Two Monthly Report on the status on the non-devolved provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020: July 2021

Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 97(8) of the Coronavirus Act 2020



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#### Introduction

On Monday 19 July 2021, the country moved to Step 4 of the Roadmap. The move to Step 4 has seen the removal of many of the legal restrictions but whilst the global pandemic continues, it is not possible to have a complete return to normal and people need to remain cautious. Managing the pandemic has always been a careful balancing act between the health, economic and social impact of the virus. Whilst the number of cases is increasing, vaccines do appear to be significantly reducing the link between cases, hospitalisations, and deaths. Opening up creates some risk, but retaining restrictions perpetuates ongoing costs including on people's mental health and wellbeing.

The four week pause enabled the NHS to deliver more vaccines and as of 14 July over 46 million people across the UK have received their first vaccine, representing over 87.5% of the UK adult population with over 35 million of those receiving two doses, overt 67% of the population. Daily updates on vaccine doses are available on gov.uk.

In line with the confirmation of the move to Step 4, the Government published the <a href="COVID-19">COVID-19</a>
<a href="Response: Summer 2021">Response: Summer 2021</a>, which sets out the essential actions that everybody should take to protect themselves and others while prevalence is high, as we transition towards learning to live with the virus. The Government has set out the details of the final stage of the roadmap and five principles for managing COVID as we learn to live with the virus. These are:

- Reinforce the country's vaccine wall of defence through booster jabs and driving take up;
- Enable the public to make informed decisions through guidance, rather than laws;
- Retain proportionate test, trace and isolate plans in line with international comparators;
- Manage risks at the border and support a global response to reduce the risk of variants emerging globally and entering the UK;
- Retain contingency measures to respond to unexpected events, while accepting that further cases, hospitalisations and deaths will occur as the country learns to live with COVID-19.

Now that more people have been vaccinated, a new balance must be struck between living with the virus and ensuring the correct support is in place to aid recovery. Step 4 has seen all remaining businesses reopening, including nightclubs, and hospitality venues no longer requiring table service or physical distancing. Various legal restrictions have been lifted, including all gathering limits and mandatory wearing of face coverings, with many moving into guidance instead. Guidance enables people to make informed decisions about how to manage the risk to themselves and others. It helps the public and businesses understand how they can help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the risk of a resurgence which puts the NHS under unsustainable pressure. However, as the pandemic continues, certain legal restrictions, including international travel and self-isolation are being maintained for the time

being. Nonetheless, the move to Step 4 was hugely significant and marks a change in the response.

# The Government's Response to Covid-19

The Government's response to the pandemic has required use of existing tools, such as the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984; and the rapid development of new legislative tools, such as the Coronavirus Act 2020 ("the Act"). This gave the Government the ability to tackle the public health threat and develop a broader package of support for people, businesses and public services. Whilst the Public Health Act contained the tools to respond to a public health risk; it did not provide the ability to mount the full-scale response required for this pandemic. As well as efforts to tackle the health impacts of the virus, it is critical that action is taken to support individuals, businesses and the economy. The capacity and resilience of the health and care systems must be shored up and the continued delivery of essential public services must to be protected.

The Government's approach has evolved based on the success of the vaccine rollout and the promising data on hospitalisations. This was reflected in the one-year review of the Act where the Government proposed the permanent expiry of twelve non-devolved provisions and the suspension of three further provisions could be suspended. The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 were laid on 21 April 2021; were debated in the House of Lords on 5 July followed by the House of Commons on 7 July; and following approval in both Houses, came into force on 16 July 2021. The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Suspension: Temporary Judicial Commissioners, Urgent Warrants, and Disposal of Bodies) Regulations 2021 were made on 20 April 2021 and came into force the following day, on 21 April.

Whilst Step 4 has seen a return to a more normal life, the Act continues to be necessary to ensure there is the right level of support towards the recovery process. For example, on 24 June 2021 a further SI was laid before Parliament, extending the measures under section 82 (Business tenancies in England and Wales: protection from forfeiture etc) for nine months until 25 March 2022. This extension provides landlords and tenants in England additional time to negotiate and settle outstanding rental arrears, balancing protecting landlords and supporting those businesses most in need.

# What the Act was designed to Achieve

The Act was designed to protect public health in various ways, with the ultimate aim of facilitating sufficient preparation for a worst-case scenario. Since its inception, the Act has ensured that the NHS had the capacity to deal with the peak of the virus by allowing the temporary registration of nurses and other healthcare professionals. It has also protected critical societal functions and ensured that they were still able to continue, such as providing courts with the ability to use video technology. The Act has meant that we were able to ensure effective support packages such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employed Income Support Scheme were in place for people and businesses alike. To achieve this aim, the Act enables action in 5 key areas:

- increasing the available health and social care workforce: the Act removes barriers to allow suitably experienced people to be part of the workforce during this period (such as recently retired NHS staff and social workers returning to work, including in Scotland);
- 2. **easing and reacting to the burden on frontline staff:** the Act strives to reduce the number of administrative tasks frontline staff have to perform, so that actions can be focussed where most needed and public services maintained;
- 3. **supporting people:** provisions of the Act make it easier for people and businesses impacted by coronavirus to access financial support when they need it;
- 4. containing and slowing the virus: provisions of the Act facilitate actions to promote social distancing and mitigate spread, including preventing gatherings of people and closing schools, and encouraging people to self-isolate by making Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) payable from day 1 and;
- 5. **Managing the deceased with respect and dignity:** The Act enables the death management system to deal with increased demand for its services

The majority of the provisions within the Act are facilitative and enabling, providing support throughout the pandemic to the NHS, individuals and businesses and will continue to do so into the recovery period. Therefore, although Step 4 of the Roadmap has now been reached, the Act remains important for this next phase of the pandemic.

