



# Dentists Act 1984

## 1984 CHAPTER 24

### PART VI

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

##### *Supplementary*

### 53 Interpretation.

(1) In this Act—

“the Council” means the General Dental Council;

“dental authority” shall be construed in accordance with section 3(4) above;

“diploma” means any diploma, degree, fellowship, membership, licence, authority to practise, letters testimonial, certificate or other status or document granted by any university, corporation, college or other body or by any department of, or persons acting under the authority of, the government of any country or place (whether within or without Her Majesty’s dominions);

[<sup>F1</sup>“the EEA Agreement” and “EEA State” have the meanings given by section 15(7) above;]

[<sup>F2</sup>“interim order” means—

(a) an interim suspension order under section 32(4)(a) or section 36V(4)(a);  
or

(b) an order for interim conditional registration under section 32(4)(b) or section 36V(4)(b);

“Practice Committee” shall be construed in accordance with section 2;

“profession complementary to dentistry” shall be construed in accordance with section 36A(1);]

“recognised overseas diploma” has the meaning given by section 15(2) above.

“the register” means the dentists register;

[<sup>F3</sup>“registered dental care professional” means a person for the time being registered in the dental care professionals register under a title or titles;]

*Status: Point in time view as at 19/07/2005. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

*Changes to legislation: Dentists Act 1984, Section 53 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

“registered dentist” means (subject to section 17(4) above) a person for the time being registered in the register;

“the registrar” means the person for the time being appointed under <sup>F4</sup>section 14(2)] above;

<sup>F5</sup>“visiting EEA practitioner entered in the list of such practitioners” means a person entered in the list of EEA practitioners under Schedule 4 to this Act]

(2) In this Act references to the practice of dentistry shall be construed in accordance with section 37 above, and references to carrying on the business of dentistry shall be construed in accordance with section 40 above.

<sup>F6</sup>(2A) In this Act references to a body corporate’s principal office mean, in the case of a body corporate registered outside the United Kingdom, that body’s principal office within the United Kingdom.]

(3) References in this Act to the provision of national health services are references to the provision of—

<sup>F7</sup>(a) services under—

(i) section 2, 3, 5(1)(a) or 28C of, or Schedule 1 to, the <sup>M1</sup>National Health Service Act 1977;

(ii) section 17C, 36, 38 or 39 of the <sup>M2</sup>National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978; or

(iii)] Article 5, 8 <sup>F8</sup>, 9 or 15B] of the <sup>M3</sup>Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972; and

(b) services at health centres provided under the said sections 2, 3 or 36 or the said Article 5.

<sup>F9</sup>(4) . . . . .

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** Definition in s. 53(1) inserted (1.7.1996) by [S.I. 1996/1496, reg. 6\(4\)\(a\)](#)

**F2** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (coming into force in accordance with art. 1(4)-(7) of the amending S.I. (see 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)) by [The Dentists Act 1984 \(Amendment\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2011\)](#), [art. 46\(2\)\(a\)](#) (with [Sch. 7](#)) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2006/1671](#))

**F3** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (coming into force in accordance with art. 1(4)-(7) of the amending S.I. (see 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)) by [The Dentists Act 1984 \(Amendment\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2011\)](#), [art. 46\(2\)\(b\)](#) (with [Sch. 7](#)) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2006/1671](#))

**F4** Words in s. 53(1) substituted (coming into force in accordance with art. 1(4)-(7) of the amending S.I. (see 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)) by [The Dentists Act 1984 \(Amendment\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2011\)](#), [art. 46\(2\)\(c\)](#) (with [Sch. 7](#)) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2006/1671](#))

**F5** Definition in s. 53(1) substituted (1.7.1996) by [S.I. 1996/1496, reg. 6\(4\)\(b\)](#)

**F6** S. 53(2A) inserted (coming into force in accordance with art. 1(4)-(7) of the amending S.I. (see 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)) by [The Dentists Act 1984 \(Amendment\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/2011\)](#), [art. 46\(3\)](#) (with [Sch. 7](#)) (with transitional provisions in [S.I. 2006/1671](#))

**F7** Words in s. 53(3)(a) substituted (18.11.1998) by virtue of 1997 c. 46, s. 41(10), [Sch. 2 Pt. I para. 62](#); [S.I. 1998/2840, art. 2\(1\)](#)

**F8** Words in s. 53(3)(a)(iii) substituted (1.4.1999) by [S.I. 1997/1177, art. 32\(1\)](#), [Sch. 2](#); [S.R. 1998/301, art. 2\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2](#) (with [art. 3](#))

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**F9** S. 53(4) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993 c. 50, s. 1(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. XIV**.

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**Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1977 c. 49.

**M2** 1978 c. 29.

**M3** S.I. 1972/1265 (N.I. 14).

**Status:**

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**Changes to legislation:**

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