

CARE STANDARDS ACT 2000

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part I Introductory

Registration authorities

Section 7 General duties of the Commission

52. *Section 7* sets out the general duties of the Commission, and therefore applies only to England. The duties in *subsections (1) to (7)* relate to services that are subject to regulation under Part II, with the exception of private and voluntary healthcare. These services are collectively known as “Part II services”. The duties include monitoring the availability and quality of such services, supporting consumers through the provision of information and encouraging the development of better services.
53. *Subsection (1)* provides that the Commission must keep the Secretary of State informed as to the provision, availability and quality of Part II services. This will include reporting on trends in the provision of long term care. *Subsection (2)* provides that the Commission will have the general duty of encouraging improvements in the quality of Part II services. It will do this by, for example, disseminating examples of good practice and giving advice to providers on how to meet the national minimum standards (see *section 23*). Under *subsection (3)* the Commission is required to provide information about Part II services to the public. This might include information about the location and types of services available, as well as the results of its inspections of individual providers. *Subsection (4)* provides that the Secretary of State may require advice or information from the Commission about any aspect of the provision of Part II services. *Subsection (5)* enables the Commission to advise the Secretary of State about changes to the national minimum standards with a view to seeking improvement in the quality of services. *Subsection (6)* provides for the Secretary of State to make regulations conferring additional functions on the Commission.