



National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978

1978 CHAPTER 29

PART I

ORGANISATION

Secretary of State

1 General duty of Secretary of State.

- (1) It shall continue to be the duty of the Secretary of State to promote in Scotland a comprehensive and integrated health service designed to secure—
 - (a) improvement in the physical and mental health of the people of Scotland, and,
 - (b) the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness,and for that purpose to provide or secure the effective provision of services in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
- (2) The services so provided shall be free of charge, except in so far as the making and recovery of charges is expressly provided for by or under any enactment, whenever passed.

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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. 10C(3A) inserted by [2019 asp 6 s. 6\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 10I(1)(b)(c) and word inserted by [2019 asp 6 s. 6\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 16A(5) added by [2002 asp 5 Sch. 2 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 19A(2)(b) words repealed by [2003 asp 4 sch. 4 para. 5\(4\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 para. 5(4)-(9) omitted (1.4.2004) by virtue of S.S.I. 2004/167, Sch. para. 7)
- s. 19B(2)(a) words substituted by [2003 asp 4 sch. 4 para. 5\(5\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 para. 5(4)-(9) omitted (1.4.2004) by virtue of S.S.I. 2004/167, Sch. para. 7)
- s. 19B(2)(b) substituted by [2003 asp 4 sch. 4 para. 5\(5\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 para. 5(4)-(9) omitted (1.4.2004) by virtue of S.S.I. 2004/167, Sch. para. 7)
- s. 19B(2)(c) words substituted by [2003 asp 4 sch. 4 para. 5\(5\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 para. 5(4)-(9) omitted (1.4.2004) by virtue of S.S.I. 2004/167, Sch. para. 7)
- s. 19B(2)(e) word substituted by [2003 asp 4 sch. 4 para. 5\(5\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 4 para. 5(4)-(9) omitted (1.4.2004) by virtue of S.S.I. 2004/167, Sch. para. 7)
- s. 70A inserted by [1997 c. 46 s. 26\(2\)](#)
- s. 70A(2) word substituted by [2005 asp 13 s. 14\(3\)](#)
- s. 85AB(7) inserted by [2005 asp 13 sch. 2 para. 2\(18\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 11 para. 2(1A) inserted by [2005 asp 13 s. 14\(6\)\(a\)](#)