Similarly, since inception of the Act some provisions have proven to be of particular benefit to longer term legislation. They supported essential public services throughout the pandemic and will assist longer-term reform. This includes sections 53-55, which have been replicated in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Expiring such provision early, before primary legislation is passed would send the wrong message and ultimately force various systems to move backwards in their processes. Therefore, retaining powers in the Act in the short term will allow these supportive provisions to continue whilst Parliament scrutinises the proposals to make them permanent.

## The Impact of the Act

During the one-year review, the Government conducted a thorough assessment of the powers within the Act in order to establish those that remain proportionate and necessary in the response to the pandemic. Further information and data have been collected on the remaining non-devolved powers in the Act. The powers have continued to enable action in the five key areas outlined above, achieving a balance between the social and economic priorities while preserving the health and safety of the country.

# Increasing the available health and social care workforce

Protecting the NHS has been at the forefront of the Government's response over the course of the pandemic to ensure the best possible level of care is provided to those most in need. Despite the unprecedented challengers and pressures on the NHS throughout the pandemic, the needs of people have continued to be met, in part thanks to the workforce the Act has helped support.

The powers under section 2 of the Act have enabled the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to temporarily register nurses, midwives and, in England, nursing associates. They also enable the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to temporarily register paramedics, operating department practitioners, radiographers and other professionals. As of 30 June, both the NMC and the HCPC had over 14,000 registrants on their respective emergency registers. This has supported the NHS and wider healthcare system to ensure sufficient workforce capacity to deal with the direct and indirect pressures created by coronavirus. With continuing demand on the NHS due to the vaccine programme, the need for professionals on the emergency registers continues.

Similarly, section 6 of the Act has allowed the creation of a temporary register of social workers who have recently left the profession so that they may provide support to social care providers facing coronavirus pressures, either because of high demands on their service or because of high workforce absence. There are currently over 13,000 temporary registrants. These are not required to notify the regulator, Social Work England (SWE), if they enter practice, however, in response to a recent survey, around 100 temporary registrants said they were currently practicing. Separately, the Local Government Association (LGA) has worked with the Department for Education, the Department of Health and Social Care and SWE to provide Social Work Together, an online platform bringing together temporary registrants and employers. Around 300 temporary registrants have signed up to make themselves available to support frontline services through Social Work Together, with at least 20 of them finding roles through the platform.

Section 45 of the Act suspended rules in the NHS Pension Scheme, for England and Wales, to allow retired and partially retired NHS staff to return to work or increase their working commitments. These measures have given thousands of retired and partially retired NHS staff the opportunity to provide the NHS with increased capacity, which has been valuable during peak periods of the pandemic. Staff who returned to work in 2020 re-joined with a higher average FTE (0.55) than in each of the previous five years (average 0.47 FTE). This resulted in returning staff working around an extra half a day per week. More recently, these powers have been vital in providing the extra support needed to facilitate the effective vaccine rollout across the country. Between the 26<sup>th</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> July, this workforce has supported the administration of roughly 15.6 million does of vaccines across England.

## Easing and reacting to the burden on frontline staff

At the start of the pandemic, the potential impact of the virus on essential public services was unknown. It was imperative, therefore, to ensure these services were able to cope with unprecedented pressures as a result of coronavirus. The pandemic has presented our health service with many challenges, but it has retained, at its heart, the need to provide people with the care they need when they need it and it has at no point been overwhelmed.

Section 11 was introduced to ensure any gaps in indemnity cover for NHS clinical negligence would not delay or prevent care during the pandemic. Without extra indemnity cover, novel and emerging treatments and flexible approaches could not go ahead. Section 11 has allowed government to fill these gaps and move quickly to respond to the pandemic. More broadly,

clinicians are reassured that they do not need to worry about indemnity when asked to support the pandemic response. Section 11 also provides reassurance to patients that they will have a route of redress should they suffer harm.

Furthermore, sections 53-56 were introduced to allow the courts and tribunals system to continue to function throughout the pandemic and ensure people were able to access justice. Despite the considerable challenges and restrictions in place during this time, the legislative provisions have allowed thousands of hearings to take place since the passing of the Act and the take-up of remote technology has increased significantly, with over 18,000 hearings per week taking place using remote technology across 3,200 virtual court rooms. At present, around 45% of hearings each day include one or more parties joining remotely. The provisions allow the courts to deal promptly and safely with proceedings, avoiding unnecessary social contact and travel, whilst allowing key services within the justice system to continue to be delivered while upholding the principle of open justice. The impact of these provisions on the justice system has been so positive, new and long-lasting provisions have been included in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill (introduced in March) and, if passed, these would replace sections 53-55 outlined above.

# Supporting people

The Government has remained committed to protecting people's jobs and livelihoods throughout the pandemic, while also supporting businesses and public services. As such, the provisions available under the Act have facilitated this support.

The power under section 39 allows small and medium employers with fewer than 250 employees to claim back the costs of two weeks' Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for absences related to coronavirus. The rebate scheme is an important part of the government's wider package of support to employers.

