



# Education Reform Act 1988

## 1988 CHAPTER 40

### PART IV

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

##### *Academic tenure*

#### **202 The University Commissioners.**

- (1) There shall be a body of Commissioners known as the University Commissioners (in this section and sections 203 to 207 of this Act referred to as “the Commissioners”) who shall exercise, in accordance with subsection (2) below, in relation to qualifying institutions, the functions assigned to them by those sections.
- (2) In exercising those functions, the Commissioners shall have regard to the need—
  - (a) to ensure that academic staff have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges they may have at their institutions;
  - (b) to enable qualifying institutions to provide education, promote learning and engage in research efficiently and economically; and
  - (c) to apply the principles of justice and fairness.
- (3) The following are qualifying institutions for the purposes of this section and sections 203 to 206 of this Act, namely—
  - (a) any university or other institution to which, during the period of three years beginning 1st August 1987, grants in aid are or have been made by the Universities Funding Council, or by the Secretary of State acting on the advice of the University Grants Committee;
  - (b) any constituent college, school or hall or other institution of a university falling within paragraph (a) above; and
  - (c) any institution not falling within paragraph (a) above which is authorised by charter to grant degrees and to which, during the period of three years

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**Changes to legislation:** Education Reform Act 1988, Section 202 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 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) [View outstanding changes](#)

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beginning 1st August 1987, grants are or have been made by the Secretary of State.

(4) Schedule 11 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the Commissioners.

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

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

- s. 120(4A) inserted by [2022 asc 1 Sch. 4 para. 5\(2\)](#)
- s. 124A(9A)(9B) inserted by [2022 asc 1 s. 137\(3\)](#)
- s. 125(8)(9) inserted by [2022 asc 1 s. 138\(2\)](#)
- s. 128(1)(b)(iib) omitted by [2011 c. 21 Sch. 16 para. 8](#)
- s. 128(1)(b)(iia) omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 14 para. 35](#)
- s. 128(1A)-(1C) inserted by [2022 asc 1 s. 139\(3\)](#)
- s. 128(7)-(10) inserted by [2022 asc 1 s. 139\(6\)](#)
- s. 232(4ZA)-(4ZC) inserted by [2022 asc 1 s. 138\(3\)\(b\)](#)