

JOINT INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND INSPECTION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 2 - Social Work Services

Section 4: Appointment of social work inspectors

16. **Section 4** places the Scottish Ministers under a duty to appoint social work inspectors ("SWIs"). The section also places SWIs under a duty to carry out the functions conferred on them by the Act or any other enactment.

Section 5: Functions of Inspectors

17. **Section 5** sets out the functions of SWIs under the Act.
18. Subsection (1) places SWIs under a duty to conduct inspections of and investigations into the provision of social work services and to encourage improvement in the provision of these services. "Social work services" are those services provided or secured by a local authority under the list of enactments specified in section 7(2) of the Act¹. The Scottish Ministers have power to amend that list by regulations.
19. Subsection (2) provides that an inspection or investigation is to be conducted in accordance with a timetable approved by the Scottish Ministers and any directions issued by them.

¹ See the definitions of "social work service" and "social work services functions" in section 7(1) of the Act.