 21, no girl beyond 18; the Guardians authorised to

⁵³ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁵⁴ The provisions of the 1776 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

- hire out poor inmates to bring in the harvest; the Guardians empowered to hand over children to any relatives or friends willing to take them on
- (e) the Guardians to meet in April 1776 to elect a President and to appoint 24 of their number to be Directors of the Poor (“the Directors”)
 - (f) qualification of the Directors; appointment of treasurer, clerk and other officers; election of additional Directors
 - (g) the Directors empowered to contract to buy or rent land on which they would build the workhouse; provisions for transfer of the land and its subsequent taxation; two year time limit after the purchase of land to build the workhouse and associated buildings (including a hospital)
 - (h) penalty for obstructing the building work or causing damage; seven Directors to supervise the work; furnishing of the buildings; general meeting of the Guardians to be called once the building work was complete
 - (i) the Directors and Guardians empowered to make bye-laws governing their operation; quarterly meetings of the Directors; weekly meetings of committees; the Directors empowered to pay money to relieve poor persons living outside the workhouse; arrangements about meetings
 - (j) the Directors empowered to borrow up to £11000 upon the security of the workhouse buildings and the poor rates; provisions for assignment of debt, all such transactions to be properly recorded
 - (k) the Directors empowered to assess the sums needed to service the debts incurred pursuant to their borrowing powers and to pay the expenses of providing for the poor; churchwardens and overseers of the poor authorised to raise the necessary money by rating every inhabitant in their respective areas; rate money to be paid to the treasurer; penalty for failure to collect rates; rates not to exceed the average of the past 7 years; this Act not to affect charitable gifts
 - (l) churchwardens and overseers to produce accounts for the years 1754 to 1774; appeals against assessments; parish officers to assist the Directors in the working of this Act; penalties for not assisting
 - (m) procedure in event of the Directors failing to attend meetings or make any rate
 - (n) arrangements concerning removal of poor persons between parishes; voluntary contributions; appointments of workhouse staff and clergy; penalties for embezzlement; appointment of overseers for Wymondham; appointment of constable

- (o) rewards for industrious workers; penalties for bringing strong liquor into the workhouse; penalty for workhouse inmates' misbehaviour; penalties for misappropriation of corporation property; justices of the peace empowered to proceed upon complaints by Directors
- (p) expenses of enactment; application of proceeds of fines and forfeitures; Governor's power to execute warrants; civil procedure issues; parish of Honingham excluded from scope of Act; status of Act.

23 Geo.3 c.29 (1783)/29 Geo.3 c.4 (1789)

5. The 1776 Act was followed by Acts of 1783 and 1789. Both Acts amended the 1776 Act by enabling the Guardians to borrow more money. Both Acts were repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948.⁵⁵

54 Geo.3 c.xliv (1814) (Forehoe Poor Relief Act)

6. The purpose of this 1814 Act was to amend the provisions of the 1776, 1783 and 1789 Acts so as to improve the operation of those enactments. The *preamble* to the 1814 Act recorded that the Directors and Guardians had indeed built the workhouse authorised by the 1776 Act. The provisions of the earlier enactments, however, had been found inadequate to raise sufficient money to pay the debts incurred by the Directors and Guardians and to meet their obligations to provide for the poor in the area.

7. Accordingly the 1814 Act provided as follows:

- (a) the Directors and Guardians were to be allowed to set rates without having to comply with the limitation imposed by the 1776 Act about the amount not exceeding the average of the amount set in the years 1767 to 1774 (*section 1*)
- (b) the rates to be set for each of the parishes would be set in proportion to the actual expenditure on support for the poor in that parish over a four-year period (*section 2*)
- (c) objections to, and appeals against, rating assessments; power to amend assessments; apportionment of certain expenses; interests of parishes in property of the corporation (*sections 3 to 9*)
- (d) penalty for overseers failing to levy rates; justices empowered to proceed on complaint of certain persons; rate-paying inhabitants of a parish

⁵⁵ The 1948 Act, s 1, Sch 1.

competent to give evidence; construction, expenses and status of enactment (*sections 10 to 15*).

3 & 4 Will.4 c.cvii (1833) (Forehoe Poor Relief Act)

8. The purpose of this 1833 Act was to amend the provisions of the earlier Acts so as to improve the operation of those enactments. In particular the *preamble* to the 1833 Act recorded that “the Mode of Assessment between the Parishes in the said Hundred to which the said Acts extend, have been found by Experience to be disproportionate, and injurious to many of the said Parishes”.

9. Accordingly the 1833 Act provided as follows:

- (a) this and the earlier Acts to be construed as one; annual election of Guardians for the several parishes in the hundred; mode of such election; voting by proxy; continuation of existing Guardians; filling of vacancies; mode of electing Guardians in case of default by parishes; at least 8 Directors to be resident in Wymondham; appointment of Committees (*sections 1 to 9*)
- (b) rates assessments on each parish to be done quarterly (and not on the average over a four-year period) in proportion to the actual expenditure on support for the poor in that parish during the preceding quarter; annual costs for repairs and improvements to corporation buildings to be apportioned amongst the parishes; profits from workhouse farmland to be used to meet workhouse expenses (*sections 10 to 14*)
- (c) justices of the peace empowered to summon any person failing to pay rates; seizure of goods in event of continuing failure to pay; penalty for attempting to hide goods to prevent seizure; non-residents liable to be sued for unpaid rates; churchwardens and overseers authorised to provide relief for the poor in their own parishes; churchwardens and overseers summoned by any Director following complaints by any poor person; expenses of the workhouse to be apportioned amongst the parishes in proportion to the number of poor persons sent to the workhouse by each parish; workhouse expenses to be calculated weekly; powers of overseers to raise money; power to apprentice children whether or not previously resident in workhouse (*sections 15 to 25*)
- (d) penalties on Directors and Guardians for non-attendance of weekly meetings; agreements made in vestry to be binding on ratepayers; procedure concerning, and appeals against, such agreements; powers of

justices of the peace in particular cases; provision for extending scope of enactments to the parish of Honingham (*sections 26 to 36*)

- (e) offices of treasurer and clerk to be kept separate; officers appointed by Directors and Guardians to produce accounts (or, in the event of officer's death, a personal representative of that officer); recovery from absent husband of money paid to his wife; parishes empowered to object to assessments and lodge appeals; financial provisions for indemnifying parishes against costs of maintaining children of unmarried parents; service of notices; levying of fines (*sections 37 to 46*)
- (f) expenses and status of enactment (*sections 47 and 48*).

10. The workhouse was duly built pursuant to the 1776 Act in Wicklewood, near Wymondham. The construction was completed in 1777. The workhouse was used as an institution for the poor until 1948 when it became an NHS hospital. The hospital closed in 1974 and the site has since been redeveloped for residential accommodation.

11. The 1776, 1814 and 1833 Acts have long been obsolete. They date back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background* note, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

12. Accordingly the 1776, 1814 and 1833 Acts are obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

13. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Norfolk.

Consultation

14. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Norfolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
19 Geo.3 c.13 (1779) (Hartsmere, etc (Suffolk) Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
<i>19 Geo.3 c.13 (1779) (Hartsmere, etc (Suffolk) Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1.	This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 18 th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the hundreds of Hartsmere, Hoxne and Thredling in the county of Suffolk. ⁵⁶
2.	According to its long title, the 1779 Act was passed for: <i>the better Relief and Employment of the Poor, within the several Hundreds of Hartsmere, Hoxne, and Thredling in the County of Suffolk.</i>
3.	The preamble to the 1779 Act recorded that: the Poor within the several hundreds of Hartsmere, Hoxne, and Thredling, in the County of Suffolk, might be better and more comfortably maintained and supported, and at a less Expence than they are at present, if convenient Houses were provided for their Reception, and proper Materials and Utensils furnished for employing such of the Poor as are able to work.
4.	The 1779 Act provided as follows: ⁵⁷ <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “The Guardians of the Poor within the several Hundreds of Hartsmere, Hoxne, and Thredling, in the County of Suffolk” (“the Guardians”) (b) limit on the corporation’s power to hold land; women able to act as Guardians by proxy (c) poor persons currently under the charge of the parish churchwardens and overseers to be transferred to the Guardians once the workhouse had been built; (d) the Guardians to have the care of workhouse boys till they reach 16 and workhouse girls till they reach 14, the Guardians empowered to bind children to apprenticeships for a maximum of 7 years; no boy to be apprenticed beyond 21, no girl beyond 18; the Guardians authorised to hire out poor inmates to bring in the harvest; the Guardians empowered

⁵⁶ The ‘hundred’ is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁵⁷ The provisions of the 1779 Act are not identified by reference to section numbers because the Act itself was not divided into sections.

to hand over children to any relatives or other responsible persons willing to take them on

- (e) the Guardians to meet in June 1779 to elect a President and to appoint 24 of their number to be Directors of the Poor (“the Directors”)
- (f) qualification of the Directors; appointment of treasurer, clerk and other officers; election of additional Directors
- (g) the Directors empowered to contract to buy or rent land on which they would build the workhouse; valuation of the land and provisions for assessment and transfer; three year time limit to build the workhouse and associated buildings (including a hospital)
- (h) penalty for obstructing the building work or causing damage; seven Directors to supervise the work; furnishing of the buildings; general meeting of the Guardians to be called once the building work was complete
- (i) the Directors and Guardians empowered to make bye-laws governing their operation; quarterly meetings of the Directors; weekly meetings of committees; the Directors empowered to pay money to relieve poor persons living outside the workhouse; arrangements about meetings
- (j) the Directors empowered to borrow up to £25000 upon the security of the workhouse buildings and the poor rates; the Directors empowered to raise up to £15000 upon the security of annuities, all such transactions to be properly recorded
- (k) the Directors empowered to assess the sums needed to service the debts incurred pursuant to their borrowing powers and to pay the expenses of providing for the poor; churchwardens and overseers of the poor authorised to raise the necessary money by rating every inhabitant in their respective areas; rates not to exceed the average of the past 7 years; appeals against rating assessments
- (l) churchwardens and overseers to produce accounts for the years 1771 to 1778 and to assist the Directors in the working of this Act; assistance of parish officers required; penalties for not assisting
- (m) procedure in event of the Directors failing to attend meetings or make any rate
- (n) arrangements concerning removal of poor persons between parishes; voluntary contributions; appointments of workhouse staff and clergy; penalties for embezzlement

- (o) rewards for industrious workers; penalties for workhouse inmates' misbehaviour; penalties for misappropriation of Corporation property; application of fines and forfeitures
- (p) expenses of enactment; procedure at meetings of the Directors; penalty for taking strong liquor into the workhouse; Governor's power to execute warrants; civil procedure issues; status of Act.

5. In the event the workhouse authorised by the 1779 Act was never built. The £16000 required to erect the workhouse proved impossible to raise. Accordingly the proposed incorporation of the Guardians was also abandoned. Several parishes in the area subsequently erected their own workhouses.

6. The 1779 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background* note, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1779 Act has long been obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
26 Geo.3 c.28 (1786) (Romford Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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<i>26 Geo.3 c.28 (1786) (Romford Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1.	This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 18 th century Act passed to provide relief for the poor living within the parish of Romford, Essex. ⁵⁸
2.	According to its long title, the 1786 Act was passed for: <i>providing a proper Workhouse, and better regulating the Poor, within the Parish of Romford, in the Liberty of Havering Atte Bower, in the County of Essex.</i>
3.	The preamble to the 1786 Act recorded that: the present Workhouse within the Parish of Romford ... is not sufficiently large and convenient for the Reception and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish.
4.	The 1786 Act provided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) appointment of Directors and Guardians of the Poor; provisions for filling vacancies; qualification for acting as a Director and Guardian; oath of office (<i>sections 1 to 4</i>) (b) first meeting of the Directors and Guardians to be held on 5 June 1786; formation of Committees of Directors and Guardians; provision for weekly meetings of Committees; quorum for meetings; quarterly meetings of Directors and Guardians; calling of special meetings (<i>sections 5 to 11</i>) (c) appointment of clerk, treasurer, governor, matron and other officers (<i>section 12</i>) (d) poor persons in the parish to be under the government and management of the Directors and Guardians; the Guardians to have the care of workhouse boys till they reach 17 and workhouse girls till they reach 15, the Guardians empowered to bind children to apprenticeships; no boy to be apprenticed beyond 21, no girl beyond 18 (<i>sections 13 and 14</i>) (e) the Directors and Guardians empowered to contract to buy or rent land on which they would build the workhouse; provisions for conveyance of land; fitting out and furnishing the workhouse; furniture and chattels to vest in the Directors and Guardians (<i>sections 15 to 19</i>)

- (f) money raised by poor rates to be paid to the treasurer and to be under the control of the Directors and Guardians (*section 20*)
- (g) the Directors and Guardians empowered to borrow up to £3500 upon the security of the poor rates to build the new workhouse; borrowings to be by means of £50 bonds; procedure for repayment of bonds; Directors and Guardians empowered to make rates assessments if churchwardens and overseers failed to do so; all bonds transactions to be properly recorded; donations for the poor to be paid to the treasurer (*sections 21 to 25*)
- (h) existing parish workhouse (together with house on Rush Green) to be vested in the Directors and Guardians who were empowered to sell the same (*sections 26 and 27*)
- (i) Directors and Guardians empowered to make bye-laws for governing the poor who were received in the workhouse; parish officers required to aid the Directors and Guardians in the execution of this Act; power to send vagrants and disorderly persons to the workhouse; penalties for fraudulent workhouse inmates or staff; penalty for taking strong liquor into the workhouse (*sections 28 to 34*)
- (j) Directors and Guardians authorised to employ workhouse inmates in any trade or occupation; rewards for industrious workers; penalties for misbehaviour; overseers authorised to pay cash sums to poor persons for one-off purposes; treasurer to apply money as directed for the purposes of this Act; all business of the Directors and Guardians to be properly recorded (*sections 35 to 40*)
- (k) justices of the peace (including any who might also be a Director or Guardian) authorised to act upon the complaints of the Directors and Guardians; rate-paying inhabitants of the parish competent to give evidence; penalties to be paid to the treasurer; continuance of actions despite death or removal of treasurer; enforcement and application of penalties and forfeitures; criminal procedure; appeals; civil procedure issues; expenses of enactment; status of Act (*sections 41 to 52*).

5. The workhouse was duly built in 1787 upon land in Collier Row Lane (North Street). The workhouse closed in 1836 because of the formation of the Romford Poor Law Union in that year.⁵⁹ The workhouse was demolished in 1840 and the site was sold.

⁵⁸ Today Romford falls within the London Borough of Havering.

⁵⁹ A new workhouse in the area was built in 1838.

6. The 1786 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background* note, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1786 Act has long been obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the area of the present day London Borough of Havering.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the London Borough of Havering and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
30 Geo.3 c.81 (1790) (Manchester Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
<hr/>	
30 Geo.3 c.81 (1790) (<i>Manchester Poor Relief Act</i>)	
1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1790 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in Manchester.	
2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1790 Act was: <i>for providing a new Poor-house for, and for the better Relief and Government of the Poor of, the Township of Manchester, in the County of Lancaster.</i>	
3. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1790 Act recorded that: the Township of Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, is very populous, and the Poor thereof are becoming exceedingly numerous; and the Poor House of the said Township is too small, and is in other Respects very inconvenient; and it would tend to the better Relief and Employment of the Poor, and be of Benefit to the Inhabitants of the said Township, to have a proper and commodious Poor House provided for the same ...	
4. The 1790 Act provided as follows:	
(a) the churchwardens of the “Collegiate and Parish Church of Christ, in Manchester” (“the churchwardens”) and the overseers of the poor of the township of Manchester (“the overseers”) were empowered to carry this Act into effect (<i>section 1</i>)	
(b) first meeting of churchwardens and overseers; their oath of office; their monthly, quarterly and special meetings; expenses (<i>sections 2 to 8</i>)	
(c) existing poor house land and buildings to be vested in the churchwardens and overseers who were empowered to sell the same to raise money for a new poor house; protection for purchasers (<i>sections 9 to 11</i>)	
(d) churchwardens and overseers empowered to appoint staff to run the poor house and clergy to perform divine service; payment of allowances; powers of justices of the peace to visit and inspect the poor (<i>sections 12 and 13</i>)	
(e) churchwardens and overseers authorised to purchase land for, and to construct, a new poor house; exemption of poor house from taxation; conveyancing provisions; building contract provisions; goods and chattels provided for the poor to vest in the churchwardens and overseers; civil procedure issues (<i>sections 14 to 26</i>)	

- (f) churchwardens and overseers authorised to borrow money for the purposes of this Act upon the security of the poor rates and by granting annuities; provisions for transfer and recording such transactions and for repayment (*sections 27 to 32*)
- (g) churchwardens and overseers authorised to make rules for the purposes of this Act, including for regulating the poor kept in the poor house, such rules to be confirmed by two justices of the peace; procedure for convening meetings of parishioners; written order needed for admittance of each poor person to the poor house (*sections 33 to 36*)
- (h) punishment for misbehaviour in the poor house; penalty for misappropriating clothing or goods brought into the poor house; churchwardens and overseers authorised to find employment for poor house inmates; provision for children to be detained in the poor house and apprenticed; provision for poor relief to be provided independently of the poor house; punishment of idle or disorderly persons (*sections 37 to 43*)
- (i) appointment of additional overseers; form of conviction; saving for existing poor laws; appeals; civil procedure issues; expenses and status of Act (*sections 44 to 52*).

5. The workhouse was duly built in New Bridge Street, Manchester and was opened on 14 February 1793. However it proved inadequate to house all Manchester's poor, so a new workhouse was opened in Crumpsall in 1855. The New Bridge Street workhouse continued to house the aged and infirm until 1875 when the premises were sold to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. Today the site is occupied by Manchester Victoria Station.

6. The 1790 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1790 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Manchester.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Manchester City Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
31 Geo.3 c.24 (1791) (Oswestry Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

31 Geo.3 c.24 (1791) (Oswestry Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1791 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the area of Oswestry (Shropshire) and Llanfyllin (Powys).

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1791 Act was:

the better Relief and Employment of the Poor belonging to the Town of Oswestry, and to certain Parishes within the Hundred of Oswestry,⁶⁰ in the County of Salop, and to such Part of the Parish of Llanmynech as lies within the said Hundred; and to the Parish of Chirk, in the County of Denbigh; and to the Parish of Llanfilin,⁶¹ in the Counties of Salop and Denbigh.

3. The *preamble* to the 1791 Act recorded that the poor within the town and liberties of Oswestry and in several of its parishes, in part of the parish of Llanmynech, in the parish of Chirk and in the parish of Llanfilin were very numerous and were supported at a great and burdensome expense; and that “providing a convenient House or Houses for the general Reception of the Poor of the said Town and Parishes ... would tend to their better and more effectual Relief, and at a less Expenche than at present”.

4. The 1791 Act provided as follows:

(a) appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “The Guardians of the Poor of the Town and Liberties of Oswestry, in the County of Salop, and of the Poor of the several Parishes united therewith” (“the Guardians”); first meeting of the Guardians to be held on 1 August 1791; provision for quarterly meetings; women able to vote by proxy at meetings of the Guardians; Guardian’s oath of qualification; no officer to be concerned with any contract for work arising under this Act (*sections 1 to 5*)

(b) appointment, from the ranks of the Guardians, of a Chairman and Directors; election and qualification of Directors; churchwardens and overseers required to convene vestry meetings; Directors required to accept office within ten days; Directors’ oath of office; appointment of

⁶⁰ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁶¹ This is today known as Llanfyllin.

treasurer, clerk and other officers, including staff to run the workhouse and clergy to perform divine service; weekly meetings of the Directors (*sections 6 to 15*)

- (c) Directors empowered to contract to buy land within the hundred of Oswestry and to construct a workhouse or other buildings for the purposes of this Act; the buildings to be called "The Oswestry House of Industry"⁶²; taxation and furnishing of such buildings; Directors to have the management and care of the poor; Directors empowered to set the poor to work; Directors empowered to send the idle or disorderly poor to the workhouse; Directors required to set aside space for a burial ground (*sections 16 to 21*)
- (d) Directors empowered to arrange for the apprehension of vagrants for despatch to the workhouse or for their conveyance to any previous place of settlement; workhouse children at 14 to be apprenticed for a maximum of seven years or until they reach 21 (boys) or 18 (girls); Directors empowered to discharge children at 14 or to hire them out for employment in the area (including gathering in the harvest) (*sections 22 to 25*)
- (e) the Corporation (ie the Guardians as an incorporated body) authorised to borrow up to £12,000, assigning the Corporation's assets and the poor rates as security; form and transfers of assignments (*section 26*)
- (f) Directors authorised to assess the sums needed to meet their obligations under this Act to provide relief for the poor and to service borrowings, by means of levying rates on the inhabitants of Oswestry and neighbouring parishes; amount of rates to be fixed by reference to the average expenditure over the previous seven years, such average amount to be fixed by Commissioners (*section 27 to 29*)
- (g) churchwardens and overseers of Oswestry and other parish officers required to produce books and accounts of poor law receipts and expenses over the past seven years; provision for assessment of rates in absence of such books and accounts; appointment of new Commissioners; all parish officers required to assist the Directors in the execution of this Act; penalties for defaulting churchwardens and overseers (*sections 30 to 34*)
- (h) appointment of constables; charity money to be included in the calculation of rates assessments; this Act not to affect parish officers' other powers to

⁶² I.e. workhouse.

raise money to provide poor relief; parish officers allowed to retain money to provide poor relief for one-off purposes (*sections 35 to 38*)

- (i) existing workhouse in Oswestry and all land and property to vest in the Corporation; Directors empowered to sell the same, the proceeds being used to supplement the poor rates; all goods and chattels used for the poor to vest in the Directors; penalty for stealing, damaging or receiving such property (*sections 39 to 40*)
- (j) Directors' business to be transacted only at official meetings; penalty for Directors failing to attend meetings; provision for previous year's rates to be applied in event of failure to assess new rates; removal of poor persons between parishes; bonds indemnifying the town and parishes from the costs of illegitimate children (*sections 41 to 44*)
- (k) Directors empowered to make bye-laws for giving effect to the purposes of this Act; procedure for making bye-laws; rewards for industrious workhouse workers; this Act not to give the Corporation any powers in relation to the poor in any almshouses or hospitals; this Act not to extend to such part of the parish of Llanymynech as is not situated within the hundred of Oswestry; all contracts and proceedings to be recorded in writing; inspection of books and papers (*sections 45 to 51*)
- (l) workhouse inmates not to acquire any settlement rights in the parish; ascertaining the place of settlement of illegitimate children; certain appeals to require the consent of Directors; ratepayers competent to give evidence in settlement cases; poor rates to cease if workhouse profits meet the cost of maintaining the poor in the workhouse (*sections 52 to 56*)
- (m) recovery and application of penalties; form of conviction; appeals; civil procedure issues; expenses and status of this Act (*sections 57 to 64*).

5. The workhouse built pursuant to the 1791 Act was situated at Morda and opened in 1792. It held up to 300 inmates. It continued to be used as a workhouse until 1930. Much of the surviving building was destroyed in a fire in 1982. Today the old workhouse site is mostly converted to residential accommodation.

6. The 1791 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the

income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1791 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Shropshire and Powys.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Welsh Assembly Government, Shropshire County Council, Powys County Council, the Local Government Association and the Welsh Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
31 Geo.3 c.78 (1791) <i>(Ellesmere Poor Relief Act)</i>	The whole Act.

31 Geo.3 c.78 (1791) (Ellesmere Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1791 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the area of Ellesmere (Shropshire) and neighbouring areas.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1791 Act was:

the better Relief and Employment of the Poor belonging to the several Parishes of Ellesmere, Middle,⁶³ Baschurch, and Hordley, and to the Chapelry or District of Hadnal⁶⁴ (otherwise Hadnal Ease) in the County of Salop.

