

CROWN ESTATE BILL [HL]

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON COMMONS AMENDMENTS

What these notes do

These Explanatory Notes relate to the Commons Amendments to the Crown Estate Bill [HL] as brought from the House of Commons on 25 February 2025 (HL Bill 74).

- These Explanatory Notes relate to Commons Amendments made to the Crown Estate Bill [HL] as brought from the House of Commons on 25 February 2025 (HL Bill 74).
- These Explanatory Notes have been prepared by HM Treasury in order to assist the reader in understanding the Bill. They do not form part of the Bill and have not been endorsed by Parliament.
- These Explanatory Notes, like the Commons Amendments themselves, refer to Bill 135, the Bill as first printed for the Commons.
- These Explanatory Notes need to be read in conjunction with the Commons Amendments and the text of the Bill. They are not, and are not intended to be, a comprehensive description of the Commons Amendments.
- Commons Amendments 1, 2 and 3 were tabled in the name of the Minister, James Murray MP.

Table of Contents

Subject	Page of these Notes
Commentary on Commons Amendments	2
Commons Amendment 1: addition of new clause on the Territorial Seabed	2
Commons Amendment 2: removal of Clause 5 on Salmon farms on The Crown	2
Estate Commons Amendment 3: removal of Section 7(4) Privilege Amendment	2
Financial effects of Commons Amendments	2

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Commentary on Commons Amendments

Commons Amendment 1: addition of new clause on the Territorial Seabed

- 1 This new clause inserts a new section 3B into the Crown Estate Act 1961. Without the consent of the Treasury, new section 3B(1) prevents the Crown Estate Commissioners from permanently disposing of any part of the territorial seabed, or any interest, right or privilege over or in relation to that seabed, which forms part of the Crown Estate. Section 3B(2) provides that any purported disposal of that kind is void without Treasury consent. Section 3B(3) defines the territorial seabed for those purposes as the seabed and subsoil within the seaward limits of the United Kingdom territorial waters.
- 2 The intention of new section 3B is to capture permanent disposals of, or in relation to, the territorial seabed. New section 3B will not, therefore, apply to licences or leases which are granted by the Commissioners in relation to that seabed, for example, leases in relation to offshore renewables.

Commons Amendment 2: removal of Clause 5 on Salmon farms on The Crown Estate

- 3 This is an amendment that removes Clause 5 of the Bill, as brought from the House of Lords, on salmon farming.

Commons Amendment 3: removal of Section 7(4) Privilege Amendment

- 4 This amendment removes the privilege amendment added to the Bill by the Lords.

Financial effects of Commons Amendments

- 5 The Department does not consider that any of the Commons amendments give rise to any significant expenditure.

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