The powers in section 76 of the Act have allowed the Government to provide an extraordinary level of support to both people and businesses through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS). The Government has extended the CJRS and SEISS until the end of September 2021. As at 14 June 2021, there have been 11.6 million unique jobs supported by the CJRS since its inception. A total of 1.3 million employers have made a claim through the CJRS since it started in March 2020, totalling £65.9 billion in claims. The Government announced at Budget 2021 that SEISS will continue until September, with a fifth grant. To date £25.2 billion has been paid in Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grants in total (up to 6 June 2021). Across the four grants 2.9 million individuals have received a grant and 9.1 million total grants have been claimed.

# Containing and slowing the virus

The Government's objective has always been to save lives and protect the NHS. As set out in the Roadmap, when restrictions are lifted, the modelling indicates that cases, and therefore hospitalisations and deaths might rise. This is because no vaccine is 100% effective and, despite very high levels of take up, not everyone will be vaccinated. However, through the cautious approach that has been taken and the excellent progress of the vaccination

programme, the aim is to minimise the effect of any surge. The vaccination programme has severely weakened the link between catching the virus and hospitalisation. Many provisions contained within the Act continue to be effective in allowing the government to cautiously reopen society, while having the right balance of protection to do so safely.

Section 38 continues to support schools and educations settings as society is reopening. Under this section, a modification notice has been issued which allows pupils to attend a different school without needing to be registered as pupils in their temporary schools. This has helped schools work together to provide education to vulnerable children and other priority groups in an area. Furthermore, in light of plans to reintroduce some graded Ofsted inspections from 4 May, on 27 April 2021, the Secretary of State for Education issued a cancellation notice and a further disapplication notice in relation to inspections of schools, allowing these to happen over the summer period. This supports the continued suspension of routine inspections of denominational education and collective worship in state-funded schools. The notice was made on 19 June and starts at the beginning of 1st July 2021 and finishes at the end of 31st July 2021.

To support these measures, regulations were brought in under section 78 of the Act to help local authorities (LAs) deal with the challenges of holding physical meetings during the pandemic. The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 allowed local authority meetings before 7 May 2021 to be held remotely. The regulations were brought in specifically to help local authorities deal with the challenges of holding in-person meetings during the coronavirus pandemic. The regulations also allowed local authorities to provide remote access to members of the public, and they removed the requirement for local authorities to hold an annual meeting in 2020. These regulations only applied to meetings required or held before 7 May 2021. Thanks to the guidance in the roadmap and the continued success of the vaccine rollout, LAs in England should now be able to return to meeting in person with the correct precautions in place.

Other provisions in the Act were also introduced to help contain the virus and protect public health, including section 51 and schedule 21 (powers relating to potentially infectious persons) and section 52 and schedule 22 (powers to issue directions relating to events, gatherings and premises). Schedule 21 has not been used since October 2020, and schedule 22 has never been used which gives testament to the efforts and sacrifices people have made in order to slow transmission. As such, the Government will thoroughly review all powers as part of the six-month review in September, retaining only those that are absolutely essential.

#### Managing the deceased with respect and dignity

The steps the Government has taken throughout the pandemic have been to save lives. Regrettably and despite the Government's best efforts, people have suffered the loss of loved ones as a result of coronavirus. The Government wanted to ensure the deceased were treated with the upmost respect and dignity and existing procedures were modified to enable this.

Section 18 of the Act modified procedures in relation to death and still-birth registration and management. This expanded the list of people who can register a death to include funeral

directors acting on behalf of the family, and it enabled those who are required to give information about a death or still-birth to do so by telephone or other means instead of in person. The changes to the certification and registration of deaths have been vital not only in meeting the pressures placed on the NHS, the local registration service and the coronial service by the coronavirus but also to protect loved ones, easing their burden in already difficult times. The ability to register a death by telephone has been widely welcomed especially by the bereaved as it enables them to make the necessary arrangements without needing to travel. Since the provisions came into force, around 94% of all death registrations in England and Wales have been completed by telephone (around 713,000 registrations in total for the period April 2020 – June 2021).

The powers under section 58, as set out at schedule 28, enable local authorities and the Government to develop a fuller understanding of where pressures are occurring in the death management system and allows for targeted interventions to support existing procedures. Local authorities have welcomed these powers as they have allowed them to understand the capacity of the death management system in their area and prepare accordingly. Parts 2 and 3 of Schedule 28, which provide powers to issue directions and other measures to address insufficient capacity to deal with the deceased, were suspended on 21 April 2021 following the one-year review of the Act, as the Government never needed to use these powers and with the progress made up to this point. These parts remain an important contingency measure given the on-going pandemic and the unpredictable nature of the virus. They have therefore been suspended and will only be revived by regulation if the course of the pandemic suggests they may be required.

# **Equality and Human Rights**

The government appreciates the impact many of the provisions of the Act have on people's lives. Throughout the pandemic, action has been taken quickly and decisively in order to protect public health. The Government has maintained a cautious approach and ensured that any action is proportionate, in place for as short a time as possible and has appropriate checks and balances.

On 28 July 2020, an impact assessment on the introduction of the provisions of the Act was published, which records the equality analysis undertaken to enable Ministers to fulfil the requirements placed on them by the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It was found that, in some cases, the provisions could give rise to more significant impacts on certain protected groups. However, these impacts were considered to be justified and a proportionate means of achieving the legitimate aim of protecting the general public from the coronavirus by increasing the capacity of public service systems and mitigating the spread of infection. Furthermore, the government felt that the provisions would have a positive impact on those with the protected characteristics of age or disability, compared to not introducing the provisions, due to the fatality rate of the virus being higher in the elderly and in those with pre-existing medical conditions, which could include some forms of disability. Nonetheless, many of the provisions, where possible, contain safeguards and mitigation measures to lessen the extent of any actual or perceived negative impacts. The full public sector equalities duty impact assessment is available.