3. The *preamble* to the 1791 Act recorded that the poor within the several parishes of Ellesmere, Middle, Baschurch and Hordley and within the chapelry or district of Hadnal were “very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great and burdensome Expençe by the Inhabitants of such [parishes and chapelry and] ...the providing of a convenient House or Houses for the general Reception of the Poor of the said [parishes and chapelry]...would tend to the more effectual Relief, Assistance, and Accommodation of such as by Age, Infirmities, or Diseases, are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour ...”.

4. The 1791 Act provided as follows:

(a) appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “*The Guardians of the Poor of the several Parishes of Ellesmere, Middle, Baschurch and Hordley, in the County of Salop*” (“the Guardians”); first meeting of the Guardians to be held on 8 June 1791; provision for quarterly meetings; women able to vote by proxy at meetings of the Guardians; Guardian’s oath of qualification; poor persons to continue to be governed by the churchwardens and overseers until a workhouse was built pursuant to this Act; no officer to be concerned with any contract for work arising under this Act (*sections 1 to 6*)

(b) appointment, from the ranks of the Guardians, of a Chairman and Directors; election and qualification of Directors; provisions for filling vacancies in ranks of Directors; churchwardens and overseers required to

⁶³ “Middle” is today spelt “Myddle”.

⁶⁴ “Hadnal” is today spelt “Hadnall”.

convene vestry meetings; election of Directors in particular circumstances; Directors required to accept office within ten days; no Director to be re-elected within three years; Directors' oath of office; appointment of treasurer, clerk and other officers, including staff to run the workhouse and clergy to perform divine service; taking of security from such officers; weekly meetings of the Directors (*sections 7 to 18*)

- (c) Directors empowered to contract to buy land within the parish of Ellesmere and to construct a workhouse or other buildings for the purposes of this Act; the buildings to be called "The Ellesmere House of Industry"⁶⁵; rating and furnishing of such buildings; Directors to have the management and care of the poor; Directors empowered to set the poor to work; Directors empowered to send the idle or disorderly poor to the workhouse ; Directors required to set aside space for a burial ground, such ground to be consecrated (*sections 19 to 25*)
- (d) Directors empowered to arrange for the apprehension of vagrants for despatch to the workhouse or for their conveyance to any previous place of settlement; workhouse children at 14 to be apprenticed for a maximum of seven years or until they reach 21 (boys) or 18 (girls); Directors empowered to discharge children at 14 or to hire them out for employment in the area (including gathering in the harvest) (*sections 25 to 29*)
- (e) the Corporation (ie the Guardians as an incorporated body) authorised to borrow up to £8000, assigning the Corporation's assets and the poor rates as security; form of assignments; power to grant annuities; form of such grant; annuities to be secured by the poor rates; transfer and records of securities (*sections 30 to 33*)
- (f) Directors authorised to assess the sums needed to meet the sums needed to meet their obligations under this Act to provide relief for the poor and to service borrowings, by means of levying rates on the inhabitants of the various parishes and chapelry; rates to be collected by the churchwardens and overseers who had to account for the same to the treasurer and provide accounts; amount of rates to be fixed by reference to the average expenditure over the previous twelve years (*sections 34 to 36*)
- (g) churchwardens and overseers required to produce books and accounts of poor law receipts and expenses over the past twelve years; persons who

⁶⁵ I.e workhouse.

were churchwardens or overseers in the previous twelve years required to produce books and accounts; provision for assessment of rates in the absence of such books and accounts; all parish officers required to assist the Directors in the execution of this Act; penalty for defaulting parish officers (*sections 37 to 40*)

- (h) appointment of constables; charity money to be included in the calculation of rates assessments; this Act not to affect parish officers' other powers to raise money to provide poor relief; parish officers allowed to retain money to provide poor relief for one-off purposes; all goods and chattels used for the poor to vest in the Directors; penalty for stealing, damaging or receiving such property (*sections 41 to 44*)
- (i) Directors' business to be transacted only at official meetings; penalty for Directors failing to attend meetings; provision for previous year's rates to be applied in event of failure to assess new rates; removal of poor persons between parishes; bonds indemnifying the parishes from the costs of illegitimate children (*sections 45 to 48*)
- (j) Directors empowered to make bye-laws for giving effect to the purposes of this Act; procedure for making bye-laws; rewards for industrious workhouse inmates; this Act not to give the Corporation any powers in relation to the poor in any almshouses or hospitals; this Act not to extend to any district separately liable to maintain its own poor; charitable gifts to be paid to the treasurer; provision for benefactors to be elected Guardians; all contracts and proceedings to be recorded in writing; inspection of books and papers (*sections 49 to 57*)
- (k) workhouse inmates not to acquire any settlement rights in the parish of Ellesmere; ascertaining the place of settlement of illegitimate children; certain appeals to require the consent of Directors; ratepayers competent to give evidence in settlement cases; poor rates to cease if workhouse profits meet the cost of maintaining the poor in the workhouse (*sections 58 to 62*)
- (l) recovery and application of penalties; form of conviction; appeals; civil procedure issues; expenses and status of this Act (*sections 63 to 70*).

5. The workhouse built pursuant to the 1791 Act was situated at Haughton and opened in 1795. It was eventually taken over by the Ellesmere Poor Law Union and become known as the Ellesmere Poor Law Institution. The buildings were demolished in the 1930s.

6. The 1791 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1791 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Shropshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Shropshire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
32 Geo.3 c.20 (1792) (Stone Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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<i>32 Geo.3 c.20 (1792) (Stone Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1792 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the area of Stone (Staffordshire).	
2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1792 Act was: <i>for providing a Workhouse for the Reception of the Poor of the Parish of Stone, in the County of Stafford, and for regulating and employing the Poor therein.</i>	
3. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1792 Act recorded that it would tend to the better relief and employment of the poor of the parish of Stone, and be of benefit to the inhabitants of the parish, “if a commodious Workhouse was provided therein”.	
4. The 1792 Act provided as follows:	
(a) appointment of Directors and Guardians of the Poor of the Parish of Stone; provision for filling vacancies amongst the Directors or Guardians; refusal of Directors or Guardians to act as such; qualifications of Directors and Guardians; oath of qualification; first meeting of the Directors and Guardians to be held on 14 April 1792 (<i>sections 1 to 5</i>)	
(b) provision for Directors and Guardians dividing into Committees, weekly and general meetings and the quorum for such meetings; adjournment of such meetings; calling of meetings; appointment of officers including a clerk and treasurer and persons to run the workhouse; poor persons to be under the direction and management of the Directors and Guardians, including children in the workhouse until discharge at 17 (for boys) or 15 (for girls); power to apprentice workhouse children until they reach 21 (boys) or 18 (girls) (<i>sections 6 to 14</i>)	
(c) Directors and Guardians empowered to contract to buy land within the parish of Stone and to construct a workhouse; conveyancing provisions; provisions for contracts for the building work; goods and chattels provided for the poor to vest in the Directors and Guardians (<i>sections 15 to 19</i>)	
(d) All poor rates money arising under this Act to be paid to the treasurer; the Directors and Guardians authorised to borrow up to £3500 against the	

security of the poor rates and of bonds of £100 each; manner of paying off such bonds; Directors and Guardians empowered to levy poor rates in the event of the churchwardens and overseers failing to do so; keeping records of bonds and of bond assignments; gifts for the poor to be payable to the treasurer (*sections 20 to 25*)

- (e) Directors and Guardians authorised to make bye-laws for giving effect to the purposes of this Act; procedure for making bye-laws; parish officers required to assist in the execution of this Act; Directors and Guardians empowered to arrange for the apprehension of vagrants for despatch to the workhouse; penalty for any workhouse inmate stealing or damaging workhouse property; penalty for any officer stealing property vested in the Directors and Guardians; no strong liquor to be brought into the workhouse; rewards for industrious workhouse inmates; penalty for misbehaviour by inmates (*sections 26 to 35*)
- (f) parish officers allowed to pay money to poor people to provide relief for one-off purposes; treasurer to pay over money as ordered by the Directors and Guardians; penalty for defaulting overseers; removal of poor persons between parishes; bonds indemnifying the parishes from the costs of illegitimate children (*sections 36 to 39*)
- (g) all contracts and proceedings to be recorded in writing; justices of the peace authorised to act upon a complaint by any Director or Guardian; such justices not disqualified by virtue of being Directors, Guardians or ratepayers; ratepayers competent to give evidence; penalties to be paid to the treasurer; recovery and application of penalties; civil and criminal procedure issues; expenses and status of this Act (*sections 40 to 52*).

5. The Stone workhouse was duly built in 1793 in Stafford Road, Stone. In 1838 the Stone Poor Law Union was established. The Union took over the Stone workhouse and enlarged it in 1839 to accommodate 300 people. The workhouse later became the Stone Poor Law Institution before being renamed as Trent Hospital as part of the National Health Service. The hospital closed in the 1990s and the site has since been redeveloped.

6. The 1792 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself

finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1792 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Staffordshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Staffordshire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
32. Geo.3 c.70 (1792) (Tewkesbury Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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<i>32 Geo.3 c.70 (1792) (Tewkesbury Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1792 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the parish of Tewkesbury, in Gloucester. ⁶⁶	
2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1792 Act was: <i>for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of and belonging to the Parish of Tewkesbury, in the County of Gloucester.</i>	
3. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1792 Act recorded that the poor living in parish of Tewkesbury were “exceedingly numerous, [and] are maintained and supported at a great and burdensome Expencc by the Inhabitants of the said Parish”. The preamble also recorded the desirability for “providing ... a convenient House or Houses for the Reception of the Poor of the said Parish, and granting proper Powers for the Government, Regulation, and Employment of such Poor”.	
4. The 1792 Act provided as follows:	
(a) establishment of corporation to be known as <i>The Guardians of the Poor of the Parish of Tewkesbury in the County of Gloucester</i> (“the Guardians”) comprising all local residents owning land rated at £15 and certain other persons; the Guardians empowered to buy and sell land or goods for the purposes of this Act (<i>Section 1</i>)	
(b) First meeting of the Guardians to be held on 2 July 1792; provision for quarterly meetings (<i>Sections 2 – 3</i>)	
(c) Qualifications of the Directors; Guardians and Directors to cover their own expenses; provision to avoid conflicts of interest for Directors and Officers concerning contracts arising under this Act (<i>Sections 4 - 6</i>)	
(d) Appointment of a Chairman, Treasurer and such other officers as the Guardians think necessary; 9 Guardians to be appointed as Directors; the annual procedure for appointing Directors; replacement of Directors on their death or removal (<i>Sections 7 – 8</i>)	

⁶⁶ Now Gloucestershire.

- (e) Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor required to call vestry meetings; penalty for failure to do so (*Section 9*)
- (f) Oath for Directors; procedure for accepting the position of Director; no Director to serve within a 5 year period after ceasing to hold office; Directors to appoint a treasurer, clerk and other officers for running the house of industry,⁶⁷ these officers to be paid an allowance for their troubles; the Directors to take security from the appointed officers for the faithful execution of their office (*Sections 10 –14*)
- (g) Provision for weekly meetings and special assemblies of the Directors; Directors empowered to purchase land or buildings within the parish of Tewkesbury for the purposes of this Act; conveyancing procedures; houses and lands purchased to be exempt from window duty; tenants to leave land sold to the Guardians with 6 months' notice (*Sections 15 –19*)
- (h) Directors to furnish the building with the goods necessary for receiving and setting the poor to work; Directors vested with the care and management of the poor of Tewkesbury and empowered to set the poor to work and to despatch the idle poor to the house of industry; power to apprehend vagrants and punish the misbehaving poor in the workhouse; poor children to be maintained in the workhouse until the age of 14 and may be apprenticed out for seven years or until the age of 21 (for a boy) or until the age of 21 or marriage (for a girl); poor children may be apprenticed to the Governor of the house of industry; poor children may be farmed out (*Sections 20 - 24*)
- (i) Authority for the Directors to borrow money, not exceeding £6000, to be repaid out of the parish rates; form of mortgage and mortgage transfer (*Sections 25 – 26*)
- (j) Money arising under the poor rates shall be collected by the Overseers of the Poor and paid to the Treasurer for the management of the Directors; punishment of Overseers for failing to collect the rates; rates equal to the sum needed for the relief of the poor and the interest on the money borrowed under this Act; £100 to be paid off the principal sum borrowed annually; mode of paying off mortgages; provision for Directors to collect the rates if the Overseers fail to do so (*Sections 27 – 32*)

⁶⁷ Or workhouse.

- (k) Charitable bequests for the poor to be applied by the Guardians according to the will of the donor; all parish officers to assist in the execution of this Act; one-off or occasional relief of the poor permitted (*Sections 33 – 35*)
- (l) Workhouse goods and chattels to be vested in the Directors; damaging or receiving workhouse property punishable offences (*Section 36*)
- (m) Actions of the Directors only valid if done at official meetings under this Act; Directors may grant certificates of settlement; documentation regarding certificates issued to be handed over to the Clerk (*Sections 37 - 40*)
- (n) Directors empowered to make bylaws regarding the governance of the Corporation and the better regulation and maintenance of the poor; the industrious poor to be rewarded; records to be kept of the proceedings of the Directors; and Directors' accounts to be made available annually (*Sections 41 –45*)
- (o) Illegitimate children born in the workhouse not to gain settlement rights; ratepayers competent to give evidence; Justices of the Peace to respond to complaints of the Directors as if they had been made by Overseers; charitable gifts to the Corporation to be disposed of by the Directors (*Sections 46 - 49*)
- (p) Directors empowered to make such drains, watercourses and sewers as necessary to serve the workhouse (*Section 50*)
- (q) The recovery and application of penalties made under this Act; provision for appeal against penalties under this Act; recovery of penalties not to be invalidated for want of form; form of conviction (*Section 51 – 54*)
- (r) The expenses of the obtaining this Act; civil procedure matters; status of this Act (*Section 55 – 57*).

5. A house of industry was built between 1792 and 1796 in Tewkesbury, south of Gloucester Road, pursuant to the 1792 Act. The workhouse was taken over by the Tewkesbury Poor Law Union in 1838 and went on to become Holm Hospital. In the 1990s the building was renovated into the Shepherd Mead Retirement Home.⁶⁸

6. The 1792 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief

⁶⁸ users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/Tewkesbury/Tewkesbury.shtml.

was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1792 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Gloucestershire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Gloucestershire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
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<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
32 Geo.3 c.85 (1792) (Whitchurch (Salop) Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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<i>32 Geo.3 c.85 (1792) (Whitchurch (Salop) Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1.	This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1792 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the parish of Whitchurch, in Salop. ⁶⁹
2.	According to its long title, the purpose of the 1792 Act was: <i>for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of and within such Part of the Parish of Whitchurch as maintains its own Poor, and lies within the County of Salop.</i>
3.	The <i>preamble</i> to the 1792 Act recorded that the poor living in the parish of Whitchurch were “very numerous, and are supported and maintained and at a great and burthensome Expençe by the Inhabitants of ... the said Parish”. The preamble also recorded the desirability for “providing ... a convenient House or Houses for the general Reception of the Poor of such part of the said Parish as lies within the County of Salop, and granting proper Powers for the Government, Regulation, and Employment of such Poor”.
4.	The 1792 Act provided as follows: (a) establishment of corporation to be known as <i>The Guardians of the Poor of that Part of the Parish of Whitchurch which lies within the County of Salop</i> (“the Guardians”) comprising all local residents in possession of land rated at £20 and certain other persons; the Guardians empowered to buy and sell land or goods for the purposes of this Act (<i>Section 1</i>) (b) first meeting of the Guardians to be held on 22 September 1792; provision for quarterly meetings; women to vote by proxy; Guardians and Directors who are Justices of the Peace may act as Justices in the execution of this Act (<i>Sections 2 – 3</i>) (c) qualifications of the Directors; Guardians and Directors to cover their own expenses; provision to avoid conflicts of interest for Directors and Officers concerning contracts arising under this Act (<i>Sections 4 - 5</i>)

⁶⁹ Now Shropshire.

- (d) appointment of a Chairman, Treasurer and such other officers as the Guardians think necessary; 12 Guardians to be appointed as Directors; the annual procedure for appointing Directors; replacement of Directors on their death or removal (*Sections 6 – 7*)
- (e) Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor required to call vestry meetings; penalty for failure to do so (*Section 8*)
- (f) procedure for accepting the position of Director; no Director to serve more than one term in a 5 year period after ceasing to hold office; Oath for Directors; Directors to appoint a treasurer, clerk and other officers for running the house of industry,⁷⁰ these officers to be paid an allowance for their troubles; the Directors to take security from the appointed officers for the faithful execution of their office (*Sections 9 – 13*)
- (g) provision for weekly meetings and special assemblies of the Directors; Directors empowered to purchase land or buildings with the parish of Whitchurch and erect buildings for the purposes of this Act; the Directors responsible for the maintenance of any building erected under this Act; land purchased and buildings made under this Act to be exempt from any new Parliamentary taxes imposed after the date of purchase (*Sections 14 – 16*)
- (h) Directors to furnish the building with the goods necessary for receiving and setting the poor to work; Directors vested with the care and management of the poor of Whitchurch and empowered to set the poor to work; until the workhouse was complete the poor of the parish were to be maintained by the Churchwardens and Overseers; power to apprehend vagrants and dispatch the drunken, idle or disorderly poor to the workhouse; power to return vagrants and poor persons to their place of settlement (*Sections 17 – 21*)
- (i) poor children to be maintained in the workhouse until the age of 14 and apprenticed out for seven years or until the age of 21 (for a boy) or until the age of 18 or marriage (for a girl); apprentices not to be assigned without the consent of the Directors; poor children might be farmed out; punishment of the poor for failure to return from work outside the house of industry; power to punish the misbehaving poor in the workhouse; Justices to settle disputes between the Directors and those hiring out the poor (*Sections 22 – 25*)

⁷⁰ Or workhouse.

- (j) the existing workhouse to be vested in the Guardians and sold; the money raised to be applied towards the purposes of this Act (*Section 26*)
- (k) charitable bequests for the poor to be applied by the Guardians; penalty on Churchwardens for refusing to receive donations or sacramental money; this Act not to extend to give the Guardians power over any existing almshouses, free schools or hospitals; Directors empowered to inspect the accounts maintained by the Churchwardens in respect of gifts received by them for poor relief (*Sections 27 - 29*)
- (l) lawful for the Directors to borrow money, not exceeding £4500, to be repaid out of the parish rates; power to use buildings belonging to the Guardians as security; form of mortgage; power to grant annuities to be paid out of the parish rates; form of grant; securities may be transferred; form of transfer (*Sections 30 - 33*)
- (m) power to raise funds for paying the interest on the money borrowed and to defray the costs of maintaining the poor through parish rates for the relief of the poor; all parish officers to assist in the execution of this Act; Directors empowered to hire Constables to assist in the better execution of this Act; one-off or occasional relief of the poor permitted (*Sections 34 - 37*)
- (n) money arising under the poor rates to be collected by the Overseers of the Poor and paid to the Treasurer for the management of the Directors; punishment of Overseers for failing to collect the rates (*Section 38*)
- (o) workhouse goods and chattels to be vested in the Directors; damaging or receiving workhouse property punishable offences (*Section 39*)
- (p) no business to be done at quarterly meetings unless 5 Directors are present; actions of the Directors only valid if done at official meetings under this Act; Directors may grant certificates of settlement; settlement certificates and bonds regarding illegitimate children previously granted to be delivered to the Clerk of the Guardians; Directors empowered to make byelaws regarding the governance of the Corporation and the better regulation and maintenance of the poor; the industrious poor to be rewarded; records to be kept of the proceedings of the Directors and made available to persons rated; certain appeals to require the consent of the Directors; provision for rates to cease when the profits of the inmates' labour became sufficient for their maintenance (*Sections 40 – 51*)
- (q) the recovery and application of penalties made under this Act; form of conviction; provision for appeal against penalties under this Act; rate

payers competent to give evidence; recovery of penalties not to be invalidated for want of form (*Sections 52 - 56*)

- (r) The expenses of the obtaining this Act; civil procedure matters; status of this Act (*Sections 57 – 59*).

5. A workhouse was built in 1794 on Claypit Street, Whitchurch.⁷¹ The workhouse was enlarged in the 1850s and continued to be used as a facility for the poor until it became Deermoss Hospital. The surviving buildings now form part of Whitchurch Hospital which provides geriatric care.

6. The 1792 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1792 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Shropshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Shropshire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
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⁷¹ users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/WhitchurchSalop/Whitchurch.shtml.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
32 Geo.3 c.95 (1792) (Salop Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
<hr/>	
<i>32 Geo.3 c.95 (1792) (Salop Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1.	This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1792 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the various parishes in Salop. ⁷²
2.	According to its long title, the purpose of the 1792 Act was: <i>for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of and within the several Parishes of Atcham, Wroxeter, Berrington, Cund, Eaton Constantine, Kenley, Leighton, Ussington, and Upton Magna, and the Chapelry of Cressage, in the County of Salop.</i>
3.	The <i>preamble</i> to the 1792 Act recorded that the poor living in the named parishes were “very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great and burthensome Expence by the Inhabitants of such respective Parishes”. The preamble also recorded the desirability for “providing ... a convenient House or Houses for the general Reception of all the Poor of the said several Parishes ... and granting proper Powers for the Government, Regulation, and Employment of such Poor”.
4.	The 1792 Act provided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) establishment of corporation to be known as <i>The Guardians of the Poor of the united Parishes of Atcham and others, in the County of Salop</i> (“the Guardians”) comprising all local residents in possession of land rated at £20 and certain other persons (<i>Section 1</i>) (b) first meeting of the Guardians to be held on the last Monday in June 1792; women authorised to vote by proxy; Guardians and Directors who are Justices of the Peace may act as Justices in the execution of this Act (<i>Sections 2 – 3</i>) (c) appointment of a Chairman; 15 Guardians to be appointed as Directors; the annual procedure for appointing Directors; replacement of Directors on their death or removal (<i>Sections 4 – 5</i>) (d) Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor required to call vestry meetings; penalty for failure to do so (<i>Section 6</i>)

⁷² Now Shropshire.

