



# National Health Service Act 1977

## 1977 CHAPTER 49

An Act to consolidate certain provisions relating to the health service for England and Wales; and to repeal certain enactments relating to the health service which have ceased to have any effect. [29th July 1977]

### Extent Information

**E1** For the extent of this Act see [s. 130](#)

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Act modified (27.8.2002) by [National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002](#) (c. 17), s. 25(4), [Sch. 7 para. 5\(2\)](#); S.I. 2002/2202, [art. 2\(1\)](#)  
Act modified (1.1.2003 for E.) by [National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002](#) (c. 17), s. 20(11), [Sch. 6 para. 6\(2\)](#); S.I. 2002/3190, [art. 2\(2\)](#)
- C2** Act explained by [Health Services Act 1980](#) (c. 53, SIF 113:2), [s. 1\(5\)](#)
- C3** Act modified by [Mental Health Act 1983](#) (c. 20, SIF 85), [ss. 122\(2\)](#), 131(1)
- C4** Power to amend Act conferred by [Health Services Act 1980](#) (c. 53, SIF 113:2), [s. 1\(8\)](#) and [Health and Social Security Act 1984](#) (c. 48, SIF 113:1), [s. 28\(2\)](#)
- C5** Act: definition of "health authority" restricted by [National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990](#) (c. 19, SIF 113:2), [s. 2\(6\)](#)
- C6** Power to modify conferred by [National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990](#) (c. 19, SIF 113:2), [s. 23\(8\)](#)
- C7** Power to modify conferred (1.4.1991) by [National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990](#) (c. 19, SIF 113:2), [s. 17\(3\)](#)
- C8** Act extended by S.I. 1991/1236, [art. 2](#) which revoked S.I. 1991/577 on 23.5.1991
- C9** Act modified (1.4.1992) by S.I. 1992/635, [reg. 25\(16\)](#).  
Act applied (28.6.1995 for specified purposes and otherwise 1.4.1996) by 1968 c. 46, [s. 63\(8A\)](#) (as inserted (28.6.1995 for specified purposes and otherwise 1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 17, [ss. 2\(1\)\(3\)](#), 8(1), [Sch. 1 para. 95\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 2 para. 6](#)))  
Act extended (15.8.1997) by 1997 c. 46, [s. 9\(1\)](#); S.I. 1997/1780, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch.](#)  
Act modified (15.8.1997) by 1997 c. 46, [s. 9\(2\)](#); S.I. 1997/1780, [art. 2\(1\)](#), [Sch.](#)  
Act: power to restrict conferred (1.4.1998) by 1997 c. 46, s. 13(9), [Sch. 1 para. 4\(1\)\(b\)\(i\)\(2\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 1998/631, [art. 2\(1\)\(a\)](#), [Sch. 1](#)  
Act (with specified exceptions): transfer of functions (W.) (1.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/672, [art. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#) (as amended (30.6.1999) by 1999 c. 8, [ss. 66\(4\)\(5\)](#), 67(4))

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**Changes to legislation:** There are outstanding changes not yet made by the [legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk) editorial team to National Health Service Act 1977. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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Act: power to modify conferred (15.3.2000) by 1999 c. 8, s. 61(1)(2); S.I. 2000/779, art. 2(1)  
 Act: power to modify conferred (15.3.2000) by 1999 c. 8, s. 60(4), Sch. 3 para. 11(2)(a)(c)(d)(3); S.I. 2000/779, art. 2(1)

Act construed with 1997 c. 46, Pt. I (E.W.) (21.3.1997) by 1997 c. 46, s. 40(1)(a)

Act: amended (8.2.2000) by S.I. 2000/89, reg. 12(1)

Act: restricted (1.4.2000) by S.I. 2000/695, reg. 3(6)

- C10** By Criminal Justice Act 1991 (c. 53, SIF 39:1), s. 101(1), Sch. 12 para. 23; S.I. 1991/2208, art. 2(1), Sch. 1 it is provided (14.10.1991) that in relation to any time before the commencement of s. 70 of that 1991 Act (which came into force on 1.10.1992 by S.I. 1992/333, art. 2(2), Sch. 2) references in any enactment amended by that 1991 act, to youth courts shall be construed as references to juvenile courts.
- C11** Act: modified as to exercise of functions of a Health Authority (E.) (1.4.2001) by S.I. 2001/747, regs. 5(1), 6(3)(a)(b)
- C12** Act applied in part (8.3.2002 for E. and 1.7.2002 for W.) by 2001 c. 15, s. 36(1)(1A), 70(2) (with ss. 64(9), 65(4)) (as s. 36 is amended (1.10.2002) by 2002 c. 17, s. 4(2); S.I. 2002/2478, art. 3(1)(a)); S.I. 2002/1095, art. 2(4); S.I. 2002/1475, art. 2(1), Sch. Pt. I
- C13** Act applied (with modifications) (8.3.2002 for E. and 1.7.2002 for W.) by 2001 c. 15, s. 36(2) (with ss. 64(9), 65(4)); S.I. 2002/1095, art. 2(4); S.I. 2002/1475, art. 2(1), Sch. Pt. I