As part of the one-year review, the government conducted a thorough assessment of all the provisions within the Act to assess whether they remained necessary and proportionate and ensure there was a robust justification for keeping those powers proposed for retention.

The government considered their Public Sector Equality Duties as part of the one-year review in assessing the impacts of either retaining, suspending or expiring provisions. The One-Year Status Review Report laid on 22 March 2021, set out the intention to expire 12 provision in the Act and suspend a further three.

The Government is closely monitoring the remaining powers in the Act, and the impact that retaining the powers has on human rights. Equalities and human rights issues were considered in the move to step 4. Some restrictions were retained, covering self-isolation, international travel and the No. 3 Regulations which provide local authorities with powers to manage local outbreaks.

Some groups have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and COVID-19 has exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic and health inequalities. The Government has sought to minimise the harm on people's wellbeing, livelihoods and physical and mental health throughout the pandemic.

In the short term the Government has taken steps to address the impacts of COVID-19 inequalities and protect those at risk. This includes:

- investing in targeted testing and vaccine rollout/boosters to the most vulnerable.
- funding a network of community champions across 60 local authorities to support affected communities (over £23 million).
- investing in new research to improve our understanding of the health impacts of COVID-19,
- publishing COVID Secure guidance to a wide range of sectors and settings
- providing unprecedented economic support e.g. through furlough
- taking preventative action in areas with variants of concern and high case rates.

In the longer term, the Government is determined to address these pre-existing health inequalities which have contributed to the unequal effect of COVID across different segments of our society. The causes of these inequalities are deep-rooted and varied and will require a wide-ranging response with a longer-term outlook, encompassing levelling up, health, the economy, welfare and more.

Now that the move to Step 4 has happened and the response has changed to focus on recovery, the Government is mindful that not all the temporary powers may continue to be proportionate as a result. A thorough review of the remaining temporary provisions in the Act will take place as part of the six-monthly review in September 2021. Only those provisions that remain essential for managing the pandemic will be retained. It is important that the Government acts responsibly, maintaining not just powers that support recovery but also retains contingency measures and those powers which allow for a more streamline move to new ways of working.

## **Mechanism to Change the Status of Provisions**

The Government remains mindful of the need to monitor the impacts that the provisions in the Act are having on people and society, ensuring they remain necessary and proportionate to the ongoing situation and that we adapt to new evidence and changes in risk. There are various mechanisms built into the Act itself that make this possible.

Under section 88 of the Act, many of the provisions contained within the Act can be suspended if the scientific advice is that they are not needed for the time being and can be revived again if that advice changes. This allows Government to be cautious on the approach they take towards the provisions as the evidence and data changes.

The expiry date of the temporary provisions can also be altered using section 90 of the Act. Under section 90(1) the powers can be permanently expired earlier than the automatic sunset date. This is done using the draft affirmative procedure, and so again are subject to a debate before coming into force. To date, this power has been used twice. It was first used to expire the Mental Health provisions under section 10 of the Act (in relation to England) in December 2020. More recently, it was used to expire twelve provisions following the one-year review.

A status table has been published and provides up to date information on the status of all provisions, including devolved provisions, in the Act. This will be updated regularly, should any of the provisions be repealed before reaching the automatic sunset of the temporary provisions in the Act and is available on Gov.uk: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-status">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-status</a>

# **Reporting and Accountability Arrangements**

The Government recognises the vital importance of parliamentary scrutiny and wanted to build in checks and balances on the use of the Act. Therefore, the Act includes (in part 2) a number of arrangements to facilitate accountability and transparency over the use of the substantive part 1 powers.

The Act requires that the temporary provisions be subject to a six-monthly review and renewal vote in the House of Commons. This gives Parliament the opportunity to debate the relevant provisions in detail and consider their continued application based on latest evidence. To date, two six-monthly reviews have taken place, the first in September 2020 and then March 2021. On both of these occasions, Parliament voted to renew the temporary provisions in the Act. The next review is due at the end of September, with a vote in the House of Commons on whether to continue the temporary provisions within seven sitting days. Other accountability measures include an annual debate, which took place on 25 March 2021 alongside the second six-month review.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care is required to prepare and publish a report on the status of the main non-devolved provisions in the Act relating to every two-month period during the operation of the Act. The report must set out for each of the provisions: (a) whether it is in force at the end of each two-month period, and (b) whether Ministers have, during that period, exercised powers under the Act to change the status of any provisions. This report is the eighth such report.

While there is the legal obligation to report on the non-devolved provisions of the Act, under part 2, there is not the same obligation for devolved matters. Each Devolved Administration has its own arrangements for reporting on these, and on other powers within their legislative competence, in tackling the pandemic. For example, the Scottish Government publish a report on the use of the emergency powers contained within the Act and Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 every two months.

# **Appropriateness Statement**

Each two-monthly report must contain a statement that the Secretary of State is satisfied that the status of the non-devolved provisions is appropriate. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, has made the following statement regarding the status of provisions in the Act in accordance with section 97(1)(b):

"I am satisfied that the status of those provisions of Part 1 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 which are my responsibility (within the meaning of section 97(6) of that Act) is appropriate."