- (e) procedure for electing Directors in case a list of Guardians is not provided by the parishes; procedure for accepting the position of Director; no Director to serve more than one term in a 3 year period after ceasing to hold office; oath for Directors; qualifications of the Guardians; Guardians and Directors to cover their own expenses (*Sections 7 -11*)
- (f) provisions for quarterly, weekly and special meetings; actions of the Directors only valid if done at official meetings under this Act; no business to be done at quarterly meetings unless 5 Directors are present; a Chairman to be elected at each meeting to have the deciding vote in case of equality of votes; penalty for failure to attend meetings (*Sections 12 - 14*)
- (g) Directors to appoint a treasurer, clerk and other officers for running the house of industry,⁷³ these officers to be paid an allowance for their troubles; the Directors to take security from the appointed officers for the faithful execution of their office; punishment of appointed officers for misbehaviour (*Sections 15 –17*)
- (h) Directors empowered to purchase land or buildings within the said parishes and erect buildings for the purposes of this Act; the buildings to be called “the Atcham House of Industry”; the Directors responsible for the maintenance of any building erected under this Act; conveyancing provisions; land purchased and buildings erected under this Act to be exempt from any new Parliamentary taxes imposed after the date of purchase; part of the ground to be set aside for a burial ground; such burial ground not to be used until consecrated; Directors to furnish the building with the goods necessary for receiving and setting the poor to work (*Sections 18 –23*)
- (i) provision to avoid conflicts of interest for Directors and Officers concerning contracts arising under this Act; until the house of industry is complete, the poor of the parish are to continue to be maintained by the Churchwardens and Overseers; Directors empowered to authorise temporary relief in cases of emergency (*Sections 24 -26*)
- (j) Directors vested with the care and management of the poor of the said parishes and are empowered to set the poor to work; Directors empowered to detain disorderly poor within a place of correction and put them to hard labour for 30 days; the power to apprehend vagrants and

⁷³ Or workhouse.

despatch the drunken, idle or disorderly poor to the house of industry; Clerk to keep a book of delinquents; power to return vagrants to their place of settlement (*Sections 27 – 29*)

- (k) poor children to be maintained in the workhouse until the age of 14 and may be apprenticed out for seven years or until the age of 18 (for a boy) or until the age of 18 or marriage (for a girl); such apprentices not to be assigned to anyone else without the consent of the Directors; poor children and adults may be farmed out; punishment of the poor for failure to return from work outside the house of industry; Justices to settle disputes between the Directors and those hiring the poor (*Sections 30 - 31*)
- (l) workhouse goods and chattels to be vested in the Directors; damaging or receiving workhouse property punishable offences (*Section 32*)
- (m) Directors to appoint Constables to facilitate the more effectual execution of this Act (*Section 33*)
- (n) lawful for the Directors to borrow money, not exceeding £5000, to be repaid out of the parish rates; form of mortgage; securities may be transferred; form of transfer; public notice of money borrowed to be given; provisions for how mortgages to be discharged (*Sections 34 - 36*)
- (o) power to raise funds for paying the interest on the money borrowed and to defray the costs of maintaining the poor through parish rates for the relief of the poor; Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor to collect the rates; rates to be levied in the same manner as the poor relief had previously been collected; money arising under the poor rates shall be collected by the Overseers of the Poor and paid to the Treasurer; punishment of Overseers for failing to collect the rates or render accounts; provided that the rates do not exceed the average money rated for the previous 3 years (*Sections 37 -40*)
- (p) Treasurer to keep accounts; provision for this Act to cease if the annual expenditure exceeds £1099 (*Sections 41 – 42*)
- (q) provision for the previous year's rates to be continued if the Directors fail to make an assessment; all parish officers to assist in the execution of this Act; penalty for failure to do so; parish officers may raise money for purposes besides those set out in this Act provided an account of such sums raised is kept; penalty for failure to keep accounts; provision for one-off payments to provide relief for the poor (*Sections 45 – 47*)

- (r) existing buildings used for the relief of the poor to be vested in the Guardians with power to sell them; the money raised to be applied towards the purposes of this Act (*Section 48*)
- (s) Directors may grant certificates of settlement; settlement certificates and bonds regarding illegitimate children to be delivered to the Clerk of the Guardians; Directors empowered to make bye-laws regarding the governance of the Corporation and the better regulation and maintenance of the poor; the industrious poor to be rewarded; punishment for bringing alcohol into the workhouse (*Sections 49 –55*)
- (t) this Act not to extend to give the Guardians power over any existing almshouses, free schools or hospitals; gifts and donations made for the poor to be paid to the Treasurer and applied by the Guardians; penalty on Churchwardens for refusing to receive donations; those donating to the Corporation may be made Guardians; Directors empowered to inspect the accounts of parish officers concerning such donations (*Sections 56 -59*)
- (u) poor born in the workhouse not to gain settlement rights (*Section 60*)
- (v) procedure for giving notice under this Act; procedure for holding hearings under this Act; records to be kept of the proceedings of the Directors and made available to ratepayers (*Sections 61 - 64*)
- (w) illegitimate children and other poor persons to be returned to their place of settlement; appeals against return require the consent of the Directors; ratepayers to be competent witnesses at settlement hearings and other hearings under this Act (*Sections 65 – 69*)
- (x) provision for rates to cease when the profits of the workhouse inmates' labour is sufficient for their maintenance; the recovery and application of penalties made under this Act; form of conviction; appeals; actions under this Act not to be invalidated for want of form (*Sections 70 - 75*)
- (y) the expenses and status of this Act; civil procedure matters (*Sections 76 – 78*).

5. A workhouse was built at Cross Houses in Atcham pursuant to the 1792 Act.⁷⁴ The Atcham Poor Law Union, formed in November 1836, took over and adapted the workhouse. During the First World War the workhouse became the Berrington War Hospital, subsequently reverting to civilian use as the Poor Law Hospital for

⁷⁴ users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/Atcham/Atcham.shtml.

Shropshire (later known as Cross Houses Hospital). In 2004 the site was redeveloped but with part of the original structure being preserved.

6. The 1792 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1792 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Shropshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Shropshire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
35 Geo.3 c.61 (1795) (Bishopsgate Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

35 Geo.3 c.61 (1795) (Bishopsgate Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1795 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the parish of Saint Botolph Bishopsgate, in the City of London.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1795 Act was:

for repealing an Act, passed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty⁷⁵, intituled An Act for the more effectual assessing and collecting of the Rates for the Relief of the Poor in the Parish of Saint Botolph Bishopsgate, in the Liberties of the City of London; for providing a Workhouse for the Reception of the Poor of the said Parish; and for the Employment, Maintenance and Regulation, of the said Poor therein.

3. The *preamble* to the 1795 Act recorded that the powers of the earlier Act had been found “defective and insufficient”. Moreover the poor living in the parish of Saint Botolph Bishopsgate were “very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a very great Expence by the Parish”. The *preamble* also recorded the desirability for “granting of proper Powers for the better governing, maintaining, and regulating, of the said Poor, and for providing a Place for their general Reception”.

4. The 1795 Act provided as follows:

(a) repeal of the 1772 Act (*Section 1*)

(b) appointment of trustees for putting this Act into execution; replacement of trustees on their death or removal; the first meeting of the trustees no later than 5 June 1795; no trustee to benefit or gain employment under this Act; trustees to defray their own expenses (*Sections 2 – 5*)

(c) trustees empowered to raise money, not exceeding £10,000, by annuities; annuities to be for life or for a term of years; a record to be kept of annuitants; annuities to be charged on the poor rates; annuities not subject to taxation; annuities may be transferred; a record to be kept of such transfer; annuitants to receive a receipt and an order from the trustees (*Sections 6 - 11*)

⁷⁵ (1772) 12 Geo.2 c.79.

- (d) recent purchase of land by the trustees confirmed⁷⁶; trustees empowered to build a workhouse on the said land; workhouse to be furnished for the maintenance and employment of the poor; expenses of the building and furnishing workhouse to be met out of monies raised under this Act (*Sections 12 – 13*)
- (e) 14 days' notice to be given in the local papers before any contract to build the workhouse could be entered into; a record to be kept of all contracts entered into by the trustees (*Sections 14 – 15*)
- (f) churchwardens and overseers of the poor to meet quarterly for the purposes of assessing the poor rate; such rate to meet the cost of the interest due on the annuities and the cost of providing relief for the poor of the parish; churchwardens and overseers to collect the rates once assessed; arrangements for paying the interest on annuities; arrangements for the rating of tenanted properties; goods of tenants to be sold if rates not paid; unpaid rates to be recoverable by action for debt; no tenant to acquire settlement rights in the parish by paying the poor rate (*Sections 16 – 22*)
- (g) recovery of the poor rates in accordance with existing law; recovery of costs of distraining upon goods (*Sections 23 - 24*)
- (h) appointment of a committee to assist the churchwardens and overseers in regulating the poor of the parish; churchwardens, overseers and the committee empowered to issue such orders as necessary for maintaining, regulating and employing the poor; penalty for theft from the workhouse; saving for former poor laws; penalty for buying or receiving clothes or other workhouse property bought for the use of the poor (*Sections 25 - 29*)
- (i) expenses and status of this Act; appeals; civil procedure matters (*Sections 30 - 33*).

5. It is not clear whether any new workhouse was built pursuant to the 1795 Act. However, a workhouse in Bishopsgate was opened in 1730 (in Rose Alley) and this closed in 1847 (the site being redeveloped in the 1870s with the construction of Liverpool Street Station).

⁷⁶ The land was situated "in or near Dunning's Alley and Peter Street, in the said Parish of Saint Botolph without Bishopsgate": the 1795 Act, s 12. The price paid was £1765.

6. The 1795 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1795 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the City of London.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Parish and Ward Church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate, the City of London Corporation, the City Remembrancer and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
36 Geo.3 c.102 (1796) (Lincoln Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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36 Geo.3 c.102 (1796) (<i>Lincoln Poor Relief Act</i>)	
1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1796 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the City of Lincoln.	
2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1796 Act was: <i>the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of the several Parishes within the City of Lincoln, and County of the same City, and of the Parish of Saint Margaret, Part whereof lies within the said City, and the other Part in the Close of Lincoln, in the County of Lincoln.</i>	
3. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1796 Act recorded that the poor of the several parishes within the City and County of Lincoln and within the parish of St Margaret were: “very numerous and burthensome to their respective Parishes, and they might be better and more comfortably maintained and supported, and at less Expence than they are at present, if a convenient House or Houses were provided for their Reception ... and for employing such as are able to work, which would also tend to the more effectual Relief, Assistance, and Accommodation of such as by Age, Infirmities, or Disease, are rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their Labour ...”.	
4. The 1796 Act provided as follows:	
(a) the part of the parish of St Margaret within the Close of Lincoln was deemed to be within the City of Lincoln; appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “ <i>The Guardians of the Poor within the City of Lincoln and Liberties thereof</i> ” (“the Guardians”); first meeting of the Guardians to be held on 2 August 1796 (<i>sections 1 and 2</i>)	
(b) provision for appointment of Directors from the ranks of the Guardians; provision for City Aldermen to be elected as Directors; provision for appointment of new Directors; churchwardens and overseers required to hold vestry meetings; penalty for failing to accept office of Director within ten days; no Director to be re-elected as such within three years of ceasing to hold office; Director’s oath of office; provision for additional Directors; quarterly meetings of Directors; appointment of auditors; powers of auditors; weekly meetings of Directors; appointment of chairman to meetings; proof of qualification as Guardian; women able to	

- vote by proxy at meetings of the Guardians; penalty for acting as Guardian if not qualified (*sections 3 to 22*)
- (c) appointment of treasurer, clerk and other officers, including staff to run the workhouse (e.g. governors and matron) and clergy to perform divine service; rewards for governor and matron; taking of security from treasurer; treasurer and other officers to produce accounts of money received by them; penalty for failure to produce accounts (*sections 23 to 26*)
- (d) Directors empowered to contract to buy land within the City of Lincoln and to construct a workhouse or other buildings for the purposes of this Act; the buildings to be called "The Lincoln House of Industry"⁷⁷; conveyancing provisions; such land and buildings to vest in the Corporation (i.e. the Guardians as an incorporated body); rating of such land and buildings; Directors required to set aside space for a burial ground, such ground to be consecrated (*sections 26 to 36*)
- (e) Directors authorised to furnish the workhouse; Directors to have the management and care of the poor; Directors empowered to set the poor to work; Directors empowered to send the idle or disorderly poor to the workhouse; the poor to continue to be under the care of the churchwardens and the overseers pending the completion of the workhouse (*sections 37 and 38*)
- (f) Directors empowered to arrange for the apprehension of vagrants for despatch to the workhouse or for their conveyance to any previous place of settlement; workhouse children at 14 to be apprenticed for a maximum of seven years or until they reach 21 (boys) or 18 (girls); apprenticeships not to be assigned without Directors' consent; apprenticeships within the workhouse; sanction for ill-treatment of apprentices; Directors empowered to hire children and adults out for employment in the area (including gathering in the harvest); settlement of disputes arising out of such hiring out; application of profits arising from work done by the poor (*sections 39 to 49*)
- (g) discharge of poor persons to relatives or friends willing to provide for them; provision of temporary relief; provision to encourage the employment in Lincoln of poor persons willing to work (*sections 50 to 52*)

⁷⁷ I.e. workhouse.

- (h) provision to ensure that no Director has a personal interest in any contract or transaction arising under this Act; the Directors authorised to borrow up to £6000, assigning the Corporation's assets and the poor rates as security; form of assignments; power to grant annuities; form of such grant; annuities to be secured by the poor rates; receipts; transfer and records of securities (*sections 53 to 59*)
- (i) Directors authorised to assess the money needed to meet the amounts required to cover their obligations under this Act to provide relief for the poor and to service borrowings, by means of levying rates on the inhabitants of the various parishes; rates to be collected by the churchwardens and overseers who must account for the same to the treasurer and provide written accounts; amount of rates for each parish to be fixed by reference to the average poor relief expenditure by that parish over the previous ten years; special provision for the parish of St Michael; provision for making further assessments (*sections 60 to 64*)
- (j) churchwardens and overseers required to produce books and accounts of poor law receipts and expenses over the ten years up to Easter 1789; persons who were churchwardens or overseers in that ten year period required to produce books and accounts; provision for assessment of rates in the absence of such books and accounts; all parish officers required to assist the Directors in the execution of this Act; penalty for defaulting parish officers (*sections 65 to 68*)
- (k) certain parish income (including charity money) to be included in the calculation of rates assessments; this Act not to affect the management of charitable funds in the hands of the Corporation of the City of Lincoln; application of future gifts made for the poor of Lincoln; parish officers' other powers to raise money to provide poor relief; parish officers allowed to retain money to provide poor relief for one-off purposes; provisions for repayment of debts; all goods and chattels used for the poor to vest in the Directors; penalty for stealing, damaging or receiving such property; form of conviction (*sections 69 to 84*)
- (l) parish officers to deliver residence certificates to the clerk; Directors empowered to make bye-laws for giving effect to the purposes of this Act; procedure for amending bye-laws; rewards for industrious workhouse inmates; all contracts and proceedings to be recorded in writing; inspection of books and papers; Guardians authorised to examine the management of the workhouse; Directors authorised to contract for the

maintenance of the poor of other parishes; such parishes entitled to appoint a Director; workhouse inmates not to acquire any settlement rights in the parish where the workhouse is situated; ascertaining the place of settlement of illegitimate children; certain appeals to require the consent of Directors; poor rates to cease if workhouse profits meet the cost of maintaining the poor in the workhouse (*sections 85 to 98*)

(m) recovery and application of penalties arising under this Act; ratepayers competent to give evidence in certain proceedings; this Act not to extend to certain parishes without the consent of householders in those parishes; this Act not to give the Corporation any powers in relation to the poor in any almshouses or hospitals; this Act not to extend to any district separately liable to maintain its own poor; justice of the peace authorised to proceed in cases not covered by this Act; Directors empowered to appoint special constables; Governor of workhouse authorised to execute warrants (*sections 99 to 106*)

(n) expenses of this Act; appeals; civil procedure issues; status of this Act (*sections 107 to 112*).

5. In the event, the 1796 Act was used not to build a new workhouse but rather to purchase an existing one. In March 1797 the Directors bought an existing workhouse for £730 for the use of the City of Lincoln's thirteen parishes. However, following the formation of the Lincoln Poor Law Union in November 1836, a new workhouse was built (in 1837-38) on the west side of Burton Road. The old workhouse site was sold for £400 and the buildings were demolished in 1839.

6. The 1796 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1796 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Lincolnshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Lincoln City Council, Lincolnshire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
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39 Geo.3 c.xlii (1799) (Samford Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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39 Geo.3 c.xlii (1799) (Samford Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1799 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the ancient hundred of Samford, Suffolk.⁷⁸ This was an area comprising 28 parishes between modern-day Ipswich and Manningtree.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1799 Act was:

the better and more effectual Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Samford, in the County of Suffolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1799 Act recorded that, by an Act of 1764,⁷⁹ a house of industry⁸⁰ and other buildings had been established in the parish of Tattingstone within the hundred of Samford “for the Reception and Employment of the Poor” and that a great deal of money had been borrowed for the purpose against the security of the local poor rate, such loans being still outstanding. The preamble also recorded that the number of the poor living in the hundred of Samford had greatly increased in recent years so that the house of industry was now too small. Moreover the current level of poor rate was too low to support the poor.

4. The 1799 Act provided as follows:

(a) repeal of the 1764 Act; appointment of guardians of the poor and their incorporation under the name of “The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of Samford, in the County of Suffolk” (“the Guardians”); women to act only by proxy (*sections 1 to 3*)

(b) house of industry and other property to be vested in the Guardians (*section 4*)

(c) appointment of Directors with authority (together with Acting Guardians) to execute the powers of this Act; election and qualification of Directors; meetings of Directors and Acting Guardians; appointment of clerk and other officers (*sections 5 to 12*)

⁷⁸ The ‘hundred’ is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁷⁹ 4 Geo.3 c.59.

⁸⁰ Workhouses were sometimes known as houses of industry. The Samford House of industry was originally built in 1766 for the accommodation of 500 paupers.

- (d) Directors and Acting Guardians empowered to contract to buy additional land for the use of the poor; to enlarge the existing house of industry; and to construct a house of correction; all such buildings to be free from local taxes; penalty for obstructing the repairing or erection of such buildings (*sections 13 to 19*)
- (e) Guardians empowered to set the poor people to work in any trade or occupation; Directors and Acting Guardians authorised to arrange apprenticeships for any poor children, and hire out poor persons for employment in the area (including harvest gathering) (*sections 20 to 27*)
- (f) all profits from the labour of the poor to be paid to the treasurer appointed by the Directors and Acting Guardians; poor persons to be delivered to any relative able and willing to provide for them; incentives to provide work to poor persons able and willing to work; punishment for idle and disorderly persons who refuse to maintain themselves and their families (*sections 28 to 33*)
- (g) bye-laws made under 1764 Act to continue; Directors and Acting Guardians authorised to make new bye-laws (*section 34*)
- (h) Directors and Acting Guardians authorised to grant leases of property given for the relief of the parish poor; and to distribute certain legacies amongst the parish poor (*sections 35 and 36*)
- (i) Directors and Acting Guardians authorised to assess a rate on the inhabitants of the parish to meet the costs of providing poor relief and to pay off outstanding loans and interest; the rate to be levied and collected by the churchwardens and overseers; rate not to exceed twice the sum charged in previous years (*sections 37 to 39*)
- (j) rates collected to be used as security for moneys already borrowed or to be borrowed in the future; interest on such future loans not to exceed 5%; transfer of mortgages; payment of expenses of this Act; repayment of mortgages (*sections 40 to 43*)
- (k) churchwardens, overseers and other parish officials required to assist the Directors and Acting Guardians in the execution of their duties under this Act and produce books and accounts; penalty for failure to collect or account for rate moneys; removal of poor persons between parishes; penalty for failure by churchwardens or overseers to provide information about certain new residents in the hundred; delivery of bonds given pursuant to the 1764 Act (*sections 44 to 48*)

- (l) churchwardens and overseers to execute court orders concerning poor persons; Directors and Acting Guardians authorised to appoint staff for the house of industry (including a matron and surgeon) and to appoint a constable (*sections 49 to 51*)
- (m) penalties for embezzling, swearing, theft of house of industry property or for taking alcohol into the house (*sections 52 to 56*)
- (n) justices of the peace empowered to act upon complaints by Directors or Acting Guardians; delivery to Directors and Acting Guardians of moneys collected under the 1764 Act (*sections 57 and 58*)
- (o) proceedings of meetings of Directors and Acting Guardians; penalties for non-attendance; collection of penalties imposed under this Act; appeals; civil procedure issues; status of Act (*sections 59 to 66*).

5. The Samford house of industry continued in use into the twentieth century by which time it had become known as the Samford Poor Law Institution. After 1930 the building became St Mary's Hospital, caring for the chronic sick, before becoming a rehabilitation centre for the elderly. In 2001 the site (Samford Court, Lemons Hill, Tattingsstone) was redeveloped for residential use.

6. The 1799 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1799 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Babergh District Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
39 & 40 Geo.3 c.xlviii (1800) (Aldbourn Workhouse and Overseers Act)	The whole Act.
<i>39 & 40 Geo.3 c.xlviii (1800) (Aldbourn Workhouse and Overseers Act)</i>	
<p>1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1800 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the parish of Aldbourn in Wiltshire.</p> <p>2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1800 Act was: <i>for providing a Workhouse for the Use of the Parish of Aldbourn in the County of Wilts; and for appointing an additional Overseer for the better Government of the Poor of the said Parish.</i></p> <p>3. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1800 Act recorded that the poor living in the parish of Aldbourn “are exceedingly numerous: And whereas if a Workhouse were to be provided for the said Parish, wherein the Poor thereof might be kept and employed, and Power given to compel them to work, the Rates for their Relief might be rendered much less burdensome ... than at present”. The preamble also recorded the need to appoint an additional overseer.⁸¹</p> <p>4. The 1800 Act provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) appointment of trustees to provide and maintain a workhouse in the parish; election of replacement trustees; meetings of trustees; one trustee to be elected as President; disqualification as trustee; appointment of officers (<i>sections 1 to 6</i>) (b) trustees authorised to borrow money against the security of the rates raised under the 1800 Act; transfer of such loans (<i>sections 7 to 9</i>) (c) trustees authorised to purchase land on which to build the workhouse; powers to build, repair and maintain the workhouse, and enter into contracts for the construction; power to hire premises; contracts to be recorded; churchwardens and overseers required to provide trustees with all necessary funds (<i>sections 10 to 14</i>) 	

⁸¹ An overseer was a parish official whose function was to collect poor-rates from the inhabitants of the parish. Outside London, overseers were abolished by the Rating and Valuation Act 1925, ss 1(2), 68(1).

- (d) inhabitants of parish to appoint an additional overseer with an annual salary not exceeding £100; additional overseer's oath of office and summary of his powers (*sections 15 to 18*)
- (e) trustees authorised to appoint a master or mistress of the workhouse; appointment of treasurer to pay poor-rate monies to the additional overseer (*sections 19 and 20*)
- (f) inspection of accounts of the additional overseer; penalty for any overseer failing to collect poor-rates; overseers to account to treasurer for rate monies received; penalties for defaulting overseers; protection for the additional overseer (*sections 21 to 25*)
- (g) records to be kept of all clothing and goods bought for the workhouse; no parish poor officer to be involved in supplying goods or services for the workhouse; additional overseer authorised to find employment for any workhouse inmate (*sections 26 to 28*)
- (h) penalties for taking, selling or buying clothing or other goods belonging to the workhouse; penalties for misbehaviour by workhouse inmates; rewards for industrious inmates and dutiful workhouse master or mistress; workhouse profits to be applied in support of the poor-rates (*sections 29 to 35*)
- (i) civil procedure issues; expenses of enactment; status of Act.

5. A workhouse was duly opened pursuant to the 1800 Act. The building was situated at the junction of Oxford Street and South Street. Its use, however, was short-lived for it burned down in 1819.

6. The 1800 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1800 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Wiltshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Kennet District Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

46 Geo.3 c.xliv (1806) (Norfolk Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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46 Geo.3 c.xliv (1806) (Norfolk Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete Act of 1806 passed to provide relief for the poor living in several parishes in Norfolk.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1806 Act was:

for the more effectual Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Parishes of Buxton, Hevingham, Marsham, Stratton Strawless, Swanton Abbott, Burgh next Aylsham, Skeyton, Brampton, and Oxmead in the County of Norfolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1806 Act recorded that the poor living in the three parishes of Buxton, Hevingham and Marsham were provided for by a workhouse built in Buxton pursuant to a 1782 Act.⁸² In 1801 the three parishes formed a union pursuant to the 1782 Act and the workhouse was built shortly afterwards.⁸³ This workhouse proved to be much larger than was necessary for the poor of the three parishes. Accordingly it was proposed that the three parishes should form a union with several additional Norfolk parishes, so that the poor of all the parishes could have access to this large workhouse. These additional parishes were Stratton Strawless, Swanton Abbott, Burgh next Aylsham, Skeyton, Brampton and Oxmead.

