



Dentists Act 1984

1984 CHAPTER 24

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Supplementary

53 Interpretation.

(1) In this Act—

[^{F1}“competent authority” means any authority or body of a relevant European State designated by that State for the purposes of the Directive as competent to—

(a) receive or issue evidence of qualifications or other information or documents, or

(b) receive applications and take the decisions referred to in the Directive, in connection with the practice of dentistry or a profession complementary to dentistry;]

“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);

[^{F2}“the Directive” means Directive [2005/36/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7th September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJNo. L255, 30.09.2005, p.22), and references in this Act to the Directive or to any provision of the Directive are references to the Directive, or to that provision of the Directive, as amended from time to time;]

[^{F3}“exempt person”, in relation to the profession of dentistry or in relation to a profession complementary to dentistry, means—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2016. This version of this provision has been superseded.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 30 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)

- (a) a national of a relevant European State other than the United Kingdom;
- (b) a national of the United Kingdom who is seeking access to, or is pursuing, the profession by virtue of an enforceable ^{F4}EU right; or
- (c) a person who is not a national of a relevant European State but who is, by virtue of an enforceable ^{F4}EU right, entitled to be treated, for the purposes of access to and pursuit of the profession, no less favourably than a national of a relevant European State;

“the General Systems Regulations” means the European Communities (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2007 ([S.I. 2007/2781](#));]

^{F5}...

^{F6}“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);

^{F7}“national”, in relation to a relevant European State, means the same as in the ^{F4}EU Treaties, but does not include a person who by virtue of Article 2 of Protocol No. 3 (Channel Islands and Isle of Man) to the Treaty of Accession is not to benefit from ^{F4}EU provisions relating to the free movement of persons and services;]

^{F8}“the necessary knowledge of English”—

- (a) in relation to a person registered, or applying to be registered, in the dentists register, means a knowledge of English which, in the interests of the person and the person’s patients, is necessary for the practice of dentistry in the United Kingdom;
- (b) in relation to a person registered, or applying to be registered, in the dental care professionals register, means a knowledge of English which, in the interests of the person and the person’s patients, is necessary for the practice of a profession complementary to dentistry in the United Kingdom;]

“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;

^{F9}“registered dental care professional” means a person for the time being registered in the dental care professionals register under a title or titles;]

“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 ^{F10}section 14(2)] above;

^{F11}“relevant European State” means an EEA State or Switzerland.]

^{F12}...

- (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.

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[^{F13}(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 [^{F14}, supervision or management] of national health services are references to the provision [^{F14}, supervision or management] of—

[^{F15}(a) services under—

(i) [^{F16}section 2, 3, 92 or 107 of, or paragraphs 1 to 6 of Schedule 1 to, the National Health Service Act 2006, or section 2, 3, 50 or 64 of, or paragraphs 1 to 6 of Schedule 1 to, the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006] ;

(ii) section 17C, 36, 38 or 39 of the ^{M1}National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978; or

(iii) Article 5, 8 [^{F17}, 9 or 15B] of the ^{M2}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.

^{F18}(4)

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **129(a)**
- F2** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **129(b)**
- F3** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **129(d)**
- F4** Word in Act substituted (22.4.2011) by [The Treaty of Lisbon \(Changes in Terminology\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/1043\)](#), arts. 2, 3, 6 (with art. 3(2)(3), 4(2), 6(4)(5))
- F5** Words in s. 53(1) omitted (3.12.2007) by virtue of [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **129(c)**
- F6** 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](#))
- F7** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **129(e)**
- F8** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (1.4.2016) by [The Health Care and Associated Professions \(Knowledge of English\) Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/806\)](#), arts. 1(3), **28**; [S.I. 2015/1451](#), art. 5
- F9** 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](#))
- F10** 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](#))
- F11** Words in s. 53(1) inserted (3.12.2007) by [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **129(f)**
- F12** Words in s. 53(1) omitted (3.12.2007) by virtue of [The European Qualifications \(Health and Social Care Professions\) Regulations 2007 \(S.I. 2007/3101\)](#), regs. 1(2), **129(g)**

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- F13** 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](#))
- F14** Words in s. 53(3) inserted (14.5.2009) by [The Health Care and Associated Professions \(Miscellaneous Amendments and Practitioner Psychologists\) Order 2009 \(S.I. 2009/1182\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)\(b\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 12](#) (with arts. 9, 10)
- F15** 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\(1\)](#)
- F16** Words in s. 53(3)(a) substituted (1.3.2007) by [National Health Service \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 2006 \(c. 43\)](#), s. 8(2), [Sch. 1 para. 82](#) (with [Sch. 3 Pt. 1](#))
- F17** 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](#))
- F18** S. 53(4) repealed (5.11.1993) by 1993 c. 50, s. 1(1), [Sch. 1 Pt. XIV](#).

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1978 c. 29.
M2 [S.I. 1972/1265 \(N.I. 14\)](#).

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