



Opticians Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 44

PART I

THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

The Council

1 Constitution and functions of the Council.

- (1) There shall continue to be a body corporate known as the General Optical Council (in this Act referred to as “the Council”).
- (2) The Council shall have the general function of promoting high standards of [^{F1}professional education, conduct and performance among registrants] and the additional functions assigned to the Council by or under this Act.

[^{F2}(2A) The over-arching objective of the Council in exercising their functions is the protection of the public.
- (2B) The pursuit by the Council of their over-arching objective involves the pursuit of the following objectives—
 - (a) to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of the public;
 - (b) to promote and maintain public confidence in the professions regulated under this Act;
 - (c) to promote and maintain proper professional standards and conduct for members of those professions; and
 - (d) to promote and maintain proper standards and conduct for business registrants.]
- (3) There shall continue to be a registrar of the Council.
- [^{F3}(4) The Council shall be constituted as provided for by order of the Privy Council, subject to Schedule 1 (which relates to the constitution etc. of the Council), and the provisions of that Schedule shall have effect.]

Changes to legislation: Opticians Act 1989, Cross Heading: The Council is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 March 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) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(2) substituted (coming into force in accordance with art. 1(3)-(6) of the amending S.I.) by [The Opticians Act 1989 \(Amendment\) Order 2005 \(S.I. 2005/848\)](#), [art. 3](#) (with [Sch. 2](#))
- F2** S. 1(2A)(2B) substituted for s. 1(2A) (26.9.2016) by [Health and Social Care \(Safety and Quality\) Act 2015 \(c. 28\)](#), s. 6(4), [Sch. para. 2\(2\)](#); S.I. 2016/906, reg. 2(b)
- F3** S. 1(4) substituted (9.7.2008 for specified purposes, 1.4.2009 in so far as not already in force) by [The Health Care and Associated Professions \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Order 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1774\)](#), art. 1(3), [Sch. 2 para. 1](#); S.I. 2008/3150, art. 2(3)(a)(i)

Changes to legislation:

Opticians Act 1989, Cross Heading: The Council is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 March 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.

[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. 13D(2)(h)(i) inserted by [S.I. 2008/1774 Sch. 2 para. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. It was due to come into force on the coming into force of s. 44(1) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (c. 47), see art. 1(4). S. 44(1) was repealed without ever being in force on 10.9.2012 by 2012 c. 9, s. 75(6), Sch. 10 Pt. 5; S.I. 2012/2234, art. 2)
- s. 13AA inserted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 30](#)
- s. 23I inserted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 46](#)
- s. 23AA inserted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 39](#)
- s. 23CA inserted by [2008 c. 14 Sch. 7 para. 42](#)