4. The 1806 Act provided as follows:

(a) establishment of a Corporation to be known as *The Visitors⁸⁴ and Guardians of the Poor for the United Parishes of Buxton, Hevingham, Marsham, Stratton Strawless, Swanton Abbott, Burgh next Aylsham, Skeyton, Brampton and Oxmead, in the County of Norfolk* (“the Guardians”) (*Section 1*)

(b) first meeting of the Guardians; proceedings at weekly meetings; Chairman to be appointed to have the deciding vote in case of equality of votes; qualifications of the voters at such meetings (*Sections 2 - 4*)

⁸² 1782 (22 Geo. 3 c.83) “An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the poor”. This Act was promoted by Thomas Gilbert and it authorised parishes to combine into unions and provide workhouses for the old, the sick and infirm. It was repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1871.

⁸³ This workhouse may have been an enlargement of a workhouse built in Buxton before 1800.

⁸⁴ Visitors had the function of inspectors of the workings of the poor law in a particular area. They were often appointed by the local justices and would supervise the work of the Guardians of the Poor.

- (c) Justices to appoint a Guardian for each parish; procedure for the subsequent annual appointment of Guardians; Guardians to serve a term of 3 years; procedure for replacing Guardians on their death or removal (*Sections 5 – 8*)
- (d) fine of £20 for the refusal or failure to take up the post of Guardian; no person liable to serve as a Guardian within 3 years of their previous appointment, unless they consent to take on the office; penalty on parishioners for voting without being qualified; provided that this does not invalidate the outcome of the vote (*Sections 9 - 11*)
- (e) Guardians to have all the powers and duties of overseers of the poor, except with regard to collecting the rates; Guardians to have the care and management of the poor; poor rates to be collected by churchwardens and overseers of the poor and paid to the Treasurer for the united parishes (*Sections 12 – 13*)
- (f) Guardians to order the collectors of the poor rates to collect such money as might be necessary under this Act; in case of refusal the Justice of the Peace could levy the amount by distress against the goods of the collectors (*Section 14*)
- (g) Visitors of the Poor (“Visitors”) to appoint a Governor of the workhouse and pay him a salary; removal of the Governor for misbehaviour or neglect of office (*Section 15*)
- (h) Guardians to elect Visitors for each of the named parishes; procedure if the person elected refuses to act as Visitor; each Visitor to elect a deputy; Visitors to generally superintend the workhouse and review the accounts; Guardians and the Governor to obey directions given by the Visitors; procedure for the annual appointment of Visitors (*Sections 16 - 20*)
- (i) Treasurer of the workhouse to be appointed; Treasurer to give security to the Guardians for the money handled by him; Treasurer to keep the accounts of the Guardians for inspection at the Quarter Sessions; procedure for replacing officers on death or removal (*Sections 21 - 22*)
- (j) provision for substitute Justices of the Peace; Justice may appoint special sessions for executing the powers of this Act (*Sections 23 - 24*)
- (k) the Guardians authorised to make changes to the workhouse and provide appropriate furnishings; the cost of building and furnishing the workhouse as authorised under the 1782 Act to be payable by, and charged upon the poor rates of, all the parishes; Visitors and Guardians authorised to borrow money up to £1000 secured against the poor rates; money

borrowed to be used for furnishing the workhouse and other purposes of this Act (*Sections 25 - 27*)

- (l) poor persons sent to the workhouse to be maintained at the expense of their respective parishes; Guardians to meet once a month to inspect the accounts and set the poor rates for each parish; penalty on churchwardens and overseers for failure to collect and hand over the poor rates; penalty on overseers and Guardians who fail to attend the monthly meetings (*Sections 28 – 31*)
- (m) persons sent to the workhouse to present to the Governor an order signed by the Guardian for their parish; lawful to send to the workhouse all persons unable to support themselves; poor children could be placed outside the workhouse at a weekly allowance until the child became of sufficient age to be put into service or apprenticed out; Guardians to provide work for persons willing to work but unable to find employment; Guardians to provide suitable clothing for the persons they sent to the workhouse (*Sections 32 - 36*)
- (n) rules and orders contained in the schedule to this Act to be enforced and obeyed at the workhouse; procedure for enquiring into complaints that a Guardian has failed to give relief to a poor person; powers to punish idle or disorderly complainants; application of fines levied on Guardians following such complaints (*Sections 37 – 40*)
- (o) poor persons stranded outside their parish and afflicted with a sickness rendering them unable to support themselves to be provided with lodgings by the nearest Guardian until they could be safely removed to their place of settlement; casual poor not settled in any one parish to be jointly relieved by the united parishes; nothing in this Act to affect the settlement of any person (*Sections 41 – 43*)
- (p) penalty on poor persons for stealing goods from the workhouse; penalty on any Guardians who sold workhouse property (*Sections 44 – 45*)
- (q) lawful for the Guardians to sell or dispose of any buildings in the parishes that have been used for the relief of the poor, and apply the proceeds for the purposes of this Act (*Section 46*)
- (r) recovery and application of penalties levied under this Act; form of conviction; appeals; civil procedure issues; expenses and status of Act (*Sections 47 – 52*).

5. The workhouse in Buxton built in, or just after 1801, pursuant to the union in that year of the three parishes may well have been an enlargement of a workhouse built there before 1800. In 1836 the Buxton Union was subsumed by the formation of the Aylsham Poor Law Union. In 1849 the Aylsham Union replaced other workhouses in the area, including that at Buxton.

6. The 1806 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1806 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Norfolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Norfolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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47 Geo.3 Sess.2 c.lxxiii (1807) (Cosford and Polstead Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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47 Geo.3 Sess.2 c.lxxiii (1807) (Cosford and Polstead Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1807 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the Hundred of Cosford⁸⁵ and the parish of Polstead, in Suffolk.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1807 Act was:

to alter, amend, and render more effectual, an Act passed in the Nineteenth Year of his present Majesty, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of the several Parishes within the Hundred of Cosford, (except the Parish of Hadleigh) and also of the Parish of Polstead, within the Hundred of Babergh, in the County of Suffolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1807 Act refers to an Act of 1779⁸⁶ which incorporated *The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of Cosford and Parish of Polstead, in the County of Suffolk* (“the Guardians”). Under the 1779 Act the Guardians built a house for the reception of the poor⁸⁷ in the Hundred of Cosford. Some of the provisions of the 1779 Act were found to be insufficient for the effectual relief of the poor. It was therefore necessary to amend the provisions of the 1779 Act.

4. The 1807 Act provided as follows:

(a) repeal of 1779 Act provisions concerning discharge of poor children once they reached 15 (males) or 13 (females); poor children sent to the workhouse to be under the care and government of the Guardians; Guardians to employ a teacher to teach the workhouse children to read and write; poor children could be apprenticed out, provided the Guardians were satisfied as to the suitability of the persons taking on apprentices; provision for the expenses of clothing apprenticed poor children; application of penalties for refusing to take poor children on as apprentices; process for complaints of mistreatment of apprentices; penalty for such mistreatment (*Sections 1 – 8*)

⁸⁵ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁸⁶ 19 Geo. 3 c.30 (1779) “An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of the several Parishes within the Hundred of Cosford, (except the Parish of Hadleigh) and also of the Parish of Polstead, within the Hundred of Babergh, in the County of Suffolk”; now repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1948.

⁸⁷ In other words, a workhouse.

- (b) Guardians empowered to punish workhouse inmates for misbehaviour; penalties for churchwardens and overseers of the poor who neglect their duties; churchwardens and overseers empowered to grant cash relief to the poor of their parishes in cases where the poor persons are living in their own homes; provision for cash relief even if the poor persons are from another parish; churchwardens and overseers empowered to raise and levy money for the support of the poor (*Sections 9 – 13*)
- (c) expenses of maintaining the poor in the workhouse to be defrayed by the parishes in proportion to the number of poor sent by each parish; expenses to be calculated weekly; Guardians to provide the poor in the workhouse with clothes and to charge the expense to the parish that sent the poor person to the workhouse; expenses of the continuing maintenance of the workhouse to be paid by the parishes in proportion to the number of poor each parish sent there; expenses of procuring this Act (*Sections 14 – 17*)
- (d) Churchwardens to deliver an annual list of the poor persons relieved by them outside of the workhouse; penalty for refusal to deliver such list; penalty for giving false evidence pursuant to this Act; inhabitants of Hadleigh not to have rights under this Act⁸⁸ (*Sections 18 to 20*)
- (e) this Act to be construed together with the 1779 Act; status of this Act (*Sections 21 and 22*).

5. Pursuant to the 1779 Act, a workhouse was built in 1780 at Semer. The Cosford incorporation provided for by that Act was dissolved and replaced by the Cosford Poor Law Union which was established in 1836. The new Union took over the Semer workhouse and further works were carried out to it. The building ceased to be used as a workhouse in 1930. A small portion of the original workhouse remains and has been incorporated in a private house.⁸⁹

6. The 1807 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either

⁸⁸ Hadleigh maintained a separate system of poor relief.

⁸⁹ users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/Cosford/Cosford.shtml.

from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1807 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.⁹⁰

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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⁹⁰ A further basis of repeal is the fact that the 1807 Act was an amending Act, and the Act that it amended, the 1779 Act, was repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
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52 Geo.3 c.xii (1812) (Wangford (Suffolk) Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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3 & 4 Will.4 c.xlviii (1833) (Wangford (Suffolk) Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act
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1. This note proposes the repeal of two obsolete nineteenth century Acts passed to provide relief for the poor living in the hundred of Wangford, in Suffolk.⁹¹

52 Geo.3 c.xii (1812) (Wangford (Suffolk) Poor Relief Act)

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1812 Act was:

for altering and enlarging the Powers of an Act of His present Majesty, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Wangford, in the County of Suffolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1812 Act recorded that an Act of 1764⁹² did not authorise sufficient poor rates to cope with the great increase of the poor in the Hundred⁹³ and the high cost of providing for their maintenance and support. It was therefore necessary to amend the provisions of the 1764 Act.

4. The 1812 Act provided as follows:

(a) *The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of Wangford, in the County of Suffolk* (“the Guardians”) to have the care and management of all poor persons within the Hundred; the poor to continue to be kept in the house of Industry⁹⁴ established under the 1764 Act (*Section 1 – repealed by the 1833 Act – see below*)

(b) reducing the number of Guardians to 24, elected by the Directors out of the current body of Guardians (*Section 2*)

(c) six Guardians and six Directors to be appointed to act for each quarter; power to divide into committees; penalties for non-attendance at the committee meetings (*Section 3 – repealed by the 1833 Act – see below*)

⁹¹ There are two Wangfords in Suffolk. The one with which this note is concerned is the one in east Suffolk, near Beccles.

⁹² 4 Geo. 3 c.91 “An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Wangford, in the County of Suffolk”. This Act was repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948.

⁹³ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁹⁴ Workhouses were commonly described as “houses of industry”.

- (d) all byelaws made under the authority of the 1764 Act to continue in force; Guardians to have the power to make new byelaws for the better employing and supporting the poor; power to repeal byelaws (*Section 4*)
- (e) ratepayers competent to give evidence in matters concerning this Act (*Section 5*)
- (f) lawful for the Guardians to assess the poor rate to raise such sums as were necessary to provide for the poor and repay money borrowed under the 1764 Act; parishes to be charged in proportion to the average number of paupers sent to the House of Industry (*Section 6 - repealed by the 1833 Act – see below*)
- (g) Directors and Guardians authorised to alter the rates at their annual or quarterly meetings; Directors required to review the rates and the proportions in which they were charged every 7 years (*Section 7*)
- (h) if, in a period of 7 years, a parish had sent no poor to the House of Industry, that parish should be charged only for the general expense of maintaining the House of Industry; provisions to enable the Guardians to ascertain the place of settlement of the poor; Directors to be elected to attend committee meetings to audit accounts; penalty for failing to attend if so elected (*Sections 8 to 10*)
- (i) punishment of the poor in the House of Industry; Guardians to provide lodgings for women of loose morals; lawful for the Guardians to borrow money not exceeding £5000 for the maintenance of the House of Industry (*Sections 11 to 13*)
- (j) provisions of the 1764 Act not repealed or altered under this Act to be extended to this Act; expenses and status of this Act (*Sections 14 to 16*).

3 & 4 Will.4 c.xlviii (1833) (Wangford (Suffolk) Poor Relief Act)

5. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1833 Act was:

to alter and enlarge the Powers of several Acts passed for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Wangford in the County of Suffolk.

6. The preamble to the 1833 Act recorded that the purposes of the 1764 and 1812 Acts could “be attended with still greater Utility if the same were further extended and enlarged”.

7. The 1833 Act provided as follows:
- (a) repeal of the 1764 and 1812 Acts as regards the number and choosing of Guardians; 36 Guardians to be elected annually; Guardians to be elected in each parish; voters to be inhabitants of the parish rated at over £5; qualification of the Guardians; present Guardians to continue in office until the election was complete (*Sections 1 – 5*)
 - (b) replacement of Guardians on their death, removal, or bankruptcy; procedure for replacement of a Guardian elected but not qualified; the posts of Treasurer and Clerk to be held by different people; restrictions on the number of Directors to be elected for certain parishes; 15 Directors and Guardians to be appointed for each quarter (*Sections 6 to 10*)
 - (c) repeal of the provisions in the 1764 and 1812 Acts limiting the amount of assessment of poor rates; Guardians given new powers to assess the sum necessary for the maintenance of the poor in the House of Industry and for repaying the interest on any money borrowed; method for dividing this sum among the parishes; if the sum assessed was insufficient the Guardians could levy a rate to fund the deficiency (*Sections 11 - 15*)
 - (d) costs of litigation between the parishes to be borne by the parishes involved (*Section 16*)
 - (e) repeal of provisions in the previous Acts requiring that all poor persons in the Hundred be kept in the workhouse; all the poor to continue to be under the management of the Guardians; all existing byelaws to remain in force; Guardians authorised to make or repeal byelaws; Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor authorised to raise money for the purposes of this Act; power for them to provide relief for individual poor persons; penalty for failure to do so or otherwise execute their duties under this Act; recovery and application of penalties (*Section 17 to 22*)
 - (f) repeal of provisions in the 1764 Act relating to the binding out of poor children as apprentices; Guardians empowered to bind out poor children as apprentices so long as the sum for binding out did not exceed £20; power for Guardians to take one-off settlement payments from the fathers of illegitimate children (*Sections 23 to 25*)
 - (g) provisions of the 1764 and 1812 Acts not repealed or altered by this Act to be extended to this Act; expenses and status of this Act (*Sections 26 – 28*).

8. A workhouse was built in 1767 in Shipmeadow, near Beccles under the 1764 Act. This workhouse, constructed for 350 residents, was taken over by the Wangford Poor Law Union when the latter was established in June 1835. The building, known as Shipmeadow House, continued to be used as a workhouse until the early 1900s. In the 1940s the building was used as a school for evacuees and later as a pig farm. The buildings have now been converted to residential accommodation.⁹⁵

9. Both the 1812 and 1833 Acts have long been obsolete. They date back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

10. Accordingly the 1812 and 1833 Acts are obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.⁹⁶

Extent

11. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

12. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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⁹⁵ <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/Wangford/Wangford.shtml>.

⁹⁶ A further basis of repeal is the fact that both Acts were amending Acts, and the Act that they amended, the 1764 Act, was repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
52 Geo.3 c.xiii (1812) (Westfirle, Beddingham and Glynde Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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<i>52 Geo.3 c.xiii (1812) (Westfirle, Beddingham and Glynde Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1812 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in various parishes in East Sussex.	
2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1812 Act was: <i>for the better Employment and Support of the Poor in the Parishes of Westfirle,⁹⁷ Beddingham, and Glynde, in the County of Sussex.</i>	
3. The <i>preamble</i> to the 1812 Act recorded that the poor living in the named parishes “have of late Years considerably increased, and might be much more comfortably and economically maintained, the Condition of the Aged and Infirm ameliorated, and the Instruction of the Young improved, if a House or Houses were provided for their Reception ...”.	
4. The 1812 Act provided as follows:	
(a) establishment of corporation to be known as <i>The Guardians of the House of Industry for the Parishes of Westfirle, Beddingham, and Glynde, in the County of Sussex</i> (“the Guardians”) comprising all local ratepayers and certain other persons (<i>section 1</i>)	
(b) first meeting of the Guardians to be held on 14 May 1812; six Guardians to be appointed as Directors; the procedure for appointing successor Directors; replacement of Directors on their death or removal; Directors’ oath of office; penalty for failing to accept office of Director; exemption from taking such office; at least one Director to be elected from each parish (<i>sections 2 to 10</i>)	
(c) provisions for monthly, quarterly and occasional meetings; quorum for such meetings; actions of the Directors only valid if done at official meetings under this Act; a Chairman to be elected at each meeting to have the deciding vote in case of equality of votes; Directors empowered to make and repeal bye-laws for the proper execution of this Act; proceedings of Directors to be recorded in writing; Directors to form	

⁹⁷ Today known as West Firle.

Committees; Directors to meet their own expenses; Directors permitted to hold office of justice of the peace (*sections 11 to 21*)

- (d) Directors to appoint a treasurer, clerk and other officers for running the workhouse; these officers to be paid an allowance for their troubles; the Directors to take security from the appointed officers for the faithful execution of their office; all Directors to be notified before appointment of officers; Directors to audit accounts quarterly; penalty for officers refusing to produce accounts (*sections 22 to 26*)
- (e) Directors empowered to purchase land or buildings within the parishes for the purposes of this Act; conveyancing provisions; Directors empowered to sell any land once purchased; Directors authorised to erect workhouse and other buildings and to furnish them as necessary; limit of rates to be charged on these buildings; Directors empowered to enter into contracts for building and repairs; public notice of all contracts; power to reach settlement in cases of breaches of contract; contracts to be open to public inspection (*sections 27 to 43*)
- (f) churchwardens and overseers of the poor authorised to send poor persons to the workhouse once it had been completed; quotas for how many poor people each parish could send to the workhouse; parishes able to share quotas; power to bar insane people or people with contagious diseases from the workhouse; requirement for people with contagious diseases to be provided with separate lodgings (*sections 44 to 47*)
- (g) Directors vested with the care and management of the poor of the parishes and empowered to set the poor to work; no strong liquor to be brought into the workhouse; rewards for industrious inmates; punishments for misbehaving inmates; poor children to be taught to read and write (*sections 48 to 52*)
- (h) penalty for embezzling workhouse inmates; penalty for receiving stolen property provided for the use of the poor; poor born or maintained in the workhouse not to gain settlement rights; settlement rights of illegitimate children (*sections 53 to 56*)
- (i) Directors authorised to meet to assess the sums needed by way of poor rates to cover the costs of maintaining the poor of the parishes and other expenditure; churchwardens and overseers required to raise and collect the poor rates; provision for further rates levy if insufficient money raised; amount of rates to be apportioned amongst the parishes; penalty for

churchwardens and overseers who fail to hand over the rates to the treasurer; churchwardens and overseers to produce books and accounts (*sections 57 to 60*)

(j) lawful for the Directors to borrow money, not exceeding £10,000, to be repaid out of the parish rates; form of mortgage; securities may be transferred; form of transfer; moneys borrowed to be paid to the treasurer; interest payments (*sections 61 to 64*)

(k) ratepayers to be competent witnesses; recovery and application of penalties; form of conviction; appeals; civil procedure matters; custody of common seal; expenses and status of this Act (*sections 65 to 73*).

5. In the event no workhouse was ever built pursuant to the 1812 Act. The Union formed by that Act was dissolved in 1835 and was replaced by a new West Firle Union. The latter Union did build a workhouse in West Firle, the building being completed in 1836. However this work was not executed pursuant to the 1812 Act.

6. The 1812 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1812 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside East Sussex.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, East Sussex County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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53 Geo.3 c.cxxvii (1813)
(Colneis and Carlford Poor Relief Act)

The whole Act.

53 Geo.3 c.cxxvii (1813) (Colneis and Carlford Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1813 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the hundreds⁹⁸ of Colneis and Carlford, near Ipswich in Suffolk.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1813 Act was:

for amending an Act of His present Majesty, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor within the Hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, in the County of Suffolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1813 Act referred to an Act of 1790⁹⁹ for the relief of the poor and that it was necessary to amend this Act to render it more effectual. The 1790 Act established a corporation to be known as *the Guardians of the Poor of the Hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, in the County of Suffolk* (“the Guardians”) comprising local ratepayers.¹⁰⁰ The 1790 Act repealed two earlier enactments passed to provide relief for the poor in the Hundreds.¹⁰¹ The *preamble* to the 1790 Act recorded that a workhouse for the poor of the Hundreds had been erected pursuant to those two enactments, at Nacton (near Ipswich).

4. The 1813 Act provided as follows:

(a) repeal of the 1790 Act provisions relating to the placing out of poor children maintained in the workhouse for the Hundreds of Colneis and Carlford; lawful for the Guardians to place poor children out for one year; poor children could be apprenticed for between 3 and 7 years or until the ages of 18 for boys or 15 for girls; children apprenticed by virtue of the 1790 Act to be deemed apprenticed under this Act; Guardians to provide apprenticed children with clothing; application of penalties for refusal to take on an apprentice (*Sections 1 - 4*)

(b) repeal of the 1790 Act provisions about penalties for churchwardens and overseers of the poor who neglect their duty; new penalties for such neglect (*Sections 5 – 6*)

⁹⁸ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

⁹⁹ 30 Geo.3 c.22 (1790) An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor, within the Hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, in the County of Suffolk; repealed by Statute Law Revision Act 1948.

¹⁰⁰ The 1790 Act, s 2.

- (c) churchwardens and overseers authorised to grant cash relief to the poor of their own parishes in cases where the poor persons are living in their own homes; Directors to investigate complaints of the poor who fail to get relief from their parish officers; provision for cash relief even if the poor persons are from another parish; lawful for the Guardians to ascertain the parish of settlement of the poor; churchwardens and overseers to deliver an annual list to the Guardians of the poor relieved by them outside of the workhouse; penalty for failure to do so (*Sections 7 - 10*)
- (d) procedure for parish creditors to sue for repayment of loans (*Section 11*)
- (e) annual payments charged on each of the parishes to be divided into 2 classes, class 1 to cover the day-to-day costs of supporting the poor, class 2 to cover the maintenance of the workhouse and the repayment of money borrowed; Guardians to assess the parishes for their class 1 and class 2 payments in proportion to the number of poor each parish sends to the workhouse; Guardians may alter the rates and reassess the proportions every 4 years; (*Sections 10 – 15*)
- (f) persons giving false evidence in any hearing under this Act to be punished for perjury (*Section 16*)
- (g) this Act and the 1790 Act to be construed together; appeals; status of this Act (*Sections 17 – 19*).

5. The Colneis and Carlford workhouse was built in 1758 at Nacton, near Ipswich. It was taken over in 1836 by the Woodbridge Poor Law Union. The workhouse closed in 1900 and its inmates were transferred to the Ipswich Union workhouse.¹⁰² Amberfield School was subsequently erected on the site.

6. The 1813 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

¹⁰¹ 29 Geo.2 c.79 (1756); 4 Geo.3 c.58 (1764).

¹⁰² users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/Woodbridge/Woodbridge.shtml

7. Accordingly the 1813 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
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56 Geo.3 c.v (1816) (Mitcham Parish Rates Act)	The whole Act.
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56 Geo.3 c.v (1816) (Mitcham Parish Rates Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete nineteenth century enactment relating to the raising of money in the parish of Mitcham¹⁰³ for the relief of the poor.

2. According to the long title, the purpose of the 1816 Act was:

for the better assessing and collecting the Poor and other Parochial Rates, in the parish of Mitcham, in the County of Surrey.