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Act modified by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 7 para. 3\(7\)](#)
- Act repealed by [2006 c. 43 Sch. 4](#)

**Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):**

- s. 3(4) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 8](#)
- s. 3(4)(a) words substituted by [2006 c. 28 Sch. 8 para. 7\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 3(4)(b) modified by [S.I. 2004/865 art. 109\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 3(4)(b) words substituted by [2006 c. 28 Sch. 8 para. 7\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 8(9)(10) added by [2006 c. 28 s. 74\(1\)](#)
- s. 11(4A)(4B) inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 74\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 16B(4) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 182\(1\)](#)
- s. 16BC(4) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 182\(2\)](#)
- s. 16CA and heading inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 170](#)
- s. 16CB inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 171\(1\)](#)
- s. 16CC inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 174](#)
- s. 16CD16CE inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 37](#)
- s. 19A(2)(aa) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 9 para. 9](#)
- s. 20A inserted by [2003 c. 4 s. 1\(1\)](#)
- s. 21(4) inserted by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 9](#)
- s. 22(1A)(e) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 4 para. 25](#)
- s. 28D(1)(b)-(bc) substituted for s. 28D(1)(b)(c) by [2003 c. 43 s. 177\(2\)](#)
- s. 28D(1)(bc)(i) modified by [S.I. 2004/865 art. 109\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 28D(1)(bc)(iii) words substituted by [S.I. 2004/957 Sch. para. 3](#)
- s. 28D(1A) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 177\(3\)](#)
- s. 28E(3)(ca) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 177\(7\)](#)
- s. 28E(3A)(3B) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 177\(8\)](#)
- s. 28E(3C) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 177\(9\)](#)
- s. 28E(3D) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 177\(10\)](#)
- s. 28E(3E)(3F) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 177\(11\)](#)
- s. 28K-28P and heading inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 172\(1\)](#)
- s. 28M(4) words substituted by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 16](#)
- s. 28Q-28W and heading(s) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 175\(1\)](#)
- s. 28W(5) applied by [S.I. 2004/478 reg. 100\(3\)](#)
- s. 28W(5) applied by [S.I. 2004/478 Sch. 6 para. 100\(3\)](#)
- s. 28X applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2006/552 Sch. 1 para. 4](#)
- s. 28X inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 179\(1\)](#)
- s. 28X heading words substituted by [2006 c. 28 s. 39\(5\)](#)
- s. 28X(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 17\(a\)](#)
- s. 28X(2A) inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 39\(2\)](#)
- s. 28X(3)(b) words substituted by [2006 c. 28 s. 39\(3\)](#)
- s. 28X(3)(c) added by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 17\(b\)](#)
- s. 28X(6A) inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 39\(4\)](#)
- s. 28Y inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 180](#)
- s. 28Y(1) applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2006/552 Sch. 1 para. 5](#)
- s. 28Y(1)(a) substituted by [2006 c. 28 s. 40\(2\)](#)
- s. 28Y(1)(b) words substituted by [2006 c. 28 s. 40\(3\)](#)
- s. 28Y(1)(c) added by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 18](#)
- s. 28WA-28WF and cross-heading inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 38](#)
- s. 29-34A repealed by [2003 c. 43 s. 175\(2\)Sch. 14 Pt. 4](#)