# **Progress to Date**

The provisions of part 2 of the Act require the Secretary of State to provide an update to Parliament on the status of non-devolved provisions in part 1 every two months. The table below shows how each section has been used since Royal Assent:

- the first column refers to the section of the Act;
- the second column is a brief description of its scope;
- the third column sets out the status of the provision. There are three elements to this: whether commenced; whether suspended/revived; whether the sunset date has changed. The regulations to expire sections 8, 9, part 1 of section 15, 24, 25-29, 71, 79 and 84 has been reflected in this table.
- the fourth column describes how the provision, once commenced, has been used.

A more detailed account of the policy under each provision can be found in the Explanatory Notes and other supporting material published alongside the Act. As detailed above, the Devolved Administrations are responsible, although not obligated, for their own reporting arrangements for any devolved provisions of the Act.

# **Status Table**

Section (All Part 1) And Schedules	Provision	Status	Use of provision since Royal Assent – 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
1	Meaning of 'coronavirus' and related terminology	Came into force on Royal Assent	No change in terminology
2 Sch 1	Emergency registration of nurses and other health and care professionals	Came into force on Royal Assent	These provisions enable the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to temporarily register nurses, midwives and (in England) nursing associates. They also enable the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to temporarily register paramedics, operating department practitioners, radiographers and other professionals. This supports the NHS and wider healthcare system to ensure sufficient workforce capacity to deal with pressures created by coronavirus, building on the existing emergency registration powers of the General Medical Council to register doctors and the General Pharmaceutical Council to register pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.  The temporary registers have supported the NHS to ensure it has the staff it needs to meet rising demand, whilst simultaneously supporting the effective rollout of the coronavirus vaccine programme. With continuing demand on the NHS due to the vaccine programme, the need for professionals on the emergency registers continues.  The temporary registers have allowed the deployment of former registrants and students in supporting the NHS to ensure it has the staff it needs to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and winter pressures. As of 30 June, both the NMC and the HCPC had over 14,000 registrants on their respective emergency registers.  Deployment of returning staff has been managed separately across each of the four countries. In England, the NHS Bring Staff Back scheme run by NHS England has received expressions of interest from over 47,000 registrants across all professions. Deployment of staff has been managed by NHS trusts and other employing organisations.
6 Sch 5	Emergency registration of social workers: England and Wales	Came into force on Royal Assent	This provision allows the temporary registration of social workers who have recently left the profession so that they may provide support to social care providers facing coronavirus pressures, either because of high demands on their service or because of high workforce absence. This provision

has supported delivery of children's and adults social care through the pandemic by adding a pool of temporary registrants to the available workforce. It remains an important contingency. In England, Social Work England (SWE) temporarily registered social workers no longer registered but with recent experience (i.e., who left the full register not more than two years before the commencement of the Act). Social workers could opt out if they wished, and there are currently over 13,000 temporary registrants. In spring 2021, around 100 of these temporary registrants indicated in response to a survey by SWE that they were practicing. At least 20 of these have found roles through Social Work Together, an online platform bringing together temporary registrants and employers. The platform is provided by the Local Government Association (LGA) with the support of Department for Education, the Department of Health and Social Care and SWE. Around 300 temporary registrants are currently making themselves available to support frontline services through this platform. The Department for Education regularly discusses children's social care workforce pressures with local authorities, and adult social care pressures with the Department of Health and Social Care. Employers have always been clear that temporary registration provides an important contingency in planning to deal with coronavirus pressures on their workforce, but that they would look to other ways of managing pressures in the first instance. There have been some fluctuations in workforce pressures over the pandemic, but employment of temporary registrants remains relatively low. Any transition away from the temporary register needs to be managed carefully. Although only a relatively small number of temporary registrants are currently in practice, removing temporary registrations abruptly would disrupt service delivery. When we can safely remove temporary registrations, we will work closely with SWE, the LGA and employers to allow sufficient notice for temporary registrants who wish to continue practicing to restore their permanent registrations, or for employers to make alternative arrangements to meet practice needs. Emergency Expired Following the one-year review, an SI was laid under Sch 7 volunteering leave the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021 and was debated and approved by both Houses. The SI Compensation for Expired emergency came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired these volunteers provisions.

10 and Sch 8	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	Expired (in relation to England)	These powers were expired in relation to England as of 10 December 2020.								
11	Indemnity for health service activity: England and Wales	Came into force on Royal Assent	Section 11 was introduced to ensure any gaps in indemnity cover for NHS clinical negligence would not delay or prevent care during the pandemic. More broadly, Section 11 was intended to remove indemnity as a potential blocker to new ways of working that might be needed as part of the response to the pandemic – providing reassurance to clinicians.								
			Throughout the pandemic, a range of special/novel healthcare arrangements have relied on indemnities provided under section 11. Section 11 is only required where there are gaps in existing indemnity cover. Some examples include:								
			NHSE/I's contracts with independent sector providers for extra capacity, which were crucial for increasing NHS capacity;								
			covid-19 testing contracts, which underpin Pillar 2 of the testing programme, are also enabled by the measures;								
			regular lateral flow testing of asymptomatic staff is being conducted to maintain NHS capacity. These tests are sometimes administered by other staff. As peer to peer testing in primary care is not covered by standard indemnity arrangements; and								
			ſ								where pharmacy and dental staff have been asked to work outside their usual practice to maintain service coverage during lockdown.
			Without extra indemnity cover, these arrangements could not go ahead. Section 11 has allowed government to fill these gaps and move quickly to respond to the pandemic.								
			More broadly, clinicians are reassured that they do not need to worry about indemnity when asked to support the pandemic response. In April 2020, DHSC, NHS England & Improvement and NHS Resolution jointly wrote to all NHS clinicians to provide reassurance that they would be covered for clinical negligence incidents if they had to work in different ways or locations. A similar letter was also sent in December 2020, in relation to the vaccination programme.								