3. The *preamble* to the 1816 Act recorded that “the Poor within the Parish of Mitcham, in the County of Surrey, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great Expense, and by means of very heavy Rates”. The preamble also recorded that the existing laws for collecting the poor rates were ineffectual. Accordingly the main purpose of the 1816 Act was to tighten up the existing machinery for collecting the rates.

4. The 1816 Act provided as follows:

(a) churchwardens and overseers of the poor authorised to reach agreement with the owners of property let out on weekly or monthly lettings whereby the owners (rather than the occupiers) would be liable to pay the poor rates (and other parochial rates) on such property; penalty for owners who failed to enter such agreements or who failed to pay the rates; any receiver of rents was deemed to be the property owner (*sections 1 and 2*)

(b) churchwardens and overseers authorised to appoint surveyors to value land in the parish and collectors to collect the rates; security to be taken from the collectors; removal of collectors from office; penalty for collectors who failed to hand over the rates collected or produce their account books (*sections 3 to 7*)

(c) persons failing to pay rates to be summoned to appear before a justice of the peace; goods and chattels of such persons to be seized whether in Mitcham or in any other place; form of distress warrant (*sections 8 to 10*)

¹⁰³ Mitcham in 1816 was in the County of Surrey. Today it forms part of the London Borough of Merton.

- (d) power to rectify errors in any rate or assessment; only parish inhabitants who paid rates could vote at parish vestries; ratepayers competent to give evidence; legal protection for persons seizing goods; appeals; form of conviction; civil procedure issues (*sections 11 to 19*)
- (e) costs and status of this Act (*sections 20 and 21*).

5. The 1816 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1816 Act has long been obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the area of Mitcham.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the London Borough of Merton and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

56 Geo.3 c.lxvi (1816) <i>(Shardlow and Wilne Poor Relief Act)</i>	The whole Act.
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56 Geo.3 c.lxvi (1816) (Shardlow and Wilne Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1816 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the township of Shardlow and Wilne, in Derbyshire, and in other townships and parishes in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1816 Act was:

for the better Relief and more effectually employing the Poor of the Township of Shardlow and Wilne, in the County of Derby, and the several Parishes and Places therein mentioned, in the said County, and in the Counties of Leicester and Nottingham.

3. The *preamble* to the 1816 Act refers to an Act of 1782¹⁰⁴ pursuant to which several townships or parishes in Derbyshire¹⁰⁵ and Leicestershire¹⁰⁶ were united in 1812 and built a House of Industry¹⁰⁷ at Shardlow to hold the poor of those townships or parishes. The preamble further recorded that, in 1814, further parishes and townships joined this union.¹⁰⁸ Thereafter the poor of every parish and township in the enlarged union were housed at the Shardlow House of Industry. However, as also recorded in the preamble, not only had problems arisen with the present arrangements, but the House of Industry was larger than was needed to accommodate the needs of poor persons within the enlarged union. The purpose of the 1816 Act was therefore to address these problems and to make the House of Industry available to persons outside the enlarged union.

4. The 1816 Act provided as follows:

- (a) confirmation of the union of the townships and parishes made in 1812 and 1814 (*Section 1*)

¹⁰⁴ 22 Geo. 3 c.83 An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor; repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1871. This Act was promoted by Thomas Gilbert and it authorised parishes to combine into unions and provide workhouses for the old, sick and infirm.

¹⁰⁵ These townships or parishes were Shardlow and Wilne; Draycott and Wilne, Sawley; and Weston upon Trent.

¹⁰⁶ The one township or parish in Leicestershire was Worthington.

¹⁰⁷ Workhouses were commonly described as houses of industry.

¹⁰⁸ These further parishes or townships were Alvaston, Bolton, Hopwell, Little Eaton, Littleover, Ockbrook, Osmaston, Risley and Stanton by Dale (in Derbyshire); Breedon, Coleorton, Hemington, Osgathorpe, Sheepshead and Thringstone (in Leicestershire); and Bramcote, Stapleford and Toton (in Nottinghamshire).

- (b) establishment of a corporation to be known as *The Visitor, Deputy Visitor, Directors, and Guardians of the Poor of the Parishes, Townships, and Places, united for the Relief and Employment of the Poor at the House of Industry at Shardlow in the County of Derby* (“the Guardians”) with power to hold land for the purposes of this Act (*Section 2*)
- (c) ratepayers to meet in August 1816 to appoint a Guardian of the Poor for each parish and township; procedure for the annual appointment of 10 Directors of the House of Industry, that number to be reduced if the number of parishes in the corporation falls below 10 (*Sections 3 – 7*)
- (d) eligibility for voting at meetings and to hold office as Guardians or Director; women authorised to vote by proxy; Guardians authorised to act as Justices of the Peace; oath for Guardians and Directors; penalty for voting or taking office when not qualified; penalty for not accepting the post if appointed; subsequent appointment of Guardians; appointments in case of death or removal; appointment of Guardians by Directors if voters refuse to appoint; no person liable to be appointed Guardian again until it comes to his turn by rotation without his consent; remuneration and allowances for Guardians; penalty on parishes for refusing to elect Guardians; no person to act as Guardian and Director at the same time (*Sections 8 – 20*)
- (e) provision for monthly and quarterly meetings of the Guardians; Guardians and Directors to appoint a President and a Chairman; 3 Directors or 5 Guardians may summon a special meeting at 4 days notice; penalty for failure to attend meetings (*Sections 21 - 25*)
- (f) powers of this Act may be executed by a majority of Guardians and Directors present at meetings; Guardians to have the powers and authorities granted to overseers of the poor, except with regard to the collecting of rates; Directors to examine the quarterly accounts of the House of Industry (*Sections 26 – 28*)
- (g) Guardians to nominate, for appointment by the justices of the peace, three Visitors to the House of Industry¹⁰⁹; Visitors to appoint deputies; Visitors to inspect the House of Industry and attend to its general conduct and management; replacement of Visitors on their death or removal (*Sections 29 – 31*)

¹⁰⁹ Visitors had the function of inspectors of the workings of the poor law in a particular area. They were often appointed by the local justices and would supervise the work of the Guardians of the Poor.

- (h) Guardians to appoint a Secretary, Treasurer and other officers; all officers appointed by the Guardians could be removed by the Guardians upon a just and reasonable cause (*Sections 32 - 33*)
- (i) purchase of all materials necessary for the maintenance and employment of the poor and to maintain the House of Industry; Guardians authorised to erect and fit out buildings, and borrow for the purpose against the security of the poor rates (*Sections 34 – 35*)
- (j) authority to add additional parishes or townships to the existing union provided they are no more than 20 miles from the House of Industry; Guardians of the existing union to draw up agreements with the Guardians of the places wishing to join the union; newly united parishes to contribute poor rates to the expenses of the corporation in proportion to the number of poor it expected to send to the House of Industry; churchwardens of the joining parishes to provide the Guardians with records of the poor rates charged in the Parish; Guardians empowered to dismiss any of the newly-joined parishes from the union; notice of admission of parishes (*Sections 36 – 41*)
- (k) Guardians empowered to make byelaws for the better execution of their functions; penalties for breach of byelaws; power to alter and amend byelaws; byelaws to be made only at monthly meetings; records to be kept of the byelaws made (*Sections 42 – 44*)
- (l) churchwardens of the incorporated parishes to collect the poor rates; the Guardians not required to accommodate the insane in the House of Industry or persons afflicted with contagious disorders, such persons to be removed from the House of Industry and provided for separately (*Sections 45 – 47*)
- (m) Guardians empowered to set the poor to work; prohibition on strong liquor in the workhouse; penalty for bringing liquor into the workhouse; Guardians empowered to punish the misbehaving poor in the House of Industry; power to reward the industrious poor; punishing officers of the House of Industry for theft from the Guardians (*Sections 48 – 52*)
- (n) arrangements for rating low value tenanted properties (*Section 53*)
- (o) the House of Industry and all its goods and chattels to be vested in the Guardians; punishment for damaging the property of the Guardians; all goods belonging to the Guardians to be marked as such; penalty for obliterating or defacing the mark; united parishes to have an interest in

the House of Industry in the same proportions as their liability for poor rates (*Sections 54 – 56*)

- (p) poor children to be cared for by the Guardians until they reach a suitable age to be put into service; provision for the prosecution of idle persons who refuse to care for their families; Guardians to find employment for poor persons willing to work but unable to find employment; Guardians of each parish may send those unable to support themselves to the House of Industry with an order of admission; Guardians to provide suitable clothing for persons they send to the House (*Sections 57 – 62*)
- (q) Justices of the Peace to enquire into any complaints against a Guardian for failure to provide relief to the poor, and order the Guardian to send the complainant to the House of Industry; penalty for failure to adhere to the Justice's order; if the complainant is found to be an idle person he may be sent to the house of correction for 3 months; Justices not to hear complaints until the complainant has applied to both the Guardian and the Visitor (*Sections 63 – 64*)
- (r) nothing in this Act to alter the settlement rights of any person; penalty for moving poor children, pregnant women or sick persons from one parish to another without an order from 2 Justices of the Peace; penalty for neglectful churchwardens and overseers; recovery and application of penalties (*Section 65 - 68*)
- (s) provision for neighbouring Justices to have jurisdiction; appeals; ratepayers competent to give evidence; civil procedure matters (*Sections 69 – 73*)
- (t) this Act to be construed together with the 1782 Act; expenses and status of this Act (*Sections 74 – 76*).

5. A house of industry or workhouse was built around 1813 in Shardlow.¹¹⁰ It continued to be used as such after March 1837 when the Shardlow Poor Law Union came into existence. The building was subsequently used as an NHS hospital for the elderly (Grove Hospital) before being redeveloped for modern housing in 2007.

6. The 1816 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief

¹¹⁰ <http://homepages.which.net/~shardlow.heritage/vwalk.htm>.

was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1816 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Derbyshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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1 Geo.4 c.vi (1820)
(Blything Poor Relief Act)

The whole Act.

1 Geo.4 c.vi (1820) (Blything Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1820 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the Hundred of Blything¹¹¹ near Southwold in Suffolk.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1820 Act was:

for altering and enlarging the Powers of Two Acts of His late Majesty, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Blything, in the County of Suffolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1820 Act referred to an Act of 1764¹¹² and an Act of 1793¹¹³ which were both passed to make provision for the “better relief and employment of the poor in the Hundred of Blything”.¹¹⁴ The preamble noted the need for some amendments to these two Acts.

4. The 1820 Act provided as follows:

(a) All poor persons in the parish to continue to be under the government and management of *the Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of Blything in the County of Suffolk* (“the Guardians”)¹¹⁵; no child in the workhouse (established under the Act of 1764) to be apprenticed for less than five years or beyond the age of 18 (*sections 1 and 2*)

(b) Guardians authorised to borrow such sum (not exceeding £5000) as was necessary to repair or rebuild the workhouse; officers of the workhouse prohibited from benefiting from the proceeds of the work carried out at the workhouse; the Guardians’ quarterly accounts to be approved by any two justices of the peace for Surrey (*sections 3 to 5*)

(c) In mid-summer 1820, the Guardians were to assess the average expense of maintaining the poor (whether or not in the workhouse) incurred by each parish over the past three years, and to levy that sum on each parish; provision for this average figure to be recalculated at subsequent

¹¹¹ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

¹¹² 4 Geo.3 c.56.

¹¹³ 33 Geo.3 c.126.

¹¹⁴ Both Acts were repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948.

¹¹⁵ The Guardians were incorporated by the Act of 1764.

mid-summer meetings of the Guardians; appeals against such assessments (*sections 6 to 8*)

(d) Guardians authorised to grant relief to poor or sick persons living outside the workhouse; Guardians required to attend additional quarterly meetings known as “Previous Meetings” (*sections 9 and 10*)

(e) this Act to be construed together with the earlier Acts; expenses and status of this Act (*sections 11 to 13*).

5. The Blything workhouse opened in 1765 at Bulcamp near Blythburg. In 1836 the newly-formed Blything Poor Law Union took over the workhouse. The site was re-named Red House in the 1930s and became Blythburg and District Hospital in 1948. The hospital closed in 1994 and in 2001 the site was redeveloped for residential use.

6. The 1820 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1820 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.¹¹⁶

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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¹¹⁶ A further basis of repeal is the fact that the 1820 Act was an amending Act, and the Acts that it amended, the 1764 Act and the 1793 Act, were repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948.

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
5 Geo.4 c.xiii (1824) (Hull Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

5 Geo.4 c.xiii (1824) (Hull Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1824 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the town of Kingston-upon-Hull.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1824 Act was:

for the better Maintenance, Employment, and Regulation of the Poor of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, and for repairing or rebuilding the Workhouse there.

3. The *preamble* to the 1824 Act refers to four earlier enactments providing for poor relief in Kingston-upon-Hull.¹¹⁷ They authorised the building of a workhouse and the establishment of a corporation to levy rates to fund it. However, the preamble recorded that the arrangements authorised by these enactments were proving unsatisfactory. Moreover the existing workhouse was too small to house the growing number of poor persons in the town. The purpose of the 1824 Act was therefore to address these issues.

4. The 1824 Act provided as follows:

- (a) repeal of the earlier enactments¹¹⁸ (*section 1*)
- (b) from 30 September 1824, the ward known as Trinity Ward to be a single ward only¹¹⁹; from the same date, the area known as the Lordship or Precinct of Myton to be divided into two separate wards: North Myton ward and South Myton ward (giving Kingston a total of eight wards)¹²⁰ (*sections 2 and 3*)
- (c) justices of the peace to appoint overseers of the poor; penalty for refusing to accept office of overseer; no overseer eligible to hold that office again

¹¹⁷ 9 Will.3 c.47 (1697); 8 Ann.c.24 (but described in the 1824 as c.11) (1709); 15 Geo.2 c.10 (1741); 28 Geo.2 c.27 (1755).

¹¹⁸ In fact the repeal left one of the four enactments still partly in force. That remaining enactment (the 1755 Act) was finally repealed by the Kingston-upon-Hull Improvement Act 1854 (17 & 18 Vict. c.ci), s 8.

¹¹⁹ Previously Trinity Ward had been subdivided into "First Part Trinity Ward" and "Second Part Trinity Ward".

¹²⁰ Today Kingston upon Hull has 23 wards, with Myton being a single ward again, and Trinity no longer existing as a separate ward: City of Kingston upon Hull (Electoral Changes) Order 2001, SI 2001 No 3360, art 2, Sch 1.

- for 20 years; provision for 40 guardians of the poor (“the Guardians”), 24 to be appointed and 16 elected (*sections 4 to 7*)
- (d) establishment of a Corporation to be known as *The Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians of the Poor in the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull* comprising the 40 Guardians (five for each of the eight wards) with power to hold land for the purposes of this Act; election of a Governor, Deputy Governor and eight Assistants to govern the Corporation (*section 8*)
- (e) existing 24 Guardians to hold office for life; remaining 16 Guardians to be elected for a term of three years by ratepayers at a meeting to be held no later than October 1824; procedure for replacing Guardians; disqualification for holding office of Guardian (*sections 9 to 13*)
- (f) provision for holding of courts or assemblies of the Corporation; quorum for such courts or assemblies; Guardians present to appoint a Chairman; adjournment of courts or assemblies; court or assembly authorised to make bye-laws for the better running of the Corporation; appointment of Committees of the Corporation (*sections 14 to 19*)
- (g) Guardians each year to appoint a Governor, Deputy Governor and eight Assistant Governors of the Corporation; appointment of treasurer and other officers; offices of treasurer and clerk to be held by different people; persons having served as Governor, Deputy Governor or Assistant Governor to be exempt from re-election as such for 20 years; penalty for failure to take on such office; resignation from such office (*sections 20 to 27*)
- (h) existing workhouse and other property to vest in the Corporation; all charitable and other gifts given to the town to be paid to the Corporation for the benefit of the poor; production of money and books held pursuant to the earlier enactments; Corporation to take on existing liabilities; proceedings of the Guardians to be recorded in writing and open for inspection (*sections 28 to 32*)
- (i) Corporation vested with the care and maintenance of the poor of Kingston-upon-Hull; Corporation authorised to find employment for poor persons resident in the workhouse; Corporation authorised to establish schools in the workhouse for the children residents; Corporation to have the powers and authorities granted to overseers of the poor; justices of the peace authorised to act upon complaints from the Corporation’s

- officers as if they were overseers; power for Corporation to be indemnified against the cost of illegitimate children (*sections 33 to 38*)
- (j) Corporation authorised to assess the sums needed to provide poor relief and meet their other obligations; quorum of Guardians needed to make such assessment; churchwardens and overseers to apportion the sums due between the wards and levy rates on the inhabitants accordingly; Guardians authorised to employ surveyors to survey and value property in the town for the purposes of calculating the rates; such surveys and valuations to be done no more than once every seven years; surveys and valuations to be lodged in the workhouse; maps of the town to be drawn up (*sections 39 to 49*)
- (k) Guardians authorised to appoint assistant overseers to collect the rates; removal of assistant overseers; Corporation to take security from treasurer and assistant overseers; collection of rates by overseers and assistant overseers; handing over of rate money to the Corporation; Mayor and aldermen to execute warrants for the collection of rates, failing which this would be done by the Corporation; Corporation to execute any functions that the churchwardens or overseers fail to execute (*sections 50 to 58*)
- (l) appointment of auditors to audit the Corporation's accounts annually; publication of accounts; ratepayers authorised to inspect account on payment of one shilling; provisions for rating landlords instead of occupiers of premises; chattels of tenants could be seized and sold; tenants allowed to deduct this from rent; power to agree reduced rates with landlords; unpaid rates to be a charge on the premises; enforcement of arrears; form of warrant of distress; recovery of rates in special cases; treatment of arrears arising under the earlier enactments (*sections 59 to 70*)
- (m) how moneys arising under this Act (or the earlier Acts) were to be applied; procedures for enlarging the existing workhouse or building a new one; Guardians empowered to contract for the necessary works; publicity about contracts; power to settle breaches of contract; Corporation authorised to buy land for a new workhouse; conveyancing provisions; authority to sell the existing workhouse; sale proceeds to be used to build a new workhouse (*sections 71 to 86*)
- (n) Corporation authorised to borrow against the security of the poor rates to finance the repairing or rebuilding of the workhouse; form of security;

authority to raise money by granting annuities; form of such grant; assignment of annuities; recovery of interest due on annuities; restrictions on grant of annuities; payment of creditors by ballot; power to borrow money at a lower rate of interest (*sections 87 to 95*)

(o) provision for certain existing enactments to apply to the town; prohibition on strong liquor being introduced into the workhouse; treasurer and other officers to account for moneys received by them; penalties for default; executors of any deceased officer to deliver up books of account; sureties to remain liable despite dismissal of officer; ratepayers competent to give evidence (*sections 96 to 101*)

(p) civil and criminal procedure matters; recovery of fines and penalties; appeals; this Act not to lessen the rights of the Corporation, give the Corporation any rights over any almshouse or hospital or alter the provisions of an Act of 1775¹²¹ relating to the paving, cleaning and lighting of the streets; status of this Act (*sections 102 to 114*).

5. A workhouse (known as Charity Hall) was erected pursuant to an Act of 1697¹²² in Whitefriargate. It remained in use as a workhouse until 1852 when it was sold and a new workhouse was opened in Anlaby Road at its junction with Argyle Street.

6. The 1824 Act has long been obsolete. Indeed, parts of it have already been repealed.¹²³ It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1824 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

¹²¹ This 1755 Act was finally repealed by the Kingston-upon-Hull Improvement Act 1854 (17 & 18 Vict.c.ci), s 8.

¹²² 9 Will.3 c.47.

¹²³ See the Ministry of Health Provisional Orders Confirmation (No 6) Act 1924 (14 & 15 Geo.5 c.lxxii). This 1924 Act gives effect to the Kingston-upon-Hull (Poor Law) Order 1924. Article 1 of that order provides in effect that poor rates in Kingston-upon-Hull were no longer to be made under the 1824 Act.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Kingston-upon-Hull.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Hull City Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
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<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
5 Geo.4 c.xviii (1824) (Stow Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

5 Geo.4 c.xviii (1824) (Stow Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1824 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the hundred¹²⁴ of Stow (today known as Stowmarket) in Suffolk.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1824 Act was:

for altering and enlarging the Powers of Two Acts of His Late Majesty for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor within the Hundred of Stow in the County of Suffolk.

3. The *preamble* to the 1824 Act refers to an Act of 1778¹²⁵ and an Act of 1780¹²⁶ both passed to provide relief and employment for the poor living in the hundred of Stow. The preamble records that amendments were needed to these enactments so as to alter the powers contained within them.

4. The 1824 Act provided as follows:

(a) all poor people within the hundred of Stow were placed under the management of the body of guardians (“the Guardians”) that had been incorporated (“the Corporation”) by the 1778 Act under the name of *The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of Stow in the County of Suffolk (section 1)*

(b) repeal of the 1778 Act provisions relating to selection of Guardians and Directors at their quarterly meetings; new substitute arrangements for the business at such quarterly meetings; reserve powers to select Guardians in particular circumstances; power to alter timing of meetings; no business to be conducted without quorum of six Directors and three Guardians; power to adjourn meetings (*sections 2 to 9*)

(c) repeal of the 1778 Act provisions concerning the binding of poor children into apprenticeships; new substitute provisions for binding such children to apprenticeships for terms not exceeding seven years and not beyond the age of 21 for boys or 18 for girls; poor children of 13 or over could be

¹²⁴ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

¹²⁵ 18 Geo.3 c.35. This Act was wholly repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948, s 1, Sch 1.

¹²⁶ 21 Geo.3 c.13. This Act was wholly repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1948, s 1, Sch 1.

let out for employment as servants for one year or more; power to hire out poor persons to do harvesting or hop-picking work (*sections 10 to 13*)

- (d) repeal of the 1778 Act provisions concerning the assessment of rates to raise money to service and repay debts; new substitute provisions whereby the Guardians were authorised to make a fresh assessment to cover the cost of providing poor relief in the hundred of Stow (including running the workhouse) and of servicing and paying debts; assessment to be calculated by reference to the average such costs incurred over the previous seven years (*sections 14 and 15*)
- (e) as from March 1824 the expenses of the Corporation to be divided into two separate classes: First Class to cover the cost of maintaining the poor (whether or not in the workhouse), Second Class to cover the cost of the workhouse including salaries, repayment of debts and repairs; Guardians to assess the parishes for their contributions in respect of both Classes; Guardians required to re-assess every seven years (*sections 16 to 21*)
- (f) assessments to be approved by justices of the peace; churchwardens and overseers of the poor required to collect the rates from each inhabitant and hand them to the treasurer; appeals against, and objections to, any assessment (*sections 22 to 28*)
- (g) provision of relief to the poor in cases where the poor persons are living in their own homes; removal and remuneration of Corporation officers; officers required to account for rate money received; penalties for failure to account; clerk and treasurer to be separate persons; repeal of the 1778 Act provisions about the duties of churchwardens and overseers; new substitute provisions concerning their duties, and new penalties for failure to comply (*sections 29 to 33*)
- (h) power for Guardians to acquire additional land to help maintain and employ the poor; power to sell surplus land; this Act and the Acts of 1778 and 1780 to be construed together; expenses and status of this Act (*sections 34 to 38*).

5. A workhouse was built in 1781 at Onehouse (near Stowmarket) under the authority of the Act of 1778. Following the establishment of the Stow Poor Law Union in 1835, the workhouse was taken over by that union. In later years the workhouse closed and became used as the Stow Lodge Hospital which, in turn, shut in 1991. The site has since been converted to residential use.

