

*These notes refer to the Inquiries Act 2005 (c.12)
which received Royal Assent on 7 April 2005*

INQUIRIES ACT 2005

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Constitution of Inquiry

Section 3: The inquiry panel

10. The aim of this section is to provide Ministers with the flexibility to appoint an inquiry panel that is appropriate to the circumstances under investigation. The Minister may appoint either a chairman to sit alone (e.g. Lord Cullen sat alone as the chairman to the inquiry into the shootings at Dunblane Primary School, 1996) or with one or more panel members (e.g. Michael Redfern QC chaired a three person panel for the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital inquiry, 1999). Section 4 ensures that where the chairman will not sit alone the Minister will consult him on the appointment of any other panel members, including any appointed under section 7.