

These notes refer to the Special Educational Needs And Disability Act 2001 (c.10) which received Royal Assent on 11 May 2001

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY ACT 2001

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 2 – Disability Discrimination in Education

Chapter 2 – Further and Higher Education Institutions

Sections 26 to 34 with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3, Schedule 4, Schedule 5 and Schedule 6

Section 26 and Schedule 4: Discrimination against disabled students and prospective students

100. This section amends the DDA by adding a new section 28R making it unlawful for institutions to discriminate against disabled students in their admission, exclusion or suspension arrangements and in the services they provide to students. This section should be read in conjunction with Schedule 4 which sets out the responsible bodies for the institutions covered by these duties.
101. Only services provided wholly or mainly for students (described as "student services" in the Act) are covered by these duties. These include the provision of education and services related to teaching and learning and also the wider services, such as accommodation and leisure facilities, that institutions offer mainly to students. In order to provide clarity about which services are covered by these duties, the Secretary of State has the power to make regulations to set out whether particular services are covered.
102. Institutions within the further education sector (i.e. those conducted by further education corporations and those designated for the purposes of Part 1 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992) and institutions within the higher education sector (i.e. publicly-funded universities, institutions conducted by higher education corporations and those designated for the purposes of Part 2 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992) will be covered by the new duties. In Scotland, the relevant institutions are colleges of further education having a board of management within the meaning of section 36 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, institutions within the higher education sector within the meaning of section 56(2) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992, any central institution within the meaning of section 135(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and colleges of further education maintained by an education authority in the exercise of their further education functions within the meaning of section 1(5)(b)(ii) of that Act.
103. Private institutions will generally be covered by Part 3 of the DDA. However, the Secretary of State will have a power to designate by order institutions in Great Britain that receive some public funds. These institutions will, in that event, be covered by the duties in Part 4 of the DDA which is amended by this Act.