6. The 1824 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1824 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
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<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
5 Geo.4 c.xli (1824) (South Lynn Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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<i>5 Geo.4 c.xli (1824) (South Lynn Poor Relief Act)</i>	
1.	This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1824 Act passed to improve the system for raising the moneys needed to provide relief for the poor living in the parish of South Lynn, near King’s Lynn in Norfolk.
2.	According to its long title, the purpose of the 1824 Act was: <i>for the better levying and collecting the Rates for the Relief and Maintenance of the Poor of the Parish of South Lynn, otherwise All Saints, in the Borough of King’s Lynn in the County of Norfolk, by assessing the Owners of certain Messuages and other Property in the said Parish, instead of the Occupiers thereof; and also for erecting a Workhouse in the same Parish.</i>
3.	The <i>preamble</i> to the 1824 Act referred to the fact that the payment of rates for the relief of the poor in the Parish of South Lynn had been “greatly evaded, by reason that many of the Houses within the said Parish are let out in Lodgings, or in separate Apartments, and many others are of an inferior Description, and let at small annual or other Rents ... and the Occupiers thereof having of late Years very commonly refused to pay any Rates whatever without legal Process”.
4.	The 1824 Act provided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) landlord or owner of property let to separate tenants or let at less than £8 per annum to be liable to pay the poor rates assessed on that property instead of the occupier; in cases of lettings as ready-furnished lodgings, the landlord would be deemed to be the occupier (<i>sections 1 and 2</i>) (b) goods and chattels of every person occupying any property in respect of which the landlord or owner was to be liable for the poor rates could be seized and sold to pay the rates; occupiers of lodgings entitled to deduct from their rent any rates paid by them (<i>sections 3 and 4</i>) (c) churchwardens and overseers of the poor empowered to sue any person made liable under this Act to pay poor rates (<i>section 5</i>) (d) parishioners of South Lynn to appoint a Committee of not less than 15 householders to value all property in the parish; appeals against valuation and rating (<i>sections 6 to 8</i>)

- (e) churchwardens and overseers authorised to build a workhouse in the parish and to acquire the necessary land; churchwardens and overseers authorised to raise money for the purposes of this Act by borrowing no more than £3000 and using the rates as security; form and transfer of mortgages; written record of mortgages; use of moneys raised; power to re-mortgage at a lower interest rate; power to repay loans (*sections 9 to 14*)
- (f) status of this Act (*section 15*).

5. In the event, no workhouse appears to have been built pursuant to the 1824 Act. However the overseers of South Lynn/All Saints parish purchased an existing workhouse in the late 1820s. This workhouse, in Friar Street, was sold off in 1837 after the newly-formed King's Lynn Poor Law Union enlarged the St James' workhouse in the parish of St Margaret.

6. The 1824 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1824 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Norfolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Norfolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
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6 Geo.4 c.cxxiii (1825) (Montgomery and Pool Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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6 Geo.4 c.cxxiii (1825) (Montgomery and Pool Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1825 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the Montgomery and Pool¹²⁷ united district, in the counties of Montgomery¹²⁸ and Salop.¹²⁹

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1825 Act was:

to repeal two Acts, respectively of the Thirty-second and Thirty-sixth Years of His late Majesty King George the Third, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of the Montgomery and Pool United District, and to provide new Powers and Regulations in lieu thereof.

3. The *preamble* to the 1825 Act referred to an Act of 1792¹³⁰ which incorporated *The Guardians of the Poor of the Parishes Montgomery and Pool, and the Parishes, Chapelries, and Townships united therewith, in the Counties of Montgomery and Salop*. The preamble also referred to an Act of 1796¹³¹ under which the Guardians built the Montgomery and Pool House of Industry.¹³² Finally the preamble recorded the need to make changes to the arrangements established by the two Acts.

4. The 1825 Act provided as follows:

(a) repeal of the 1792 and 1796 Acts; the incorporated parishes to be known as *The Montgomery and Pool United District*; all inhabitants of the United District assessed for the relief of the poor to be a corporate body known as *The Guardians of the Poor of the Montgomery and Pool United District* (“The Guardians”); the house of industry to be vested in the Guardians; mortgages granted and acts done by the previous Guardians to remain good and valid (*Sections 1 - 3*)

¹²⁷ Now Welshpool.

¹²⁸ Now Powys.

¹²⁹ Now Shropshire. The only areas of Shropshire covered by this Act appear to be Worthen and Chirbury.

¹³⁰ 32 Geo. 3 c.96 (1792) “An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor belonging to the Parishes of Montgomery and Pool and certain other Parishes and Places therein mentioned, in the Counties of Montgomery and Salop”.

¹³¹ 36 Geo. 3 c.38 (1796) “An Act for rendering effectual an Act of the Thirty-second Year of His present Majesty, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor of the Parishes of Montgomery and Pool, and the Places united therewith, in the Counties of Montgomery and Salop”.

¹³² Workhouses were commonly described as “Houses of Industry”.

- (b) accounts of the previous Guardians to be valid as evidence in disputes; all persons holding money or other goods belonging to the previous Guardians to account for the same to the Directors appointed under this Act; all certificates of settlement and other documentation relating to the poor to remain at the house of industry; Overseers authorised to sue on certain securities (*Sections 4 - 7*)
- (c) Guardians to swear to their qualifications; female Guardians may vote by proxy; present Directors of the poor in the United District and their Clerk and other officers to continue in post until succeeded by others at the scheduled election; annual meetings for nominating Directors; no Churchwarden or Overseer of the Poor to be deemed ineligible for nomination; Overseers to keep lists of the persons nominated (*Sections 8 - 12*)
- (d) Guardians to elect 24 Directors from the nominations list, a certain number from each parish of the United District; provisions for the replacement of Directors; election of Directors; Justices to be honorary Directors (*Sections 13 - 18*)
- (e) Directors' oath of office; penalty for refusing to take office by taking the oath; penalty for acting as a Guardian or Director without being qualified; Guardians empowered to alter number of Directors to be elected from each parish, provided the total number of Guardians remains at 24; Guardians may remove any of the 24 Directors from office (*Sections 19 – 21*)
- (f) provision for annual and quarterly meetings of the Guardians; weekly meetings of the Directors; provision for the calling of special meetings; no acts by the Guardians or Directors to be valid unless done at a meeting held in pursuance of this Act with sufficient numbers present; a chairman to be elected at every meeting to have the casting vote in case of equality of votes; adjournment and resumption of meetings (*Sections 22 – 27*)
- (g) Directors may form committees of not less than 5 for making rules and orders for the better regulation of the house of industry; penalty on Directors for not attending meetings; Guardians and Directors to cover their own expenses (*Section 28 – 30*)
- (h) Directors to appoint a Clerk and a Treasurer and other officers to work in the house of industry, including a Chaplain, a Governor and a Matron; officers to be paid a salary; the Treasurer and the Clerk to be different people; appointment of special constables for the execution of this Act;

Justices of the Peace to act on the complaints of Directors or their officers as if they were Overseers of the Poor (*Sections 31 – 35*)

- (i) lawful for Directors to make alterations to the house of industry and keep it in good repair; lawful for Directors to purchase goods and chattels as necessary for the purposes of this Act, such goods to be vested in the Guardians; Guardians empowered to prosecute for damaging or stealing their goods (*Sections 35 – 37*)
- (j) Directors to ascertain the place of settlement of all the poor currently maintained in the house of industry; disputes over settlement to be resolved by the Justices; each parish to defray the whole expense of caring for their poor either in the house of industry or outside (*Sections 38 – 40*)
- (k) officers of the house of industry not to be compelled to have the care of the insane or the contagious without the express instructions of the Guardians; the poor with contagious diseases may be sent out of the house of industry and provided for elsewhere (*Sections 41 - 42*)
- (l) Directors to have the care and management of the poor in the house of industry and may set them to work; those admitted to the house of industry must work and obey the rules; Directors empowered to punish the misbehaving poor; the poor may be rewarded for good conduct (*Sections 43 - 46*)
- (m) the poor in the house of industry to be maintained by the previous incorporation until 1 October 1825 when the new Guardians take over when the expenses of each poor person will be met by their parish of origin; expenses of maintaining the poor to be charged by the week; general expenses of maintaining the house of industry and paying all other expenses to be met by the parishes paying into a fund, each parish's contributions to be in accordance with its previous contribution (*Sections 47 - 48*)
- (n) Directors to issue warrants to the Overseers to collect the poor rates; seven Commissioners to be appointed to raise a fund to repay the existing debt of £12,385; annual sum of £700 to be raised from the United District to provide this fund; Overseers to levy the £700 by a separate assessment; Commissioners to invest the money pending discharge of the debt; Commissioners may pay off part of the debt as they think fit; Commissioners to give 6 months' notice of their intention to pay off the debt in instalments (*Sections 49 – 55*)

- (o) Overseers of the Poor to execute the warrants and orders of the Directors and Commissioners; on failure of the Overseers to pay the money collected the inhabitants of the parish to be responsible for paying on reassessment (*Sections 56 - 57*)
- (p) accounts to be made up and balanced by 1 October 1825; accounts to be kept by officers of the Guardians; Guardians may appoint any three of their number to be auditors or accountants; auditors to be remunerated; Directors to submit an extract of the accounts and reports to the Quarter Sessions; all officers in receipt of money raised under this Act shall render an account of the money received and to what uses it was paid; penalty on officers for failure to do so (*Sections 58 - 63*)
- (q) lawful for the Guardians to compound debts; all the lawful rules and orders of the previous corporation to remain in force until they are repealed or amended; record of all mortgages and transfers to be kept; minutes to be kept of all proceedings of the Directors and Guardians (*Sections 64 - 67*)
- (r) recovery of penalties levied under this Act; summoning of witnesses to give evidence on any matter touching this Act; penalty for failure to attend summons; offenders to be prosecuted; civil procedure issues; provision for appeals; inhabitants of the United District to be competent witnesses (*Sections 68 – 74*)
- (s) expenses and status of this Act (*Sections 75 – 76*).

5. A workhouse/house of industry was opened in March 1795 near Forden.¹³³ In 1870 the Guardians were replaced by the Forden Poor Law Union who continued to use the Forden workhouse. The workhouse later became Brynhyfryd Hospital providing care for the elderly. The site is now used as a yoga and meditation centre.

6. The 1825 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either

¹³³ Forden is near Welshpool.

from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1825 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Shropshire and Powys.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Welsh Assembly Government, Shropshire County Council, Powys County Council, the Local Government Association and the Welsh Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

7 Geo.4 c.i (1826) (Loes and Wilford Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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7 Geo.4 c.i (1826) (Loes and Wilford Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1826 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the Hundreds¹³⁴ of Loes and Wilford in the county of Suffolk. Loes and Wilford do not today exist as distinct areas. The workhouse or house of industry to which the 1826 Act related was situated at Melton, near Woodbridge in Suffolk.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1826 Act was:

to repeal Two Acts relating to the Employment of the Poor within the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, in the county of Suffolk, and to disincorporate the said Hundreds.

3. The *preamble* to the 1826 Act refers to an Act of 1791¹³⁵ which repealed an Act of 1765¹³⁶ which established *the Guardians of the Poor within the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, in the County of Suffolk* (“the Guardians”). A house of industry¹³⁷ was built in the late 1760s pursuant to that 1765 Act. The 1791 Act vested the workhouse and powers provided in the 1765 Act in a newly incorporated body of Guardians. The preamble also refers to an Act of 1810¹³⁸ which altered the powers and duties of the Guardians. The preamble states that these Acts have resulted in “Inconvenience and Increase of Expençe in the Management of the Poor...without any adequate beneficial Result, either to the Poor themselves or to the greater Number of the Parishes composing the Incorporation”. The purpose of the 1826 Act was therefore to repeal the earlier enactments and to abolish the incorporation.

4. The 1826 Act provided as follows:

- (a) the repeal of the 1791 and 1810 Acts; the abolition of the Corporation of the Guardians and the divesting of all the Corporation’s assets (*Section 1*)

¹³⁴ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

¹³⁵ 31 Geo. 3 c.72 : “An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor within the Hundreds of Loes and Wilfordm in the County of Suffolk”.

¹³⁶ 5 Geo. 3 c.97 : “An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, in the County of Suffolk”.

¹³⁷ Workhouses were commonly described as “houses of industry”.

- (b) the poor in the house of industry to be removed from there and returned to their original home parishes (*Section 2*)
- (c) nomination of Trustees for the execution of this Act; all property of the Guardians to be vested in the Trustees; all persons holding documents or money of the Guardians to account for and deliver the same to the Trustees; Trustees empowered to demand the repayment of all money owing to the Guardians; Trustees to be liable for the debts of the Guardians (*Sections 3 - 7*)
- (d) lawful for the Trustees to pull down the workhouse and to sell the materials; lawful for the Trustees to sell the workhouse and land either by public auction or private contract; purchase money to be paid to the Trustees; purchaser to have full rights of possession on payment of the purchase money and completion of the conveyance (*Sections 8 – 11*)
- (e) purchase money to be applied to discharging the costs of obtaining and executing this Act, to reimbursing the Trustees for any expenses incurred, paying the salaries of any staff employed by the Guardians and paying other debts of the Guardians, any surplus to be paid to the Overseers and Churchwardens to be applied for the relief of the poor (*Sections 12 - 13*)
- (f) legal actions by or against the Trustees; Trustees to be answerable for misapplication of the money raised; Trustees to appoint a clerk to keep the accounts of the Trustees; limited liability of Trustees under this Act (*Sections 14 – 18*)
- (g) procedure for the replacement of Trustees on their death or removal; vesting of property in new Trustees; Trustees to be indemnified for acts done in the execution of this Act; Trustees to be reimbursed for their expenses (*Sections 19 – 22*)
- (h) meetings to be held by Trustees; Trustees failing to attend three successive meetings to be deemed to have declined to act as a Trustee; process for determining disagreements amongst Trustees; accounts to be published in two local newspapers (*Sections 23 – 26*)
- (i) criminal and civil procedure issues; appeals; commencement and status of this Act (*Section 27 – 31*).

¹³⁸ 50 Geo. 3 c.119 : “An Act for amending an Act passed in the Thirty-first Year of the Reign of His Majesty, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor within the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, in the County of Suffolk”.

5. The house of industry built at Melton under the 1764 Act was closed in 1826 and its contents auctioned off. In 1829 the building became the Suffolk County Asylum for Pauper Lunatics. In 1916 the asylum became St Audrey's Hospital. Today the buildings have been converted to residential accommodation.

6. The 1826 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1826 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
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<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
7 Geo.4 c.cxli (1826) (Shrewsbury Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

7 Geo.4 c.cxli (1826) (Shrewsbury Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1826 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in Shrewsbury.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1826 Act was:

To repeal an Act of the Twenty-fourth Year of His late Majesty King George the Third, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor belonging to several Parishes within the Town of Shrewsbury, and the Liberties thereof, in the County of Salop; and to make other Provisions in lieu thereof.

3. The *preamble* to the 1826 Act refers to an Act of 1784¹³⁹ which united into one district several parishes¹⁴⁰ around Shrewsbury and incorporated *The Guardians of the Poor of several Parishes within the Town of Shrewsbury, and the Liberties thereof, in the County of Salop*. Under the 1784 Act the Shrewsbury House of Industry¹⁴¹ was built in the parish of Meole Brace and the poor of the district were maintained and provided for there. However, the provisions of the 1784 Act were found to be insufficient for the purposes for which it was intended and it was thought expedient to abolish the corporation and create a new body with the responsibility for maintaining the poor.

4. The 1826 Act provided as follows:

(a) repeal of the 1784 Act; the united district to continue and to be known as the Shrewsbury Poor United District; all rate-paying inhabitants of the District to continue as a corporation to be known as *The Guardians of the Shrewsbury Poor United District* (“The Guardians”) (*Section 1*)

(b) the house of industry and all lands belonging to the previous corporation to be vested in the Guardians; the Guardians to take on all the debts and liabilities of the previous corporation; acts and grants of the previous corporation to remain valid; books and papers of the previous corporation could be used in evidence (*Sections 2 – 4*)

¹³⁹ 24 Geo.3 Sess.2 c.15 “An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor belonging to several Parishes within the Town of Shrewsbury and the Liberties thereof, in the County of Salop”.

¹⁴⁰ These parishes were St Chad, St Mary, St Alkmond, St Julian, Holy Cross and St Giles, and Meole Brace.

¹⁴¹ Workhouses were commonly described as “Houses of Industry”.

- (c) any money or accounts belonging to the previous corporation to be delivered to the Guardians; penalty for failure to do so; certificates of settlement and bonds of security to remain at the house of industry (*Sections 5 – 7*)
- (d) Guardians to confirm their qualifications upon oath before acting as such; female Guardians may vote by proxy; present Directors of the Poor and officers of the previous corporation to remain in post until successors were appointed; 12 of the Guardians to be elected as Directors; a Treasurer and Clerk to be appointed along with officers for the daily running of the house of industry (*Sections 8 - 10*)
- (e) provision for the Guardians to hold quarterly meetings; vestries to be held annually in each parish to elect a Director from that parish; replacement of Directors on their death or removal from office; exemption from the office of Director; Overseers to deliver lists of persons nominated as Directors; provision for retirement/election of Directors by rotation; procedure for election of replacements if a person elected refused or neglected to take office; alternative procedure for election of Directors should the Overseers fail to submit a list of Guardians; Directors' oath of office; penalty for refusing to act as a Director; penalty for acting as a Director without being qualified; no act of the Directors to be invalidated due to unqualified Directors; Justices may act as such under this Act even if they are also Guardians (*Sections 11 - 21*)
- (f) provisions for weekly and special meetings of the Directors; all business of the Directors to be carried out at meetings held in pursuance of this Act with the requisite quorum; a chairman to be chosen at each meeting to have the casting vote; provision for adjourning meetings; Directors to form committees to make or repeal rules for the better regulation of the Guardians and the poor in the house of industry; penalty on Directors for failure to attend meetings and committees (*Sections 22 - 29*)
- (g) Guardians and Directors to pay their own expenses; Directors to appoint a Chaplain, a Treasurer and a Clerk and other officers for the daily running of the house of industry; such officers to be paid a salary; office of Clerk and Treasurer not to be held by the same person; Directors may appoint special constables (*Sections 30 - 34*)
- (h) Justices to act on complaints of the Directors as if made by Overseers; lawful for the Directors to make alterations or additions to the house of

industry, to furnish it and to keep it in good repair; all goods and chattels to be vested in the Guardians (*Sections 35 – 37*)

- (i) Directors to ascertain the place of settlement of the poor residing within the house of industry on 1 October 1826; if the place of settlement of a poor person cannot be determined it will be allocated to one of the parishes in the district by lottery; poor to be maintained in the house of industry at the expense of their respective parishes; such charges to be paid weekly; Overseers of the parishes may direct the poor to be sent to the house of industry; Guardians not to be compelled to receive the insane into the house of industry (*Sections 38 – 41*)
- (j) Directors vested with the care and management of the poor in the house of industry and may set the poor to work; the poor in the house to perform all work set by the Directors and obey the house rules; Directors may reward the poor for good conduct (*Sections 42 – 44*)
- (k) interest on the debts of the Guardians and any other capital costs of running the house of industry to be borne by the parishes in set proportions; salaries deemed part of the capital costs of running the house of industry (*Sections 45 – 46*)
- (l) Directors to issue warrants to Overseers to raise the sums charged to their parish; Overseers to obey the warrants and orders of the Directors; penalty on Overseers for refusal or neglect to follow the orders of the Directors; in case the Overseers fail to pay the sum required the parish was to be liable for raising the money (*Sections 47 – 49*)
- (m) accounts of the previous corporation to be made up to 1 October 1826; the balance of the general accounts to be transferred to the Guardians; future accounts to be kept by officers of the Guardians; Guardians to appoint auditors to examine the accounts of the officers; auditors to be remunerated; accounts to be passed to the Justices of the Peace for inspection; an abstract of the accounts to be lodged with the Quarter Sessions; officers in receipt of money raised under this Act to render accounts; penalty for failure to render accounts (*Sections 50 – 56*)
- (n) lawful for Guardians or Directors to compound debts; rules of the previous corporation to remain in force until repealed or altered; mortgages created by the previous corporation to be recorded; proceedings of the Directors and Guardians to be recorded (*Sections 57 – 60*)
- (o) recovery of penalties charged under this Act; civil procedure matters; appeals; ratepayers to be competent witnesses; lawful for the Guardians

to mortgage property to pay off debts; this Act not to extend to any place maintaining its own poor or to any almshouse or hospital (*Sections 61 – 71*)

(p) expenses and status of this Act (*Sections 72 – 73*).

5. The workhouse was built under the 1784 Act in the west of Shrewsbury later that year. The workhouse closed in 1871 and the building was purchased by Shrewsbury School, opening there in 1882.¹⁴² The school occupies the site to this day.

6. The 1826 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1826 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Shropshire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Shropshire County Council, Shrewsbury School and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
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¹⁴² <http://www.shrewsbury.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=features.content&cmid=124>.

1 Will. 4 c.iv (1831) (Bristol Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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1 Will. 4 c.iv (1831) (Bristol Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1831 Act passed to amend the powers of a previous Act to provide relief for the poor living in Bristol.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1831 Act was:

to alter, amend, and enlarge the Powers of an Act passed in the Third Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Fourth, for regulating the Poor of the City of Bristol, and for other Purposes connected therewith.

3. The *preamble* to the 1831 Act refers to an Act of 1822¹⁴³ which incorporated *The Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians of the Poor of the City of Bristol* (“the Guardians”). The Guardians put the 1822 Act into execution. The preamble records the fact the building in Bristol used as a poor house, being old and decayed, was unsuitable for use to house either poor persons generally or “pauper lunatics” in particular. By contrast there was a building in the parish of St Philip and Jacob in the county of Gloucester¹⁴⁴ known as the Armoury which could be converted to use for housing poor persons from Bristol including pauper lunatics. Finally the preamble records that amendment to some of the powers in the 1822 Act had proved necessary.

4. The 1831 Act provided as follows:

- (a) the powers of the 1822 Act to extend to this Act (*Section 1*)
- (b) lawful for the Guardians to purchase the Armoury and adjacent land and to convert it to use as a lunatic asylum for paupers and as a workhouse; conveyancing provisions (*Sections 2 – 9*)
- (c) lands purchased by the Guardians deemed to be within the City of Bristol; reservation of rights despite this Act (*Sections 10 – 11*)

¹⁴³ 3 Geo. 4 c.xxiv “An Act for the Employment, Maintenance, and Regulation of the Poor of the City of Bristol; and for altering the Mode of assessing the Rates for the relief of the Poor, and certain Rates authorized to be raised and levied within the said City by certain Acts, for improving the Harbour there, and for paving, pitching, cleansing, and lighting the same City; and for the Relief of the Churchwardens and Overseers from the collecting of such Rates; and for amending the act for paving, pitching, cleansing, and lighting the said City” (repealed by Bristol Rates Act 1837 c.lxxxvi s 2; Bristol Corporation Act 1897 c.ccxxx s 55).

¹⁴⁴ In 1835 the City of Bristol’s boundaries were extended so as to include additional parishes including the parish of St Philip and Jacob.

- (d) no person to gain settlement rights in the parish of Saint Philip and Jacob through the use of the lands to be purchased; the lands purchased to be rated and taxed at the same rate as they were prior to the purchase (*Sections 12 – 13*)
- (e) the senior Overseer of the precinct of the Castle in Bristol to be appointed as one of the Guardians (*Section 14*)
- (f) Guardians may dispose of any land not required for the purposes of the 1822 Act (including the existing poor house in Bristol) and apply the proceeds towards the expenses of purchasing, constructing and furnishing the workhouse (*Sections 15 – 16*)
- (g) penalty for persons refusing to act as a Guardian or officer of the Guardians; Treasurer and Clerk not to be the same person; recovery of penalties under this Act (*Sections 17 – 19*)
- (h) expenses and status of this Act (*Sections 20 – 21*).

