## 1998 No. 358

## CORONERS

The Kent (Coroners) Order 1998

Made	19th February 1998
Laid before Parliament	27th February 1998
Coming into force	lst April 1998

The Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 17 and 26 of the Local Government Act 1992(1) hereby makes the following Order:

**1.**—(1) This Order may be cited as the Kent (Coroners) Order 1998 and shall come into force on 1st April 1998.

(2) In this Order "the 1988 Act" means the Coroners Act 1988(2);

**2.**—(1) There shall be a single coroner's district for the county of the Medway Towns (which county comes into existence on 1st April 1998 by virtue of article 5(2) of the Kent (Borough of Gillingham and City of Rochester upon Medway) (Structural Change) Order 1996(**3**)) and for so much of the county of Kent as is included in the existing Mid Kent and Medway Coroner's District.

(2) The council of the county of Kent shall be the relevant council for the purposes of the 1988 Act for the coroner's district constituted by paragraph (1) above.

(3) The person who, on 31st March 1998, is the coroner for the existing Mid Kent and Medway Coroner's District by virtue of having been appointed for or assigned to that district shall be deemed to have been appointed coroner for the coroner's district constituted by paragraph (1) above by the council of the county of Kent.

(4) Any person who, on 31st March 1998, is a deputy or assistant deputy coroner for the existing Mid Kent and Medway Coroner's District shall be deemed to have been appointed deputy or, as the case may be, assistant deputy coroner for the coroner's district constituted by paragraph (1) above with the approval of the chairman of the council of the county of Kent.

**3.**—(1) Any process issued, order made, direction given, inquest begun or other thing done by or to the coroner for the existing Mid Kent and Medway Coroner's District shall be deemed to have been issued, made, given, begun or done by or to the coroner for the coroner's district constituted by article 2(1) above.

<sup>(1) 1992</sup> c. 19.

<sup>(2) 1988</sup> c. 13.

<sup>(</sup>**3**) S.I. 1996/1876.

(2) All documents, exhibits, registers and other things in the custody of the coroner for the existing Mid Kent and Medway Coroner's District in connection with inquests or post-mortem investigations shall be transferred to the coroner for the coroner's district constituted by article 2(1) above.

(3) In this article "coroner" includes any deputy or assistant deputy coroner.

Home Office 19th February 1998

Gareth Williams

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order makes provision about coroners in consequence of the provisions of the Kent (Borough of Gillingham and City of Rochester upon Medway) (Structural Change) Order 1996 (S.I.1996/1876) which creates a new county of the Medway Towns on 1st April 1998.

Article 2(1) of this Order combines the county of the Medway Towns with part of the county of Kent to form a single coroner's district. Article 2(2) makes the council of the county of Kent the relevant council for the purposes of the Coroners Act 1988. The relevant council is responsible for the appointment of coroners and has other functions in connection with coroners under that Act. Article 2(3) provides for the person who, on 31st March 1998, holds the office of coroner for the Mid Kent and Medway Coroner's District to continue as coroner for the new coroner's district.

Article 3 makes transitional arrangements to ensure continuity as respects the coroner for the new coroner's district.