			Section 11 has allowed new ways of working to be established quickly during the pandemic. Without Section 11, complex work to establish bespoke indemnity arrangements for each situation would have been required. Should this not have been possible, the services could not have proceeded. Section 11 provides reassurance to staff that they will be covered for any clinical negligence claims in relation to health services provided in response to the pandemic, even where their existing arrangements would be insufficient. Section 11 also provides reassurance to patients that they will have a route of redress should they suffer harm.  The Section 11 powers must remain in place to allow claims covered by the indemnities provided to be handled, and for continuation of the range of services that it currently enables, as well as new arrangements that it may be required to enable in future. For this reason, under section 89, the Section 11 powers are excluded from the Act's
14	NHS Continuing Assessments	Came into force on Royal Assent	expiry provisions.  The provisions contained in section 14 of the Coronavirus Act allow the NHS the option not to comply with the requirement to carry out Continuing Healthcare (CHC) assessments before discharge from hospital.  While CHC assessments were paused nationally from 19 March – 31 August 2020, they were reintroduced from 1 September 2020 following the publication of Restart Guidance on 21 August 2020.  Section 14 remains in force to support timely discharge from hospital and the effective prioritisation of NHS staff and resources. It has been retained as a further option to allow the NHS the ability to delay CHC assessments to support effective prioritisation and create NHS capacity, if required.
15 Sch 12	Local authority care and support	Part 1 expired in relation to England	Following the one-year review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021 and was debated and approved by both Houses. The SI came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired Part 1 of Sch 12 and section 15 as far as it relates to those parts (i.e. in relation to England).
18 Sch 13	Registration of deaths and still- births etc	Came into force on 26 March 2020	These provisions reduce the burdens placed on frontline services and assist in the managing of the deceased with respect and dignity. Without these provisions deaths would have to be registered in person by informants and additional natural deaths would need to be referred to the coroner (as medical practitioners would not have the power to certify the death), placing an unnecessary burden on that

service as well as causing extra distress and delay for families with a risk of delay to associated bereavement processes such as funerals.

These measures widened the scope of which medical practitioner can certify a cause of death and this has continued; they enable medical practitioners to complete and sign a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) when the relevant attending practitioner is not available, thus preventing delays to the death management process and associated pressures on the health service. They continue to enable deaths to be registered by telephone rather than face to face which has been widely welcomed especially by the bereaved as it enables them to make the necessary arrangements without needing to travel. Since the provisions came into force, around 94% of death registrations in England and Wales have been completed by telephone; more generally this also helps to reduce the footfall at register offices. The provisions also enable associated documents to be electronically sent rather than hand delivered, which has help ensure the timely registration of deaths and avoided onward delays in the death management process.

The provisions continue to assist the ongoing recovery of other registration service functions with the available office space being utilised for birth registration and dealing with the pent-up demand for marriages that have been delayed since last year. In this respect there are currently around 63k unregistered births which cannot be delivered remotely and an unprecedented demand for marriages and civil partnerships; it is estimated that around 125k marriages did not take place during 2020/21, with many of these now being rearranged.

The modifications to the certification and registration of deaths have been vital in meeting the everincreasing pressure placed on the NHS, the local registration service and the coronial service by the coronavirus. While the easements are continuing, the underpinning advice continues to be to only use the easements when and where needed.

The easements continue to assist hospitals to prioritise staff resources flexibly, to support front line care. Besides working well, the easements have proved popular with bereaved families and trusts have reported positive working arrangements with register offices.

The easements are useful tools to assist response in times of excess death, but they have proved more

than this, accelerating the adoption of up-to-date working practices. It is recognised that some stakeholders had concerns about the reduced number of protections as a result of the easements. however the National Medical Examiner is not aware of any significant examples of negative events which have arisen. These easements have been widely welcomed by the public and the funeral sector (GRO attends weekly Cabinet Office meetings with the sector and has attended the annual Cremation and Burial Communication Education Event (joint conference of The Cremation Society of Great Britain and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities) at which the positive impact of the easements is reported – the sector overwhelmingly wishes for the easements to continue post pandemic). As we continue to move away from the peak of the pandemic with weekly death numbers reducing and the coronavirus vaccine rollout continuing, the pressures on the medical and registration services to deliver death certification and registration services are changing, but there remains a need to avoid any onward delays. Given the publication of the Health and Care White Paper; the ongoing risk of further outbreaks of COVID-19 (particularly new variants): absence of contrary indicators; on-going vaccination programme; and progress towards electronic MCCDs, it would appear sensible to maintain the existing Coronavirus Act 2020 death certification measures at present. A significant period of stability and no new variants or peaks should be experienced when reviewing the relevance of these provisions. While the direct pressures of Covid 19 are likely to reduce, recovery requirements for the medical profession and registration service will continue to be prominent and the easements that the Coronavirus Act provides will greatly assist this process, as well as providing contingency for any relapse. It is therefore strongly recommended that the Coronavirus Act provisions for the certification and registration of deaths remain in force. 19 Came into force This provision removes the requirement for provision Confirmatory medical certificate on 26 March of a confirmatory medical certificate from a second not required for 2020 medical practitioner, independent of the first, to cremations: accompany an application for cremation. The England and purpose is to:

reduce demand on the medical profession at a time when they are managing a number of

Wales

- significant additional pressures arising from the pandemic; and
- support timely cremations during periods of excess deaths, thereby reducing pressure on mortuary capacity.