5. In 1833 the Guardians used the powers in the 1831 Act to acquire the Stapleton workhouse at Blackberry Hill. In 1930 the building ceased to be used as a workhouse. It was later renamed the Stapleton Hospital, the Manor Park Hospital and, in 1992, the Blackberry Hill Hospital.

6. The 1831 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1831 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Bristol.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Bristol City Council, North Bristol NHS Trust and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

(32-195-455) LAW/005/018/06
July 2009

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
2 & 3 Will.4 c.x (1832) (Leicester Rates and Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.

2 & 3 Will.4 c.x (1832) (Leicester Rates and Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1832 Act passed to provide relief for the poor living in the parish of Saint Margaret in the County of Leicester.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1832 Act was:

for better assessing and collecting the Poor and other Parochial Rates, and for the better Maintenance and Employment of the Poor, of the Parish of Saint Margaret in the Borough and County of Leicester.

3. The *preamble* to the 1832 Act records that the “poor belonging [to the parish of Saint Margaret] are very numerous, and are supported at a great Expence” and it would be desirable to enhance the powers for collecting the poor rates so that “more effectual Provision should be made for the Relief, Maintenance, and Employment of the Poor of the said Parish”.

4. The 1832 Act provided as follows:
 - (a) arrears of all rates levied prior to the passing of this Act to be enforceable by the Select Vestry¹⁴⁵ appointed pursuant to this Act; all parish officers having in their possession accounts relating to the Select Vestry acting under an Act of 1819¹⁴⁶ to hand over all accounts and moneys in their possession; all persons owing money to the Select Vestry to hand it over (*Section 1*)
 - (b) rates raised under this Act to be used to pay any debts of the Select Vestry established under the 1819 Act; officers appointed under the 1819 Act to continue in office until removed by the Select Vestry executing this Act (*Sections 2 – 3*)
 - (c) election of 30 persons to be Select Vestrymen of the parish; an annual meeting to be held for this purpose; Vestrymen may be re-elected; procedure for election by majority vote if more than 30 people are nominated as Vestrymen; Vestrymen must be ratepayers; penalty for

¹⁴⁵ A select vestry was a chosen body of persons selected in large and populous English parishes to represent and manage the concerns of the parish for a period of one year.

¹⁴⁶ 59 Geo. 3 c. 12 “An Act to Amend the Laws for the Relief of the Poor”, repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1958, s 1, Sch 1.

- acting if not duly qualified; Justices of the Peace may act as Vestrymen; persons exempt from parochial office to continue to be exempt; manner of voting at Vestry meetings; only inhabitants rated at a value of £6 for a minimum of 6 months entitled to vote (*Sections 4 – 12*)
- (d) proceedings of the Select Vestry; meetings of the Select Vestry to be held in the parish workhouse; emergency meetings; Vestrymen to pay their own expenses; minutes of the Vestry meeting to be kept and made available for ratepayers to inspect (*Sections 13 – 17*)
- (e) Vestrymen to appoint a Treasurer, Clerk and other officers; officers to keep accounts of monies received and expended under this Act and to pay the money due to the Treasurer; penalty for failure to do so; in case of the death or bankruptcy of officers, their personal representatives must account to the Select Vestry (*Sections 18 – 20*)
- (f) accounts to be kept by the Vestrymen and made available for inspection by ratepayers; accounts to be audited at a Vestry meeting held for that purpose twice a year; audited accounts to be open for inspection; an abstract of the accounts to be published (*Sections 21 – 24*)
- (g) offices of Clerk and Treasurer to be held by different people; neither to be the attorney or solicitor of the parish (*Sections 25 – 26*)
- (h) collectors of the poor rate to deliver the money to the Treasurer weekly; Treasurer to make payments as directed by the Vestrymen; legal proceedings by the Select Vestry; officers not to demand any fee for doing anything under the authority of this Act (*Sections 27 - 30*)
- (i) appointment of overseers of the poor; survey to value the land in the parish; the rates to be based upon the survey valuation; no alterations to be made to the survey or valuation unless agreed upon at a Vestry meeting with 5 days notice; surveys not to be made oftener than every 7 years (*Sections 31 – 35*)
- (j) all property and goods provided by the parish for the use of the poor to be vested in the Select Vestry; Select Vestry to have all the powers of overseers of the poor; poor laws to continue in force unless altered by this Act (*Sections 36 – 38*)
- (k) Select Vestry to assess the rates for the poor,¹⁴⁷ the church¹⁴⁸ and the highways¹⁴⁹; notice to be given of all Select Vestry meetings held for the

¹⁴⁷ The parish-run poor law system was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929: see accompanying *background note*.

¹⁴⁸ Compulsory church rates were abolished in 1868: Compulsory Church Rates Abolition Act 1868.

purpose of assessing the rates; nothing in this Act to render any lands liable for church rates unless previously so liable; no poor rate, church rate or highway rate to be made or raised within the parish except pursuant to this Act; notice of the rates to be given in church (*Sections 39 - 43*)

- (l) Select Vestry empowered to alter or enlarge the present workhouse or build a new one; Vestrymen may contract for the work to enlarge the workhouse; notice to be given of such contracts; Vestrymen authorised to reach compromise in cases of breach of contract (*Sections 44 - 47*)
- (m) all lands now vested in the churchwardens or overseers of the poor to be vested in the Select Vestry (*Section 48*)
- (n) Select Vestry empowered to raise money, not exceeding £5000, on the security of the rates for the purposes of this Act; form of mortgage; mortgages transferable; form of transfer; recovery of moneys lent; money may be borrowed at a lower rate of interest in order to pay off debts with a higher interest rate (*Sections 49 – 52*)
- (o) Select Vestry to have care of the poor; Select Vestry may set the poor in the workhouse to work; poor persons from outside the parish applying for relief may be compelled to enter the workhouse; clergy to visit sick persons in the workhouse (*Sections 53 – 56*)
- (p) no vestryman to have an interest in any contracts entered into by the Select Vestry; bonds of indemnity concerning the support of illegitimate children may be paid to the Select Vestry (*Section 57- 58*)
- (q) any summons by any court concerned with a failure to provide relief to a poor person may be answered by the attendance of a Vestryman; Justices to proceed on complaint of Select Vestry as if made by an overseer (*Sections 59 – 60*)
- (r) lawful for the Select Vestry to make rules and regulations for the better governing and employment of the poor; Select Vestry to appoint the sexton of the parish; money collected for the church rates to be paid over to churchwardens; Select Vestry to appoint surveyors of the highways (*Sections 61 – 64*)

¹⁴⁹ The parish remained the body responsible for highways until 1894, when section 25 of the Local Government Act 1894 transferred all the powers of the highway authority to the district council. The cost of maintaining public highways is today governed by Part 4 of the Highways Act 1980.

- (s) churchwardens and overseers and surveyors of the highways to be compensated for any expenses incurred by them in the execution of their office (*Sections 65 – 66*)
- (t) parish rates not to be levied other than by the Select Vestry; recovery of rates from persons refusing to pay by seizing their goods or committing them to prison; recovery of rates from persons quitting a property without paying; provisions for recovering arrears from new occupiers or landlords; the person collecting rents to be deemed the landlord or owner; occupiers may be rated if they consent; goods and chattels of occupiers may be seized in cases of non-payment (*Sections 67 – 76*)
- (u) Select Vestry may correct errors in the rates and exempt any rate-payer from payment in cases of poverty; form of warrant of distress; actions for debt (*Sections 77 – 80*)
- (v) rate books to be used in evidence; penalty for obstructing the execution of this Act; Select Vestry may settle actions brought against them without going to trial; public inspection of rate books and accounts (*Sections 81 – 84*)
- (w) power to compel attendance of witnesses; recovery and application of penalties levied under this Act; damages and charges disputes; civil procedure issues; ratepayers to be competent witnesses; appeals; administration of oaths; service of notices; vestry meetings of parish inhabitants (*Sections 85 to 102*)
- (x) saving for ecclesiastical law; expenses and status of this Act (*Sections 103 – 105*).

5. A workhouse was built at Humberstone Gate in Saint Margaret's parish in Leicester in 1723, amalgamating several parish houses that had been in operation. In 1838 the newly established Leicester Poor Law Union built a new workhouse (on Sparkenhoe Street, near Conduit Street), rendering Saint Margaret's workhouse obsolete. The building was sold in 1839 and demolished in 1867.

6. The 1832 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either

from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1832 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.¹⁵⁰

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Leicestershire.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Leicestershire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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¹⁵⁰ Provisions in the 1832 Act relating to the appointment of surveyors of the highways for the parish of St Margaret (and for such surveyors to be Select Vestrymen of that parish) have already been repealed: Leicester Sewerage Act 1851 (14 & 15 Vict. c.ii), s 36.

3 & 4 Will. 4 c.ii (1833) (Bosmere and Claydon Poor Relief Act)	The whole Act.
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3 & 4 Will. 4 c.ii (1833) (Bosmere and Claydon Poor Relief Act)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1833 Act passed to grant alternative powers to provide relief for the poor living in the Hundred of Bosmere and Claydon in the County of Suffolk.¹⁵¹

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1833 Act was:

for repealing an Act passed in the Fourth Year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Third, for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Bosmere and Claydon in the County of Suffolk, and for granting more effectual Powers instead thereof.

3. The *preamble* to the 1833 Act referred to an Act of 1764¹⁵² under which lands were purchased and a house of industry¹⁵³ established in the parish of Barham where a large number of poor were being housed. The poor rates authorised by the 1764 Act had proved insufficient to repay the moneys borrowed under that Act. Moreover, according to the preamble, “the Number of the Poor within the said Hundred has of late Years greatly increased, and the said Act is found in many respects ineffectual for the Purposes thereby intended”.

4. The 1833 Act provided as follows:

- (a) the repeal of the 1764 Act (*Section 1*)
- (b) the incorporation of all the ratepayers in the Hundred as *The Guardians of the Poor within the Hundred of Bosmere and Claydon in the County of Suffolk* (“The Guardians”) (*Section 2*)
- (c) women able to act as Guardians by proxy; the Guardians not to hold lands for a term longer than five years; the workhouse and all other buildings, lands purchased or goods provided for the poor under the 1764 Act to be vested in the Guardians; the poor in the Hundred to be provided for by the Guardians; boys to be under the care of the Guardians until they reach 18, girls until they reach 16 (*Sections 3 - 5*)

¹⁵¹ The “hundred” is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

¹⁵² 4 Geo. 3 c.57 Bosmere and Claydon, Suffolk (poor relief) Act; *An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundred of Bosmere and Claydon in the County of Suffolk*.

¹⁵³ Workhouses were commonly described as “houses of industry”.

- (d) the Guardians incorporated under this Act to be liable for the obligations of the corporation formed under the 1764 Act; persons appointed under the 1764 Act to remain in post until others are appointed as directed under this Act; money in the hands of persons under the 1764 Act to be applied by them in pursuance of this Act (*Sections 6 - 8*)
- (e) provision for quarterly meetings of the Guardians; the procedure for annually electing Directors; replacement of Guardians on their death or removal; Guardians to settle their accounts at the quarterly meetings (*Sections 9 - 11*)
- (f) bye-laws made by the previous corporation to continue in force; Guardians empowered to make and repeal bye-laws (*Section 12*)
- (g) Guardians to appoint a Treasurer and a Clerk; offices of the Treasurer and Clerk not to be held by the same person; penalty for holding both offices; Guardians empowered to appoint a special constable, a Governor and Matrons for the running of the workhouse; Guardians empowered to appoint a clergyman, schoolmaster and doctor for the workhouse; officers appointed to be paid their expenses; officers to pay a security for the discharge of duties relating to their office; rewards to the Governor and Matron for the performance of their duties; Guardians may remove officers; penalty on officers for stealing from the workhouse (*Sections 13 – 22*)
- (h) Guardians to assemble committees for each quarter; smaller committees to be established for each month; quorum for meetings; Guardians to defray their own expenses for attending meetings; penalty for neglecting or refusing to hold meetings (*Sections 23 - 27*)
- (i) lawful for the Guardians to apprentice poor children for a period of up to seven years or until 21 (for a male) or 18 (for a female); a master quitting a parish while in charge of an apprentice had to sign the apprentice over to the new owner of the business; arrangements for apprentices made under the 1764 Act to remain valid; binding out of children to be recorded; apprentices ill-treated to be discharged by the Guardians and the master to be fined; apprenticeship of a child within the workhouse not to affect the settlement rights of that child (*Sections 28 – 33*)
- (j) Guardians authorised to hire out poor persons to carry out such work as bringing in the harvest; the profits from the labour of the poor to be applied in relieving the poor rates; rewards may be given to the industrious poor (*Sections 34 - 37*)

- (k) penalty for stealing or receiving the clothing or apparel provided for the poor; prohibition on bringing strong liquor into the workhouse (*Sections 38- 40*)
- (l) Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor to find and procure work for the able poor; Justices of the Peace authorised to proceed on the complaint of the Guardians; procedure for warrants issued by Justices of the Peace in pursuance of this Act (*Sections 41 - 43*)
- (m) lawful for the Guardians to give orders for the altering or enlarging of the workhouse; the same to be kept in repair; Directors and Guardians to furnish the workhouse and provide materials for employing the poor (*Sections 44 - 45*)
- (n) rates levied under this Act to be security for money borrowed; lawful for the Guardians to borrow money not exceeding £10,000; form of mortgage; form of mortgage transfer; principal of the loan to be paid off with the agreement of the majority of the Guardians with 6 months' notice; additional rate of interest payable in special circumstances (*Sections 46 - 49*)
- (o) Guardians to assess a sum of money necessary for maintaining the poor each quarter and for repaying the interest on the money borrowed under the 1764 Act; Churchwardens required to pay the sum assessed on their parish; Churchwardens to raise the money by rating the inhabitants of the parish; penalty on the Churchwardens for failure to levy or pay the rates; until March 25 1834 the sum assessed to be levied in proportion to the average sum in force before the passing of this Act (*Sections 50 - 52*)
- (p) the Clerk to divide the costs of maintaining the poor into two classes; the first class being the daily costs of maintaining the poor; the second class the capital costs of running the workhouse; the amount of the first class to be the amount levied on each parish for their quarterly contributions; the amount of the second class to be levied on the parish in proportion to their average rates existing at the time of the passing of this Act; provision for parishes to appeal against the assessment; appeals not to halt the collection of the rates (*Sections 53 - 56*)
- (q) nothing in this Act to prevent the Churchwardens from assessing and raising sums of money for other purposes; parts of the parishes not strictly within the Hundred of Bosmere and Claydon but previously charged and rated for the poor were to be deemed part of the Hundred for the purposes of this Act; expenses of procuring this Act to be paid out of the

rates; Churchwardens and Overseers to obey the warrants of the Guardians; penalty for refusal or neglect to levy the rates; provision for appeal against such penalty (*Sections 57 - 60*)

- (r) certificates of settlement given to parish officers to be delivered to the Clerk of the Guardians; paupers may be removed within the Hundred to their parish of settlement; expenses of removal to be borne by the parish removing the pauper; Guardians' books to serve as evidence of the settlement status of the poor in the workhouse; bonds indemnifying parishes from the costs of raising illegitimate children to remain valid and to continue to be issued (*Sections 61 - 65*)
- (s) fines and penalties levied under this Act to be paid to the Treasurer; legacies, donations and voluntary contributions to be received by the Treasurer (*Sections 66 - 67*)
- (t) determination of contentious issues at the meetings of the Guardians; recovery and application of penalties under this Act; Guardians and Directors not prohibited from acting as Justices of the Peace (*Sections 68-70*)
- (u) appeals; civil procedure matters; parishes of Bramford and Westerfield deemed part of the Hundred for the purposes of this Act; appointment of Overseers for those parishes; form of appointment of Overseers; all apprenticeships made under the 1764 Act to remain valid; status of this Act (*Sections 71- 79*).

5. A workhouse was built in 1766 at Barham. This workhouse was taken over by the Bosmere and Claydon Poor Law Union in 1835. The building ceased to be used as a workhouse in 1920 and accommodated Italian prisoners of war during the Second World War. In 1963 the building was demolished.

6. The 1833 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1833 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside Suffolk.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Suffolk County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
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Manchester Overseers Act 1858 (21 & 22 Vict. c.lxii)	The whole Act.
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Manchester Overseers Act 1858 (21 & 22 Vict. c.lxii)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1858 Act passed to make provision for the collection of poor and other rates in and around Manchester.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1858 Act was to provide:

for the separate Incorporation of the Overseers of the several Townships of Manchester, Ardwick, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, and Hulme for specific Purposes; for the levying and Collection of Rates; for the extinguishing the Exemption of Gasworks from Rates.

3. The *preamble* to the 1858 Act recorded that the Townships of Manchester, Ardwick, Chorlton-upon-Medlock and Hulme contained a very large population and that, because of the large population, *“it is expedient that further Powers should be given to the Overseers of each of the said Townships in respect of the Rates levied by them”*.

4. The 1858 Act provided as follows:
 - (a) Short title and application of this Act; “rate” defined to include any rate leviable by the overseers of the four townships; saving for other Acts (*sections 1 to 4*)
 - (b) Appointment of overseers of the poor for the four townships; incorporation of the overseers of each township; overseers authorised to appoint clerks and other servants with salaries payable out of the poor rates (*sections 5 and 6*)
 - (c) provision as to rating unoccupied premises; power for overseers to reach agreement with owners of low value properties for reduced rate payments; cases where owner rather than occupier might be rated; penalties on such owners; definition of “owner”; occupier’s right to be rated instead of owner; occupier to be liable for rates in certain cases of default by owner (*sections 7 to 15*)
 - (d) power of overseers to amend rates; appeals against such amendment; this Act not to affect existing tenancy agreements (*sections 16 to 18*)

- (e) provisions about summonses and notices; rate books to be balanced each year; penalty for disobeying summons; appointment of assessors and penalty for any assessor failing to carry out duties; relief from rates; recovery of penalties (*sections 19 to 29*)
- (f) repeal of provision in the *Manchester General Improvement Act 1851*¹⁵⁴ excepting gasworks from rates (*section 30*)
- (g) the expenses of obtaining this Act (*section 31*).

5. The 1858 Act has long been obsolete.¹⁵⁵ It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

6. Accordingly the 1858 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

7. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the Manchester area.

Consultation

8. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Manchester City Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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¹⁵⁴ 14 & 15 Vict. c.cxix, s 138.

¹⁵⁵ The provisions of the 1858 Act were subsequently amended or applied as they related to the overseers: Manchester Corporation Waterworks and Improvement Act 1875 (38 & 39 Vict. c.clxi), s 55; Local Government Board Provisional Order Confirmation (Poor Law) Act 1886 (49 & 50 Vict. c.xix), art 1 of Manchester and Hulme Order; Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Act 1904 (4 Edw.7 c.ccxxv), s 95(5); Local Government Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (No.13) Act 1913 (3 & 4 Geo.5 c.cxxxvii) art 16 of Manchester Extension Order.

Salisbury Poor Relief Act 1868 (31 & 32 Vict. c.cl)	The whole Act.
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Salisbury Poor Relief Act 1868 (31 & 32 Vict. c.cl)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1868 Act passed to make changes to the system of providing relief for the poor in the City of Salisbury.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1868 Act was to:

confirm a Provisional Order made by the Poor Law Board under the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, with reference to the City of Salisbury.

3. Section 2 of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1867 (“the 1867 Act”)¹⁵⁶ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a “poor law union”) or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board¹⁵⁷ (“the Board”) to repeal or amend any local Act that controlled or regulated the arrangements for poor relief or levying the poor rate in the area of that union or parish.¹⁵⁸ The Guardians of any such union or parish would apply to the Board for an order repealing or amending the local Act. The Board, if it supported the application, would issue a Provisional Order for the repeal or amendment. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

4. The purpose of the 1868 Act was therefore to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 Act. This Order, dated 10 July 1868, provided for the repeal of two Acts¹⁵⁹ providing for the relief of the poor (and for the levy of poor rates) in the parishes of St Thomas, St Edmund and St Martin in the City of New Sarum (i.e. Salisbury), the repeals to take effect on 25 March 1869. Thereupon the churchwardens and overseers of the three parishes were declared to have “the same Rights, Privileges, and Powers, and be subject to the same Liabilities and Responsibilities, as the Churchwardens and Overseers of any Parish which is not governed by any Local Act”.

¹⁵⁶ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. This Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

¹⁵⁷ The Poor Law Board was established by the Poor Law Board Act 1847 (10 & 11 Vict. c.109). The Board inherited the role of the Poor Law Commissioners in being responsible for the general management of the poor. The 1847 Act was repealed by the Poor Law Act 1927, s 245, Sch 11.

¹⁵⁸ Section 2 did not apply to parishes within London.

¹⁵⁹ 10 Geo.3 c.81 (1770); 11 Geo.4 & 1 Will.4 c.lxxvi (1830).

5. *Section 1* of the 1868 Act set out the terms of the Order and confirmed it. *Section 2* provided for the short title of the 1868 Act.

6. The 1868 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

7. Accordingly the 1868 Act is obsolete and may now be repealed on that basis.

Extent

8. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the Salisbury area.

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Wiltshire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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Poor Law Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation Act 1869 (32 & 33 Vict. c.cxxiii)	The whole Act.
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Poor Law Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation Act 1869 (32 & 33 Vict. c.cxxiii)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1869 Act passed to confirm several provisional orders made to change the system of providing relief for the poor in parts of Norfolk and Sussex.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1869 Act was to:

confirm three Provisional Orders made by the Poor Law Board under the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, with reference to the city of Chester, the incorporated hundreds of Tunstead and Happing in the county of Norfolk, and the parish of Woolavington in the county of Sussex.

3. *Section 2* of the *Poor Law Amendment Act 1867* (“the 1867 Act”)¹⁶⁰ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a “poor law union”) or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board (“the Board”) for an order to repeal or amend any local Act that controlled or regulated the arrangements for poor relief or for levying the poor rate in the area of that union or parish.¹⁶¹ *Section 3* of the 1867 Act provided a means whereby an analogous application could be made to the Board for an order to adjust the extent of (or to divide) a parish. The Guardians of any union or parish would apply to the Board for an order repealing or amending the local Act (or adjusting or dividing a parish). The Board, if it supported the application, would issue the necessary Provisional Order. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

4. The purpose of the 1869 Act was therefore to confirm Provisional Orders made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 Act. The 1869 Act confirmed three Orders.

Chester Incorporation Order

5. This Order has already been repealed.¹⁶²

¹⁶⁰ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. The Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

¹⁶¹ Section 2 did not apply to parishes within London.

¹⁶² Chester Corporation Act 1932 (22 & 23 Geo.5 c.lxxxiv), s 18(1)(b); Cheshire County Council Act 1980 (c.xiii), s 112(1), Sch 3, Pt 1.

Tunstead and Happing Incorporated Hundreds Order

6. This Order, dated 21 April 1869, provided for the repeal of two Acts¹⁶³ providing for the relief of the poor within the hundreds¹⁶⁴ of Tunstead and Happing in the county of Norfolk. The repeals were to take effect on 29 September 1869. Thereupon the churchwardens and overseers of the respective parishes were declared to have the same rights and duties as the churchwardens and overseers of any parish that was not governed by any local Act. The Order became spent once the repeals had taken effect or within a short period thereafter.

Midhurst Union (Parish of Woolavington) Order

7. This Order, dated 14 June 1869, provided for parts of the divided parish of Woolavington in Sussex to be annexed to the adjoining parishes of Fernhurst and Terwick, and for the remainder to be divided into two district parishes (to be called East Lavington and West Lavington). The Order was to take effect on 29 September 1869.

