

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON (LEASES) BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTES

What these notes do

These Explanatory Notes relate to the Zoological Society of London (Leases) Bill as brought from the House of Commons on 22 April 2024 (HL Bill 64).

- These Explanatory Notes have been provided by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with the consent of Lord Randall of Uxbridge, the Peer in Charge of the Bill, in order to assist the reader of the Bill and to help inform debate on it. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- These Explanatory Notes explain what each part of the Bill will mean in practice; provide background information on the development of policy; and provide additional information on how the Bill will affect existing legislation in this area.
- These Explanatory Notes might best be read alongside the Bill. They are not, and are not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Bill.

Table of Contents

| Subject | Page of these Notes |
|---|----------------------------|
| Overview of the Bill | 2 |
| Policy background | 2 |
| Legal background | 2 |
| Territorial extent and application | 2 |
| Commentary on provisions of Bill | 2 |
| Commencement | 2 |
| Financial implications of the Bill | 3 |
| Parliamentary approval for financial costs or for charges imposed | 3 |
| Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights | 3 |
| Annex A – Territorial extent and application in the United Kingdom | 4 |

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Overview of the Bill

- 1 The Bill amends section 7 of the Crown Estate Act 1961, to increase the maximum term of the Zoological Society of London's lease to occupy land in Regent's Park from 60 to 150 years.

Policy background

- 2 Under the current provisions of the Crown Estate Act 1961, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport grants a lease to the Zoological Society of London to occupy land in Regent's Park. Under the terms of the Crown Estate Act 1961, the maximum term of the lease can be no more than 60 years. The lease was most recently renewed in 2021 and is currently due to end in 2081.
- 3 The amendment to the Crown Estate Act 1961 would not automatically grant the Zoological Society of London a lease of 150 years, but would enable the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to offer a lease of this length in future.

Legal background

- 4 The Zoological Society of London is a registered international conservation charity, which has maintained and run London Zoo since 1826.
- 5 Under the terms of the Crown Estates Act 1961, the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport manages the land occupied by the Zoological Society of London in Regent's Park, on behalf of the Crown. King's Consent will need to be secured as it relates to activity on Crown land.
- 6 An amendment is proposed to the maximum term of the lease to be granted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, from 60 to 150 years.

Territorial extent and application

- 7 The Bill extends to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, due to the Crown Estates Act 1961 extending UK-wide. However, the application is in England only.
- 8 The table in Annex A summarises the position regarding territorial extent and application in the United Kingdom.

Commentary on provisions of Bill

- 9 The Bill has two clauses; these amend section 7 of the Crown Estate Act 1961 to extend the maximum lease term available for the Zoological Society of London to occupy Regent's Park from 60 to 150 years and to detail the Bill's extent and commencement.

Commencement

- 10 The Act will come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.

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Financial implications of the Bill

- 11 This Bill does not entail any additional public expenditure nor does it have any financial implications for the Government or sponsoring Departments.

Parliamentary approval for financial costs or for charges imposed

- 12 The Bill does not require either a money resolution or a ways and means resolution.

Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights

- 13 Private Members' Bills do not require human rights statements. However, the Government's view is that the provisions of the Bill are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Annex A – Territorial extent and application in the United Kingdom

14 The functions of the Crown Estates Act 1961 extend UK wide and therefore the amendment of this clause within the Act to extend the maximum lease term for the Zoological Society of London in Regent’s Park, extends UK wide.¹

| Provision | Extends to E & W and applies to England? | Extends to E & W and applies to Wales? | Extends and applies to Scotland? | Extends and applies to Northern Ireland? | Would corresponding provision be within the competence of the National Assembly for Wales? | Would corresponding provision be within the competence of the Scottish Parliament? | Would corresponding provision be within the competence of the Northern Ireland Assembly? | Legislative Consent Motion needed? |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Clause 1 | Yes | Extends to Wales but England application only. | Extends to Scotland but England application only. | Extends to NI but England application only. | N/A | N/A | N/A | No |

¹ References in this Annex to a provision being within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales or the Northern Ireland Assembly are to the provision being within the legislative competence of the relevant devolved legislature for the purposes of Standing Order No. 83J of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business.

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