This provision contributes to ongoing Covid management by removing from the cremation process the requirement for input from a second health professional, thereby increasing their capacity to focus on frontline duties. This is particularly important in the context of ongoing national Covid recovery and in advance of any continued increase in Covid cases.

Confirmatory medical certificates are provided by medical practitioners in addition to their role as healthcare providers. This provision therefore continues to reduce demand on medical practitioners at a time when they are under significant additional pressures relating to Covid management and national recovery, including the continued rollout of the vaccination programme. Medical practitioners not involved in the care of the deceased would otherwise be required to attend the deceased and consult medical records.

In addition, by shortening the cremation process, it continues to support the timely throughput of cremations which also contributes to Covid management, and to national recovery, by reducing pressure on the death management process. The administration of the cremation process is one of a number of factors which impact on the timeliness of throughput between death and cremation, on which data is not centrally held. This provision applies to all cremations where the death has not been referred to the coroner. 205,400 deaths were reported to coroners in 2020. See more generally the Coroner Statistics published on 13 May 2021: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronersstatistics-2020. Annual statistics from The Cremation Society (https://www.cremation.org.uk/Annualstatistics-1960-2020) show that 542,774 cremations were carried out in the British Isles in 2020.

22	Appointment of temporary Judicial Commissioners	An SI was made on 20 April and came into force on 21 April suspending these provisions	It allowed the Secretary of State, on a request from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, to make Regulations to provide for temporary judicial commissioners (JCs) to be appointed by the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, in the event that there are insufficient JCs available to effectively fulfil their functions under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016. This was one of the critical pieces of domestic legislation for national security. It provides the statutory basis for the use of most investigatory powers by the intelligence and law enforcement agencies, using warrants issued under the Act and approved by JCs. These warrants provide the agencies with the capability they needed to protect national security and investigate and prevent serious crime. The provision therefore ensured the agencies were able to continue to operate fully during the pandemic.
23	Time limits in relation to urgent warrants etc under Investigatory Powers Act	on 20 April and came into force on 21 April	It allowed the Home Secretary, at the request of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, to vary the time allowed for urgent warrants to be reviewed by a Judicial Commissioner and how long they could last before they need to be renewed. The maximum time allowed for a review and how long an urgent warrant is valid for after being approved by a JC could be increased to a maximum of 12 days (up from the current three and five days, respectively). The Investigatory Powers Commissioner could only request the Home Secretary to make these Regulations if he considered it necessary in response to the effects that coronavirus was having, or was likely to have, on the capacity of Judicial Commissioners to carry out their functions.
24	Extension of time limits for retention of fingerprints and DNA profiles	Expired	Following the one-year review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021 and was debated and approved by both Houses. The SI came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired this provision.  For the avoidance of doubt, the SI saves the operation of Coronavirus (Retention of Fingerprints and DNA Profiles in the Interests of National Security) (No 2) Regulations 2020, SI 2020/973.
25	Power to require information relating to food supply chains	Expired	Following the one-year review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021 and was debated and approved by both Houses. The SI came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired these
26	Authorities which may require information	Expired	provisions.
27	Restrictions on use and disclosure of information	Expired	

28	Enforcement of Expired	
Sch 15	requirement to	
	provide	
	information	
29	Meaning of 'food Expired	7
	supply chain' and	
	related	
	expressions	
30	Suspension of Came into force	These provisions allow the majority of inquests
	requirement to hold on Royal Assent	where Covid-19 is suspected as the cause of death
	inquests with jury:	to take place without a jury.
	England and	During the pendemic corepers have been
	Wales	During the pandemic coroners have been significantly impacted by the lockdown restrictions in
		the conduct of inquests all of which must be held in
		public, and a number of which must by law be held
		with a jury (such as non-natural deaths in custody).
		Coroners across England and Wales have
		universally reported considerable difficulties in
		hearing jury inquests and non-jury complex inquests
		due to social distancing requirements and there are
		considerable backlogs in scheduling these inquests.
		The requirement for a jury in inquests where Covid-
		19 is suspected would have disproportionately added
		to the demand on local authority funded coroner
		services, adversely impacting their ability to operate
		and exacerbating the inquest backlog. Section 30
		has supported efforts to keep coroner services
		functioning in light of continuing pressures.
		Coroner services continue to experience difficulties
		in hearing jury and non-jury complex inquests and
		Section 30 has supported efforts over the last two
		months to mitigate the impact of the increased
		demands the pandemic has placed on them and to
		assist their recovery plans.
		In revised Guidance No. 39 to coroners on Recovery
		from the Covid-19 Pandemic issued on 21 May 2021
		the Chief Coroner noted the significant impact on the
		coronial system, providing guidance to assist
		coroners in developing a robust, dynamic plan to
		deal with the challenges the service was currently
		facing.
		We do not hold statistics on the number of deaths
		reported to the coroner where the deceased had
		been diagnosed with Covid-19. MoJ coroner
		statistics for 2020 published on 13 May showed
		(amongst other matters) an 18% increase in deaths in state detention - 562 deaths in state detention
		were reported to coroners in 2020, up from 478 in
		2019. A number of these would have been natural
		cause deaths and would have undoubtedly added to
		pause deaths and would have undoubtedly added to