Effect of the repeal

8. The purpose of the 1869 Act was to confirm the validity of the three Orders with effect from the passing of the Act on 26 July 1869. The 1869 Act thereupon became spent except to the extent that any of the Orders continued to serve any useful purpose. The Act is proposed for repeal on that basis, subject to an appropriate saving provision to preserve the validity of the individual Orders in so far as they have any continuing utility.

Extent

9. The 1869 Act had no effect outside the areas of the Orders (Norfolk and Sussex).

Consultation

10. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Norfolk County Council, West Sussex County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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¹⁶³ 25 Geo.3 c.27 (1785); 5 Geo.4 c.i (1824).

¹⁶⁴ The "hundred" is an ancient description of groups of townships in English counties.

Poor Law Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c.lxi)	The whole Act.
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Poor Law Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c.lxi)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1871 Act passed to confirm two provisional orders made to change the system of providing relief for the poor in parts of Gloucester and Lancashire.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1871 Act was to:

confirm two Provisional Orders made by the Poor Law Board under the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, with reference to the parishes of Shipton Oliffe and Shipton Sollars in the county of Gloucester and to the parish of Dalton in the county of Lancaster.

3. *Section 3* of the *Poor Law Amendment Act 1867* (“the 1867 Act”)¹⁶⁵ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a “poor law union”) or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board (“the Board”) for an order to adjust the extent of (or to divide) a parish. The Guardians of any union or parish would apply to the Board for an order adjusting or dividing a parish. The Board, if it supported the application, would issue the necessary Provisional Order. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

4. The purpose of the 1871 Act was therefore to confirm Provisional Orders made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 Act. *Section 1* of the 1871 Act confirmed two such Orders.

Northleach Union (Shipton Oliffe and Shipton Sollars Parishes) Order

5. This Order, dated 23 February 1871, provided for the parishes of Shipton Oliffe and Shipton Sollars in the county of Gloucester to be consolidated under the name of the Parish of Shipton. The Order was to take effect on 29 September 1871.

¹⁶⁵ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. The Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

Ulverstone Union (Parish of Dalton) Order

6. This Order, dated 1 May 1871, provided for the part of the parish of Dalton in the county of Lancaster that was within the Municipal Borough of Barrow to be separated from the parish of Dalton and to constitute a separate area to be known as the Borough of Barrow. The Order was to take effect on 29 September 1871.

Effect of the repeal

7. The purpose of the 1871 Act was to confirm the validity of the two Orders with effect from the passing of the Act on 29 June 1871. The 1871 Act thereupon became spent¹⁶⁶ except to the extent that either of the Orders continued to serve any useful purpose. The Act is proposed for repeal on that basis, subject to an appropriate saving provision to preserve the validity of the individual Orders in so far as they have any continuing utility.

Extent

8. The 1871 Act had no effect outside the areas of the Orders (Gloucester and Lancashire).

Consultation

9. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Gloucestershire Council, Lancashire County Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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¹⁶⁶ The only other substantive provision in the 1871 Act was *section 2* (award of compensation for loss of employment etc as a result of the Orders).

Local Government Board's Poor Law Provisional Orders Confirmation (Oxford etc) Act 1875 (38 & 39 Vict. c.clxviii)	The whole Act.
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Local Government Board's Poor Law Provisional Orders Confirmation (Oxford etc) Act 1875 (38 & 39 Vict.c.clxviii)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1875 Act passed to make changes to the system of providing relief for the poor in Oxford, Stoke-on-Trent and Herefordshire.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1875 Act was to:

confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Local Government Board under the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, with reference to the City of Oxford, the Parish of Stoke-upon-Trent, and the Parishes of Sutton Saint Michael and Sutton Saint Nicholas in the County of Hereford.

3. *Section 2* of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1867 (“the 1867 Act”)¹⁶⁷ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a “poor law union”) or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board for an order to repeal or amend any local Act that controlled or regulated the arrangements for poor relief or for levying the poor rate in the area of that union or parish.¹⁶⁸ *Section 3* of the 1867 Act provided a means whereby an analogous application could be made to the Poor Law Board for an order to adjust the extent of (or to divide) a parish. In 1871 the functions of the Poor Law Board were taken over by the Local Government Board (“the Board”).¹⁶⁹ The Guardians of any union or parish would apply to the Board for an order repealing or amending the local Act (or adjusting or dividing a parish). The Board, if it supported the application, would issue the necessary Provisional Order. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

4. The purpose of the 1875 Act was therefore to confirm Provisional Orders made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 Act. The 1875 Act confirmed three Orders, all of

¹⁶⁷ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. The Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

¹⁶⁸ Section 2 did not apply to parishes within London.

¹⁶⁹ Local Government Board Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c.70), s 2. The Act was repealed by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986, s 1(1), Sch 1, Part 7.

which have already been repealed. It only remains for the formal repeal of the 1875 Act itself.

City of Oxford Order

5. This Order, dated 14 June 1875, provided for the amendment of a local Act¹⁷⁰ of 1854 providing for the relief of the poor in the City of Oxford (including within the University of Oxford). Following earlier partial repeals, the Order was wholly repealed in 1933.¹⁷¹

Parish of Stoke-on-Trent Order

6. This Order, dated 26 February 1875, provided for adjustments to the parishes of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme. The Order was repealed in 1983.¹⁷²

Parish of Sutton Order

7. This Order, dated 21 April 1875, provided for adjustments to the parishes of Sutton St Michael and Sutton St Nicholas in Herefordshire. The Order was repealed in 1998.¹⁷³

Remainder of the 1875 Act

8. *Section 1* of the 1875 Act confirmed the three Orders as set out in the Schedule to the Act. *Section 2* contains provisions about the Oxford Order that are either now repealed already or obsolete. *Subsection (1)* deemed Christ Church College to be one of the colleges of the University for all the purposes of the Order and this Act. The repeal of the Order in 1933 and the absence of any remaining substantive provision in this Act means that this provision is now obsolete. *Subsections (2) and (3)* were repealed in 1933.¹⁷⁴ *Subsection (4)* was an obsolete reference to the rating of buildings within the University for the purpose of poor relief. *Subsection (5)* provided that the 1854 Act, the Order and this Act were to be construed as if the name of Hertford College had been inserted in the preamble of the 1854 Act instead of the name of the Hall of St Mary Magdalene. The subsequent repeal of the 1854 Act has made this provision spent. The only remaining unrepealed provision of the 1875 Act is *section 3* which provides the short title.

¹⁷⁰ Oxford Poor Rate Act 1854 (17 & 18 Vict. c.ccxix).

¹⁷¹ Oxford Corporation Act 1933 (23 & 24 Geo.5 c.xxi), s 134, Sch 5. The earlier repeals were by the Oxford Corporation Act 1925 (15 & 16 Geo.5) (c.xxviii), s 131 and the Oxford Extension Act 1928 (18 & 19 Geo.5) (c.lxxxiv), s 84(1).

¹⁷² Staffordshire Act 1983 (c.xviii), s 78, Sch 5, Part 2.

¹⁷³ Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1998, s 1(1), Sch 1, Part 5.

¹⁷⁴ Oxford Corporation Act 1933, s 134, Sch 5.

9. It is clear that the 1875 Act has long been obsolete. It dates back to an age when relief for the poor, and the money to pay for this, was organised on a parish basis. As indicated in the accompanying *background note*, the system of parish-run poor relief was abolished by the Local Government Act 1929. The poor law system was itself finally abolished by the National Assistance Act 1948. The finance for providing the income and other support previously provided by the parish is today drawn either from funds provided by central government or raised by local government from local taxation.

10. Accordingly the 1875 Act is proposed for repeal on the basis that it is obsolete.

Extent

11. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the Oxford area.

Consultation

12. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the University of Oxford, Oxford City Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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<i>Reference</i>	<i>Extent of repeal or revocation</i>
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Local Government Board's (Poor Law) Provisional Orders Confirmation (Birmingham, etc) Act 1878 (41 & 42 Vict. c.civ)	The whole Act.
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Local Government Board's (Poor Law) Provisional Orders Confirmation (Birmingham, etc) Act 1878 (41 & 42 Vict. c.civ)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1878 Act passed to confirm several provisional orders made to change the system of providing relief for the poor in parts of Birmingham, Southampton, Lancashire, Bedfordshire, Kent and Cambridgeshire.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1878 Act was to:

confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, relating to the Parishes of Birmingham and Boldre, and to the Townships of Old Accrington and New Accrington, and certain Orders of the Local Government Board under the provisions of the Divided Parishes and Poor Law Amendment Act, 1876, relating to the Parishes of Bolnhurst, Keysoe, Little Staughton, Minster, Pertenhall, and Saint Lawrence.

3. Section 2 of the *Poor Law Amendment Act 1867* ("the 1867 Act")¹⁷⁵ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a "poor law union") or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board for an order to repeal or amend any local Act that controlled or regulated the arrangements for poor relief or for levying the poor rate in the area of that union or parish.¹⁷⁶ The functions of the Poor Law Board were taken over by the Local Government Board ("the Board") in 1871.¹⁷⁷ Section 3 of the 1867 Act provided a means whereby an analogous application could be made to the Board for an order to adjust the extent of (or to divide) a parish. The Guardians of any union or parish would apply to the Board for an order repealing or amending the local Act (or adjusting or dividing a parish). The Board, if it supported the application, would issue the necessary Provisional Order. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

¹⁷⁵ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. The Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

¹⁷⁶ Section 2 did not apply to parishes within London.

¹⁷⁷ Local Government Board Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c.70), s 2. The Act was repealed by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986, s 1(1), Sch 1, Part 7.

4. The *Divided Parishes and Poor Law Amendment Act 1876* (“the 1876 Act”)¹⁷⁸ was passed to deal with problems that had arisen through individual parishes in England being geographically divided.

5. *Section 1* of the 1876 Act applied in any case where a parish was divided so that part of it was isolated in some other parish or parishes (or otherwise detached). In such a case the Board was empowered, after making local inquiries, to make an *order* either to constitute separate parishes out of the divided parish or to amalgamate parts of the divided parish with the parish or parishes in which those parts were included. The order would take effect after not less than three months from the day that a copy of the order was sent to the overseers.

6. *Section 2* of the 1876 Act provided that if 10% of the ratepayers liable to pay the poor rate in any parish affected by a section 1 order objected to the order within the three month period specified in section 1, the order would be deemed to be a *provisional* order only. It would come into force only if confirmed by Act of Parliament.

7. *Section 3* of the 1876 Act provided that from the 25th March after-

- (a) the day that the order (if not objected to) took effect; or
- (b) (in the case of an objection) the date of Royal Assent of the Act of Parliament confirming the order,

every parish to which the order applied “shall be and continue to be constituted in the manner directed by the said order”.

8. The purpose of the 1878 Act was therefore to confirm a number of Provisional Orders made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 and 1876 Acts. The 1878 Act confirmed the following Orders.

Parish of Birmingham Order

9. This Order, dated 17 April 1878, was made pursuant to section 2 of the 1867 Act. It provided for the repeal of part of an Act of 1831 for “better regulating the Poor within the Parish of Birmingham”.¹⁷⁹ The repeal took effect on 4 July 1878. The Order thereupon became spent.

¹⁷⁸ 39 & 40 Vict. c.61. The 1876 Act was finally repealed in full by the Distress for Rates Act 1960, s 15(1), Sch 2.

Parish of Boldre Order

10. This Order, dated 6 May 1878, was made pursuant to section 3 of the 1867 Act. It provided for the parish of Boldre in the county of Southampton in Hampshire to be divided by the removal from it of the area of Sway and the creation of a separate parish of Sway. The Order was to take effect on 29 September 1878.

Townships of Old Accrington and New Accrington Order

11. This Order has already been repealed.¹⁸⁰

Parishes of Keysoe and Pertenhall Order

12. This Order, dated 9 October 1877, was made pursuant to sections 1 to 3 of the 1876 Act. It provided for the part of the parish of Pertenhall in Bedfordshire that was included within or adjoining the parish of Keysoe to be amalgamated with the parish of Keysoe. The Order was to take effect on 31 January 1878.

Parishes of Bolnhurst and Pertenhall Order

13. This Order, dated 9 October 1877, was made pursuant to sections 1 to 3 of the 1876 Act. It provided for the part of the parish of Pertenhall in Bedfordshire that was included within or adjoining the parish of Bolnhurst to be amalgamated with the parish of Bolnhurst. The Order was to take effect on 31 January 1878.

Parishes of Minster and Saint Lawrence Order

14. This Order, dated 25 January 1878, was made pursuant to sections 1 to 3 of the 1876 Act. It provided for the part of the parish of Minster in Kent that was locally included within the parish of St Lawrence to be amalgamated with the parish of St Lawrence. The Order was to take effect on 1 May 1878.

Parishes of Little Staughton and Pertenhall

15. This Order, dated 9 October 1877, was made pursuant to sections 1 to 3 of the 1876 Act. It provided for the parts of the parish of Pertenhall in Bedfordshire which were locally included within or adjoined the parish of Little Staughton to be amalgamated with the parish of Little Staughton. The Order was to take effect on 31 January 1878.

¹⁷⁹ 1 & 2 Will.4 c.lxvii. The Order provided for the repeal of part of section 32 of that Act.

¹⁸⁰ County of Lancashire Act 1984 (c.xxi), s 146(2)(b), Sch 8, Pt 1.

Effect of the repeal

16. The purpose of the 1878 Act was to confirm the validity of the various Orders with effect from the passing of the Act on 4 July 1878. The 1878 Act thereupon became spent except to the extent that any of the Orders continued to serve any useful purpose. The Act is proposed for repeal on that basis, subject to an appropriate saving provision to preserve the validity of the individual Orders in so far as they have any continuing utility.

Extent

17. The 1878 Act had no effect outside the areas of the Orders (Birmingham, Southampton, Lancashire, Bedfordshire, Kent and Cambridgeshire).

Consultation

18. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Birmingham City Council, Southampton City Council and Lancashire, Bedfordshire, Kent and Cambridgeshire County Councils and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Poor Law) Act 1879 (42 & 43 Vict. c.cvi)

The whole Act.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Poor Law) Act 1879 (42 & 43 Vict.c.cvi)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1879 Act passed to confirm several provisional orders made to change the system of providing relief for the poor in parts of Derbyshire, Greater Manchester and Plymouth.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1879 Act was to:

confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Local Government Board under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, relating to the Townships of Great Barlow and Little Barlow, the Townships of Cheadle Bulkeley and Cheadle Moseley, and the Town of Plymouth.

3. *Section 2* of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1867 (“the 1867 Act”)¹⁸¹ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a “poor law union”) or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board for an order to repeal or amend any local Act that controlled or regulated the arrangements for poor relief or for levying the poor rate in the area of that union or parish.¹⁸² *Section 3* of the 1867 Act provided a means whereby an analogous application could be made to the Poor Law Board for an order to adjust the extent of (or to divide) a parish. In 1871 the functions of the Poor Law Board were taken over by the Local Government Board (“the Board”).¹⁸³ The Guardians of any union or parish would apply to the Board for an order repealing or amending the local Act (or adjusting or dividing a parish). The Board, if it supported the application, would issue the necessary Provisional Order. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

4. The purpose of the 1879 Act was therefore to confirm Provisional Orders made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 Act. The 1879 Act confirmed three Orders.

¹⁸¹ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. The Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

¹⁸² Section 2 did not apply to parishes within London.

¹⁸³ Local Government Board Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c.70), s 2. The Act was repealed by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986, s 1(1), Sch 1, Part 7.

Townships of Great Barlow and Little Barlow Order

5. This Order, dated 2 May 1879, was made pursuant to section 3 of the 1867 Act. It provided for the townships of Great Barlow and Little Barlow to be consolidated under the name of the Township of Barlow.¹⁸⁴ The Order was to take effect on 29 September 1879.

Townships of Cheadle Bulkeley and Cheadle Moseley Order

6. This Order, dated 3 May 1879, was made pursuant to section 3 of the 1867 Act. It provided for the townships of Cheadle Bulkeley and Cheadle Moseley to be consolidated under the name of the Township of Cheadle.¹⁸⁵ The Order was to take effect on 29 September 1879.

Town of Plymouth Order

7. This Order, dated 5 May 1879, was made pursuant to section 2 of the 1867 Act. It provided for the repeal of part of an Act of 1707 for “erecting a Workhouse in the Town and Borough of Plymouth ... and for setting the Poor on work, and maintaining them there.”¹⁸⁶ The repeal took effect on 3 July 1879 (when the 1879 Act came into force). The Order thereupon became spent.

Effect of the repeal

8. The purpose of the 1879 Act was to confirm the validity of the three Orders with effect from the passing of the Act on 3 July 1879. The 1879 Act thereupon became spent except to the extent that any of the Orders continued to serve any useful purpose. The Act is proposed for repeal on that basis, subject to an appropriate saving provision to preserve the validity of the individual Orders in so far as they have any continuing utility.

Extent

9. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the areas of the Orders (Derbyshire, Greater Manchester and Plymouth).

¹⁸⁴ Barlow is near Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

¹⁸⁵ At the time Cheadle formed part of the county of Chester. Today Cheadle is in Greater Manchester.

¹⁸⁶ 6 Ann c.46. This 1707 Act was finally repealed in full by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2008, s 1(1), Sch 1, Pt 7.

Consultation

10. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Derbyshire County Council, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Plymouth City Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Poor Law) (No.7) Act 1888 (51 & 52 Vict. c.xciv)

The whole Act.

Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Poor Law) (No.7) Act 1888 (51 & 52 Vict.c.xciv)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1888 Act passed to confirm a provisional order made to change the system of providing relief for the poor in the parish of St Mary Abbots, Kensington.¹⁸⁷

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1888 Act was to:

confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, as amended by the Poor Law Amendment Act 1868, and extended by the Poor Law Act 1879, relating to the Parish of St Mary Abbots, Kensington.

3. *Section 2* of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1867 (“the 1867 Act”)¹⁸⁸ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a “poor law union”) or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board for an order to repeal or amend any local Act that controlled or regulated the arrangements for poor relief or for levying the poor rate in the area of that union or parish.¹⁸⁹ *Section 2* was amended by the Poor Law Amendment Act 1868¹⁹⁰ (so as to extend the scope of that section to parishes within London) and by the Poor Law Act 1879.¹⁹¹ In 1871 the functions of the Poor Law Board were taken over by the Local Government Board (“the Board”).¹⁹² The Guardians or churchwardens of any union or parish would apply to the Board for an order repealing or amending the local Act. The Board, if it supported the application, would issue the necessary Provisional Order. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

4. The purpose of the 1888 Act was therefore to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 Act.

¹⁸⁷ Now known as St Mary Abbots, Kensington.

¹⁸⁸ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. The Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

¹⁸⁹ Section 2 did not apply to parishes within London.

¹⁹⁰ 31 & 32 Vict. c.122, s 3. The 1868 Act was repealed by the Local Government Act 1966, ss 38, 43(2), Sch 4 para 29(1), Sch 6 Part 3.

¹⁹¹ 42 & 43 Vict. c.54, s 9. The 1879 Act was also repealed by the Local Government Act 1966 (see previous footnote as to its repeal).

¹⁹² Local Government Board Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c.70), s 2. The Act was repealed by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986, s 1(1), Sch 1, Part 7.

Parish of St Mary Abbots, Kensington Order

5. This Order, dated 17 May 1888, was made pursuant to section 2 of the 1867 Act (as amended). It provided for the repeal of a poor relief Act of 1756¹⁹³ and the partial repeal of poor relief Acts of 1777¹⁹⁴ and 1826.¹⁹⁵ The repeals took effect on 24 July 1888 (when the 1888 Act came into force). The Order thereupon became spent except in so far as it amended the unrepealed provisions of the 1777 and 1826 Acts. The repeal of the remaining provisions of those Acts by an Order in 1901¹⁹⁶ resulted in the Order becoming fully spent.

Effect of the repeal

6. The purpose of the 1888 Act was to confirm the validity of the Order with effect from the passing of the Act on 24 July 1888. The 1888 Act became spent in 1901 when the Order became fully spent. It is proposed for repeal on that basis.

Extent

9. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the Kensington areas of London.

Consultation

10. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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¹⁹³ 29 Geo.2 c 63.

¹⁹⁴ 17 Geo.3 c.64.

¹⁹⁵ 7 Geo.4 c.cxiii.

¹⁹⁶ SR & O 1901/271(L), art 6, Sch to Borough of Kensington Scheme.

Local Government Board's Provisional
Order Confirmation (Poor Law)
Act 1889 (52 & 53 Vict. c.cxviii)

The whole Act.

Local Government Board's Provisional Order Confirmation (Poor Law) Act 1889 (52 & 53 Vict.c.cxviii)

1. This note proposes the repeal of an obsolete 1889 Act passed to confirm a provisional order made to change the system of providing relief for the poor in the parish of St James, Westminster.

2. According to its long title, the purpose of the 1889 Act was to:

confirm a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board under the provisions of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1867, as amended by the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1868, and extended by the Poor Law Act 1879, relating to the Parish of St James Westminster.

3. *Section 2* of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1867 (“the 1867 Act”)¹⁹⁷ provided a means whereby a union of parishes (otherwise known as a “poor law union”) or an individual parish could apply to the Poor Law Board for an order to repeal or amend any local Act that controlled or regulated the arrangements for poor relief or for levying the poor rate in the area of that union or parish.¹⁹⁸ *Section 2* was amended by the Poor Law Amendment Act 1868¹⁹⁹ (so as to extend the scope of that section to parishes within London) and by the Poor Law Act 1879.²⁰⁰ In 1871 the functions of the Poor Law Board were taken over by the Local Government Board (“the Board”).²⁰¹ The Guardians or churchwardens of any union or parish would apply to the Board for an order repealing or amending the local Act. The Board, if it supported the application, would issue the necessary Provisional Order. Such Provisional Order would have effect only once it had been confirmed by Act of Parliament.

4. The purpose of the 1889 Act was therefore to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board pursuant to the 1867 Act.

¹⁹⁷ 30 & 31 Vict. c.106. The Act was finally repealed by the Statute Law Revision Act 1950.

¹⁹⁸ Section 2 did not apply to parishes within London.

¹⁹⁹ 31 & 32 Vict. c.122, s 3. The 1868 Act was repealed by the Local Government Act 1966, ss 38, 43(2), Sch 4 para 29(1), Sch 6 Part 3.

²⁰⁰ 42 & 43 Vict. c.54, s 9. The 1879 Act was also repealed by the Local Government Act 1966 (see previous footnote as to its repeal).

Parish of St James, Westminster Order

5. This Order, dated 4 June 1889, was made pursuant to section 2 of the 1867 Act (as amended). It provided for the partial repeal of a poor relief Act of 1762²⁰² and the partial repeal of a poor relief Act of 1816.²⁰³ The repeals took effect on 26 July 1889 (when the 1889 Act came into force). The Order thereupon became spent except in so far as it amended the unrepealed provisions of the 1762 and 1816 Acts. The repeal of the remaining provisions of those Acts by the City of Westminster (St James) Scheme 1901²⁰⁴ resulted in the Order becoming fully spent.

Effect of the repeal

6. The purpose of the 1889 Act was to confirm the validity of the Order with effect from the passing of the Act on 26 July 1889. The 1889 Act became spent in 1901 when the Order became fully spent. It is proposed for repeal on that basis.

Extent

9. The provisions proposed for repeal had no effect outside the City of Westminster.

Consultation

10. HM Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Work and Pensions, Westminster City Council and the Local Government Association have been consulted about these repeal proposals.

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²⁰¹ Local Government Board Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c.70), s 2. The Act was repealed by the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986, s 1(1), Sch 1, Part 7.

²⁰² 2 Geo.3 c 58.

²⁰³ 56 Geo.3 c.liv.

²⁰⁴ SR & O 1901/278(L), art 5, Sch 1 to City of Westminster (St James) Scheme 1901.