- s. 34A inserted by [1997 c. 46 s. 25\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 25(1) repealed (1.4.2004) without ever being in force by Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (c. 43), s. 199(1) (4), Sch. 14 Pt. 4 Note; S.I. 2004/288, art. 6(2)(p) (with art. 8) (as amended by S.I. 2004/866 and S.I. 2005/2925); S.I. 2004/480, art. 5(2)(p) (with arts. 6, 7) (as amended by S.I. 2004/1019 and S.I. 2006/345))
- s. 35(3)-(3B) substituted for s. 35(3) by [S.I. 2005/2011 Sch. 6 para. 1\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on a day to be specified in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes (see, for example, the London Gazette, issue nos. 57734, 57975, 58050 and 58769, dated respectively 19.8.2005, 5.6.2006, 21.7.2006 and 18.7.2008))
- s. 42(2A) inserted by [2001 c. 15 s. 40\(3\)](#)
- s. 42(2B)(2C) inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 35](#)
- s. 42A42B inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 34\(1\)](#)
- s. 43(4)(5) added by [1997 c. 19 Sch. para. 6](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). 1997 c. 19 repealed (30.3.2007) by S.I. 2007/289, art. 1(2)(3), Sch. 1 para. 6; commencing date as notified in The Gazette, published 23.3.2007)
- s. 43A inserted by [1984 c. 48 s. 7\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 7(1) repealed (1.3.2007 immediately before the National Health Service Act 2006 comes into force) without ever being in force by National Health Service (Pre - consolidation Amendments) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1407), art. 1(1), Sch. 2 (with art. 4))
- s. 43A43B substituted by [1999 c. 8 s. 10\(1\)\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 10 repealed (1.3.2007) without ever being in force by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006 (c. 43), ss. 6, 8(2), Sch. 4 (with Sch. 2 Pt. 1))
- s. 43A43B substituted by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 19](#)
- s. 43A(3) repealed by [1997 c. 46 Sch. 2 para. 77](#)[Sch. 3 Pt. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 2 para. 77 repealed (E.W.) (1.3.2007 immediately before the National Health Service Act 2006 comes into force) without ever being in force by The National Health Service (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1407), art. 1(1), Sch. 2 (with art. 4))
- s. 43B added by [1984 c. 48 s. 7\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 7(3) repealed to the extent that it inserts section 43B of the National Health Service Act 1977 (1.3.2007 immediately before the National Health Service Act 2006 comes into force) without that amendment ever being in force by National Health Service (Pre - consolidation Amendments) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1407), art. 1(1), Sch. 2 (with art. 4))
- s. 44(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 20\(c\)](#)
- s. 45A45B inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 23](#)
- s. 45A(3) modified by [S.I. 2004/865 art. 109\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 45A(3)(a) word repealed by [2006 c. 28 Sch. 8 para. 17\(2\)](#)[Sch. 9](#)
- s. 45A(3)(aa) inserted by [2006 c. 28 Sch. 8 para. 17\(2\)](#)
- s. 45A(4) modified by [S.I. 2004/865 art. 109\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 45A(4)(a) substituted by [2006 c. 28 Sch. 8 para. 17\(3\)](#)
- s. 45A(11) modified by [S.I. 2004/865 art. 109\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 45C inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 41](#)
- s. 46-46C substituted for s. 46 by [1999 c. 8 s. 40\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 40 repealed by 2001 c. 15, ss. 67, 70(2), Sch. 6 Pt. 1 (with ss. 64(a), 65(4)), the repeal coming into force immediately before the coming into force of the National Health Service Act 2006 (c. 41) (as to which see s. 227 of that 2006 Act) by virtue of The National Health Service (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1407), arts. 1(1), 2, Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 8(c))
- s. 54(1)(c) and word(s) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 26\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 54(1)(c) modified by [S.I. 2004/865 art. 109\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 72(5)(d) and word(s) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 27\(2\)](#)
- s. 72(5)(d) modified by [S.I. 2004/865 art. 109\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 72(5)(d) words substituted by [2006 c. 28 Sch. 8 para. 21\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 72(5)(d) words substituted by [2006 c. 28 Sch. 8 para. 21\(b\)\(ii\)](#)

