



Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968

1968 CHAPTER 49

PART I

ADMINISTRATION

Central Authority

^{F1}[**6B Local authority inquiries into matters affecting children.**

- (1) Without prejudice to section 6A(1) of this Act, a local authority may cause an inquiry to be held into their functions under this Act, or any of the enactments mentioned in section 5(1B) of this Act, in so far as those functions relate to children.

[Where a function mentioned in subsection (1) is delegated by a local authority to a ^{F2}(1A) person in pursuance of an integration scheme prepared under section 1 or 2 of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, this section applies to that person as it applies to a local authority (but subject to the modification in subsection 1B).

(1B) The modification is that the reference in subsection (3) to an officer of the local authority must be construed as if it were a reference to a member of staff of the person to whom the function is delegated.]

- (2) The local authority may, before an inquiry under this section is commenced, direct that it be held in private; but where no such direction is given, the person holding the inquiry may if he thinks fit hold it, or any part of it, in private.

(3) Subsections (2) to (6) of section 210 of the ^{M1} Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (powers in relation to local inquiries) shall apply in relation to an inquiry under this section as they apply in relation to a local inquiry under that section, so however that, for the purposes of the application, any reference in those subsections to a Minister shall be construed as a reference to the local authority and any reference to an officer of his Department as a reference to an officer of that authority.

- (4) The expenses incurred by a local authority in relation to an inquiry under this section (including such reasonable sum as the authority may determine for the services of any

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of their officers engaged in the inquiry) shall, unless the authority are of the opinion that those expenses should be defrayed in whole or in part by them, be paid by such party to the inquiry as they may direct; and the authority may certify the amount of the expenses so incurred.

- (5) Any sum certified under subsection (4) above and to be defrayed in accordance with a direction under that subsection shall be a debt due by the party directed and shall be recoverable accordingly.
- (6) The local authority may make an award as to the expenses of the parties at the inquiry and as to the parties by whom such expenses shall be paid.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 6B inserted (1.4.1997) by 1995 c. 36, s. 100 (with s. 103(1)); S.I. 1996/3201, art. 3(7) (which said art. 3(7) was substituted (7.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/744, art. 2 (with transitional provisions inserted into S.I. 1996/3201 by art. 3))
- F2** S. 6B(1A)(1B) inserted (1.4.2015) by The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 (Consequential Modifications and Saving) Order 2015 (S.S.I. 2015/157), art. 1(1), sch. para. 1(2)
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Marginal Citations

- M1** 1973 c.45.

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

- Act power to modify conferred by 1995 c. 36, s. 33A (as inserted) by [2024 asp 5 s. 30\(2\)](#)
- Act power to modify conferred by 2010 asp 8, s. 190(2A) (as substituted) by [2024 asp 5 s. 29\(2\)\(b\)](#)

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

- s. 27(1)(b)(vb) word substituted by [2024 asp 5 Sch. para. 8\(2\)](#)
- s. 27(1)(za) inserted by [2023 asp 4 s. 1\(5\)](#)
- s. 29(3)(j) repealed by [2005 asp 3 Sch. 5 para. 1](#)
- s. 61B inserted by [2000 asp 4 s. 36](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 36 repealed (1.4.2002) without ever being in force by 2001 asp 8, Sch. 4; S.S.I. 2002/162, art. 2 (with arts. 3-13))
- s. 62(3)(d) inserted by [2000 asp 4 s. 38\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 38 repealed (1.4.2002) without ever being in force by 2001 asp 8, Sch. 4; S.S.I. 2002/162, art. 2 (with arts. 3-13))
- s. 64A(1)(e) and word inserted by [2000 asp 4 Sch. 5 para. 10](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 5 para. 10 repealed (1.4.2002) without ever being in force by 2001 asp 8, Sch. 4; S.S.I. 2002/162, art. 2 (with arts. 3-13))
- s. 87A inserted by [2007 asp 10 s. 66](#)