

These notes refer to the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002 (c.17) which received Royal Assent on 25 June 2002

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE REFORM AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS ACT 2002

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 2: Health care professions

The Council for the Regulation of Health Care Professionals

Sections 25 to 29: The Council for the Regulation of Health Care Professionals

132. Parliament has established statutory frameworks for a number of health care professions within which the professions regulate themselves. For the most part there are separate enactments for each professional group (doctors; dentists; nurses, midwives and health visitors; opticians; pharmacists; osteopaths; chiropractors and the twelve professions coming within the remit of the Health Professions Council). Each of these groups has its own regulatory body operating within its own legal framework:
- The General Medical Council – Medical Act 1983
 - The General Dental Council – Dentists Act 1984
 - The Nursing and Midwifery Council – Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001
 - The General Optical Council – Opticians Act 1989
 - The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain – Pharmacy Act 1954, Medicines Act 1968 (and in Northern Ireland, The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland – Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976
 - The General Osteopaths Council – Osteopaths Act 1993
 - The General Chiropractic Council – Chiropractors Act 1994
 - The Health Professions Council – Health Professions Order 2001
133. The different enactments make provisions which, with very few exceptions, could until recently only be changed by means of primary legislation. Section 60 and Schedule 3 of the Health Act, therefore provided a framework within which Her Majesty by Order in Council can modify the enactments affecting professional regulation and regulate any other health care profession.