



Education Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 56

PART IX

ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS

CHAPTER I

ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY OF STATE

Rationalisation of school places

503 Public inquiry into proposals.

- (1) This section applies where in relation to the area of any local education authority the Secretary of State has made proposals under section 502 (otherwise than in pursuance of section 504(1)) which he has not withdrawn.
- (2) If objections have been made under section 502(5) within the period allowed under that subsection, then, unless all objections so made have been withdrawn in writing within that period, the Secretary of State shall cause a local inquiry to be held to consider his proposals, any proposals he refers to the inquiry and any objections.
- (3) Any proposals referred to a local inquiry under this section require the approval of the Secretary of State (if they would not require such approval apart from this subsection).
- (4) Where the Secretary of State has a duty to cause a local inquiry to be held under this section, he shall refer to the inquiry—
 - (a) any proposals made by him in relation to the area of the local education authority (and not withdrawn) but in respect of which he is not required under this section to cause a local inquiry to be held,
 - (b) any proposals made by the local education authority, or made in relation to the area by the funding authority, in the exercise of their powers to make

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/1998. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Section 503 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 06 August 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)

proposals for the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of schools (and not withdrawn), and

- (c) any proposals made by the governing body of any voluntary school in the area in exercise of their powers to make proposals for the alteration of their school (and not withdrawn),

where those proposals are not determined before he causes the inquiry to be held and appear to him to be related to the proposals made under section 502 in respect of which he is required under this section to cause the inquiry to be held.

- (5) If, before the Secretary of State causes the inquiry to be held, he forms the opinion that any proposals ought to be implemented, subsection (4) does not require him to refer those proposals to the inquiry unless—
- (a) before the proceedings on the inquiry are concluded, or
 - (b) (if earlier) the proposals are determined,
- he subsequently forms a different opinion.
- (6) It shall not be open to the inquiry to question the principles specified in the order under section 500 or 501.
- (7) References in this section to the determination of any proposals are to any determination whether or not to approve, adopt or implement the proposals under section 37, 38, 43, 169 or 170, under Part III or under section 340.

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