- s. 77(4) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 28](#)
- s. 78A inserted by [1997 c. 46 s. 26\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 26(1) repealed (1.3.2007) without ever being in force by National Health Service (Consequential Provisions) Act 2006 (c. 43), s. 8(2), Sch. 4 (with Sch. 2 Pt. 1 Sch. 3 Pt. 1))
- s. 79(5)(b) modified by [2003 c. 43 s. 183\(4\)](#)
- s. 96(4) added by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 27](#)
- s. 96A(12) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 4 para. 37](#)
- s. 98(1A)-(1C) inserted by [S.I. 2003/1324 Sch. 2 para. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 98(1A) substituted by [S.I. 2004/1714 Sch. 2 para. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 98(1A)(e) inserted by [S.I. 2006/960 Sch. 2 para. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 98(1C) words inserted by [S.I. 2004/1714 Sch. 2 para. 1\(4\)](#)
- s. 98(1C) words substituted by [S.I. 2006/960 Sch. 2 para. 1\(4\)](#)
- s. 98(1D) inserted by [2004 c. 23 Sch. 2 para. 2](#)
- s. 98(1BA)(1BB) inserted by [S.I. 2004/1714 Sch. 2 para. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 98(1BC) inserted by [S.I. 2006/960 Sch. 2 para. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 98(4A) inserted by [S.I. 2003/1324 Sch. 2 para. 1\(4\)](#)
- s. 98(7)-(10) inserted by [S.I. 2005/1074 art. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 103(4)(5) inserted by [2001 c. 15 Sch. 5 para. 5\(12\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 5 para. 5(12)(c) repealed (1.3.2007) without ever being in force by 2006 c. 43, s. 8(2), Sch. 4 (with Sch. 2 Pt. 1, Sch. 3 Pt. 1))
- s. 124A(3)(aa) inserted by [2002 c. 38 Sch. 3 para. 20](#)
- s. 126(1A) inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 183\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 126(4A) inserted by [2001 c. 15 Sch. 5 para. 5\(13\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). Sch. 5 para. 5(13)(c) repealed (1.3.2007) without ever being in force by 2006 c. 43, s. 8(2), Sch. 4 (with Sch. 2 Pt. 1, Sch. 3 Pt. 1))
- s. 126(4A) inserted by [2003 c. 4 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 5 para. 12B inserted by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 39\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 5 para. 10(2A)-(2C) substituted for Sch. 5 para. 10(2A) by [S.I. 2005/2011 Sch. 6 para. 1\(4\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on a day to be specified in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes (see, for example, the London Gazette, issue nos. 57734, 57975, 58050 and 58769, dated respectively 19.8.2005, 5.6.2006, 21.7.2006 and 18.7.2008))
- Sch. 5A para. 20(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 74\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 5B para. 19(1A) inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 74\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 7A inserted by [2003 c. 4 s. 1\(3\)Sch. 1](#)
- Sch. 7A para. 3(1)(fa) inserted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 40\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 7A para. 3(1)(g) words repealed by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 40\(2\)\(b\)Sch. 14 Pt. 4](#)
- Sch. 7A para. 3(2) words substituted by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 40\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 9A para. 10(a)(aa) substituted for s. Sch. 9A para. 10(a) by [2003 c. 43 Sch. 11 para. 42\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 9A para. 6(d)(i)(ii) substituted for words in para. 6(d) by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 40\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 11 para. 5A inserted by [S.I. 2004/3363 art. 7](#)
- Sch. 12 para. 2A(6) added by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 1 para. 42\(g\)](#)
- Sch. 12 para. 2B amendment to earlier affecting provision 2006 c. 28, s. 41(3) by [S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 15](#) (The earlier affecting provision cited is incorrect. The correct provision should be s. 42(3).)
- Sch. 12 para. 2B inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 42\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 12 para. 2A(1)(b)(ba) substituted for Sch. 12 para. 2A(1)(b) by [2006 c. 28 s. 42\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 12A para. 7(4) inserted by [2001 c. 15 Sch. 5 para. 5\(17\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 12B inserted by [2006 c. 28 s. 56\(2\)Sch. 3](#)
- Sch. 12ZA inserted by [2003 c. 43 s. 183\(2\)](#)

**Commencement Orders yet to be applied to the National Health Service Act 1977**

## Commencement Orders bringing legislation that affects this Act into force:

- S.I. 2003/53 art. 2-4 commences (2001 c. 15)
- S.I. 2003/713 art. 2 commences (2001 c. 15)
- S.I. 2003/833 art. 23 commences (2002 c. 17)
- S.I. 2003/2245 art. 2 commences (2001 c. 15)
- S.I. 2003/2246 art. 2 commences (2002 c. 17)
- S.I. 2003/2660 art. 2-4 commences (2003 c. 4)
- S.I. 2003/3064 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 4)
- S.I. 2003/3083 art. 2 commences (2002 c. 17)
- S.I. 2003/3346 art. 2-5 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2004/103 art. 2-4 commences (2001 c. 15)
- S.I. 2004/287 art. 23 commences (1997 c. 46)
- S.I. 2004/288 art. 2-6 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2004/289 art. 2 commences (1998 c. 8)
- S.I. 2004/480 art. 2-5 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2004/759 art. 2-13 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2004/874 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 42)
- S.I. 2004/1009 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2004/1019 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2004/1859 art. 2-6 commences (1999 c. 8)
- S.I. 2004/2626 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2005/457 art. 2 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2005/558 art. 2Sch. 1 commences (2004 c. 23)
- S.I. 2005/1432 art. 2 commences (2005 c. 12)
- S.I. 2005/2213 art. 23 commences (2002 c. 38)
- S.I. 2005/2800 art. 3-5 commences (2005 c. 10)
- S.I. 2005/2897 art. 2 commences (2002 c. 38)
- S.I. 2005/2925 art. 24-11 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2005/2926 art. 23 commences (1997 c. 46)
- S.I. 2006/345 art. 2-7 commences (2003 c. 43)
- S.I. 2006/481 art. 23 commences (2001 c. 15)
- S.I. 2006/1014 art. 2Sch. 12 commences (2005 c. 4)
- S.I. 2006/1407 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 para. 3681213 commences (1997 c. 46)
- S.I. 2006/2603 art. 2-5 commences (2006 c. 28)
- S.I. 2006/3125 art. 2-4 commences (2006 c. 28)
- S.I. 2007/204 art. 2-4 commences (2006 c. 28)
- S.I. 2008/1972 art. 2 commences (2006 c. 28)