

Commission for the Compact Bill

CONTENTS

- 1 Commission for the Compact
- 2 Functions of the Commission
- 3 Inquiries initiated by Commission
- 4 Annual Reports
- 5 Expenses
- 6 Short title, commencement and extent

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TO

Place the Commission for the Compact on a statutory basis; to confer powers on the Commission; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Commission for the Compact

- (1) There shall be a Commission for the Compact (“the Commission”).
- (2) The Commission shall be a corporation sole, by the name of the “Commission for the Compact”.
- (3) The Commission shall be composed of a Commissioner for the Compact and at least four other members. 5
- (4) The Commissioner for the Compact shall chair the Commission.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall appoint the Commissioner for the Compact and the other members of the Commission.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall determine the duration and terms of appointments made under this section. 10
- (7) *The Secretary of State may make payments to the Commissioner by way of remuneration and make payments to other members of the Commission in respect of expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.*
- (8) *The Secretary of State may also defray any other expenses of the Commission.* 15

2 Functions of the Commission

- (1) The Commission has the function of promoting and strengthening cooperation between statutory bodies and voluntary and community organisations in accordance with the Compact on relations between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector in England and associated codes (“the Compact”). 20

- (2) The Commission may in particular under this section –
- (a) promote awareness and understanding of the Commission and its work, and adherence to the principles, practices and undertakings set out in the Compact and followed by statutory bodies and by voluntary and community organisations in their relations with each other; 5
 - (b) take steps to ensure that the Compact remains consistent with the law and with any relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
 - (c) carry out research into the operation of the Compact and the results of adherence to the Compact by statutory bodies and voluntary and community organisations and to publish and disseminate the results of any such research. 10
 - (d) carry out inquiries in accordance with section 3.
- (3) In performing its functions, the Commission shall –
- (a) take steps to avoid duplicating the work of any other body or person; and 15
 - (b) have regard to the need to use its resources in the most efficient, effective and economical way.

3 Inquiries initiated by Commission

- (1) Where it appears to the Commission that an action by a statutory body or voluntary or community organisation is inconsistent with Compact principles and raises issues of public policy, it may hold an inquiry into that case for the purpose of discovering facts and making recommendations. 20
- (2) The Commission may only conduct an inquiry under this section if it is satisfied that the inquiry would not duplicate the work of another person or organisation (having consulted such persons as it considers appropriate). 25
- (3) The Commission shall publish guidelines specifying the principles and procedures governing the conduct of its inquiries under this section.
- (4) In the course of an inquiry, the Commission may require any person or organisation to give the Commission any information and documents that it reasonably requests for the purposes of the inquiry and that are relevant to the matter under inquiry; and the person or organisation shall take all reasonable steps to comply with such a request. 30
- (5) As soon as practicable after completing an inquiry under this section, the Commission must submit a report to the Secretary of State containing any recommendations that the Commission thinks necessary or desirable for the purpose of promoting and strengthening cooperation between statutory bodies and voluntary and community organisations in accordance with the Compact. 35
- (6) The Commission must publish any report completed under this section not more than two weeks after its submission to the Secretary of State. 40
- (7) Where the Commission has published a report under this section containing recommendations in respect of any person or body, the Commission may request that person or body to state in writing, within such period as the Commission may reasonably require, what action the person or body has taken or proposes to take in response to the recommendations; and that person or body shall take all reasonable steps to respond to such a request. 45

4 Annual Reports

- (1) As soon as is practicable after the end of each financial year the Commission must make a report on –
 - (a) the way in which it discharged its functions under this Act, other than the function of holding inquiries under section 3; 5
 - (b) any conclusions it has reached in the course of exercising its functions during the year; and
 - (c) any matters it plans to consider or investigate in the following financial year.
- (2) Where the Commission makes a report under this section it must send a copy of the Secretary of State, who must as soon as is reasonably practicable lay a copy before each House of Parliament and publish it. 10

5 Expenses

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –

- (a) *any sums to be paid by the Secretary of State for or in connection with the carrying out of functions under this Act; and* 15
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which are payable out of money so provided under any other Act.*

6 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Commission on the Compact Act 2009. 20
- (2) This Act comes into force on the day following the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England only.

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To place the Commission for the Compact on a statutory basis; to confer powers on the Commission; and for connected purposes.

*Ordered to be brought in by Tom Levitt,
Liz Blackman, Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods,
Mr David Blunkett, Mr Tim Boswell,
Richard Burden, Mr David Drew,
Mr Robert Ffello, Fiona Mactaggart,
Alun Michael, Dan Rogerson and Andrew Selous.*

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