



Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979

1979 CHAPTER 36

The National Boards and their relationship to the Central Council

5 Constitution of National Boards

- (1) England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland shall each have a National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, and the Boards shall be corporate bodies.
- (2) Each of the National Boards shall have the number of members prescribed by the Secretary of State by order, the maximum being, in the case of the National Board for Northern Ireland, 35 members and, in the case of the other National Boards, 45 members.
- (3) Until the appointed day, the members of each National Board shall be persons appointed by the Secretary of State for a term of office ending not later than that day.
- (4) With effect from the appointed day, each of the Boards shall consist—
 - (a) of members directly appointed by the Secretary of State; and
 - (b) of elected members, that is to say members appointed by him on being elected under an electoral scheme to be prepared and approved as set out in Part I of Schedule 2 to this Act;

and, in the case of each Board, the numbers of members who are directly appointed and of elected members shall be as prescribed for that Board by the Secretary of State by order, but so that the elected members form a majority on the Board.

- (5) In the case of each Board—
 - (a) the majority of those appointed under subsection (3) shall be persons who are nurses, midwives or health visitors; and
 - (b) the Secretary of State's direct appointments under subsection (4)(a) shall be made from among persons who either—
 - (i) are nurses, midwives, health visitors or registered medical practitioners, or

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (ii) have such qualifications and experience in education or other fields as, in his opinion, will be of value to the Board in the performance of its functions.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall have especially in mind the need to secure that qualifications and experience in the teaching of nurses, midwives and health visitors are adequately represented on each Board.
- (7) Each of the Boards shall have a chairman and a deputy chairman appointed from among its members.
- (8) The chairman shall—
 - (a) until the appointed day, be a person appointed by the Secretary of State;
 - (b) on and after that day, be a person appointed by the Board ;and the deputy chairman shall at all times be a person appointed by the Board.
- (9) Part II of Schedule 2 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the constitution and administration, etc. of the National Boards.
- (10) In this section and in Schedule 2, "the appointed day" means a day appointed by the Secretary of State by order, which must be not more than three years from the coming into force of this section.