			coroners' inquest backlogs had they needed to be held with a jury.
			Section 30 continues to be required as the requirement for jury inquests where Covid-19 is suspected would disproportionately add to the demand on coroner services, adversely impacting their ability to operate during the pandemic, and exacerbating the existing inquest backlog across England and Wales. This provision will support efforts to keep coroner services functioning in light of continuing pressures.
			Were section 30 to be suspended or sunsetted, a spike in COVID-19 deaths, and any commensurate increase in the numbers of such deaths reported to the coroner, would have an immediate effect on the ability of coroners to hold those inquests. It would also significantly undermine existing recovery plans by increasing the overall proportion of inquests requiring a jury
37 Sch 16	Temporary closure of educational institutions and childcare premises	Came into force on Royal Assent	The power to direct the temporary closure of a school, further or higher education institution, or registered childcare provider, or restrict access to them, where tests in the Coronavirus Act 2020 are met.
			Education settings began to return to full on-site attendance from 8 March 2021; therefore, the use of this provision has not been required. The Secretary of State for Education has not used this power to date. He has instead relied on guidance requesting providers limit attendance at education settings when required.
			Should the prevalence of coronavirus rise, the Secretary of State for Education might seek to rely on this power to rapidly direct the temporary closure of one or more schools, further or higher education institutions, or registered childcare providers, or restrict access to them, where tests in the Coronavirus Act 2020 are met. This power could be used to close an education setting that is not adhering to guidance, for example a private provider with financial incentives to remain open.
38 Sch 17	Temporary continuity: education, training and childcare	Came into force on Royal Assent	Schedule 17 confers two main powers: a power to make a temporary continuity direction, and a power to issue a notice disapplying or modifying one or more of a set of enactments listed in the Schedule.
			Modification and disapplication notices A disapplication notice was made on 22 May disapplying sections 48(3) and 49(1) and (2) of the Education Act 2005 (and provisions in academy arrangements similar to sections 48(3) and 49(1) and

(2) of the Education Act 2005) for the period 1 June to 30 June. This was the fourteenth disapplication notice made disapplying provisions relating to the routine inspection of state-funded schools. This supports the continued suspension of routine inspections of denominational education and collective worship in state-funded schools designated as having a religious character for June. A new disapplication notice disapplying requirements for the inspection of collective worship and denominational education in state-funded schools designated as having a religious character (sections 48(3) and 49(1) and (2) of the Education Act 2005 (and provisions in academy arrangements similar to sections 48(3) and 49(1) and (2) of the Education Act 2005)) was made on 19 June and the specified period in this notice starts at the beginning of 1st July 2021 and finishes at the end of 31st July 2021.

# Temporary continuity directions

The Secretary of State for Education also has the power to direct educational and training institutions, local authorities, and registered childcare providers in England, to take reasonable steps (which can be specified in the direction) to do certain things in connection with the provision of education, training, childcare, and other related matters where the tests in the Coronavirus Act 2020 are met. The Secretary of State has not used this power in the past two months but has issued directions previously in September and December 2020. The direction issued on 30 September 2020 requires schools to provide remote education for state-funded, compulsory school-age pupils whose attendance or travel to school would be contrary to UK government quidance or law related to coronavirus (COVID-19). This remains in force.

As a result of the temporary continuity direction issued on 30 September which requires schools to provide remote education for state-funded, compulsory school-age children who are unable to attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19), nonpriority pupils were able to continue to access education remotely despite restrictions. The monthly disapplication notices suspending routine inspections of denominational education and collective worship in faith schools have alleviated pressure on schools in England; enabling schools to focus on the daily challenges they face as a result of Covid-19. They have reduced the burden on governing bodies of faith schools and proprietors of faith academies to arrange inspection of faith education in certain schools.

			Should the Department need to use the contingency framework in a manner which moves education settings into restricted on-site attendance, these powers would provide clarity and protection to prevent individuals and bodies from breaching duties where it would not be proportionate or appropriate to require them to discharge said duty (e.g. where they cannot practicably do so) in light of the health emergency.
39	Statutory sick pay: funding of employers' liabilities	Came into force on Royal Assent	This power allows small and medium employers with fewer than 250 employees to claim back the costs of two weeks' SSP for absences related to coronavirus. The rebate scheme is an important part of the Governments wider package of support to employers.  The provision enables the <i>Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme</i> which is live and came into force on Royal Assent of the Act.
40	Statutory sick pay: power to disapply waiting period limitation	Came into force on Royal Assent	This power allows for the suspension of the waiting days' rule for absences related to COVID-19 and regulations were introduced under these powers to disapply waiting days for coronavirus related sickness absences. It means that SSP is payable from day one for employees who are unable to work as a result of COVID-19 and therefore provides additional support for impacted employees.  The provision came into force on Royal Assent of the Act and has been in use throughout the pandemic, although no data is currently available on the effects of this provision, given that employers are not mandated to report SSP payment to government.
41	Statutory sick pay: modification of regulation making powers	Came into force on Royal Assent	This power allows for regulations which provide for employees to be treated as incapable of work (and therefore eligible for SSP) to do so by reference to the latest guidance issued by the UK health authorities. This ensures that regulations can keep in step with the latest guidance, for example with new categories of employees who are required to self-isolate and as a result of being considered incapable of work.  This power was used in the Statutory Sick Pay (Coronavirus) (Suspension of Waiting Days and General Amendment) Regulations 2020 which came into force on 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 and will remain in place until section 41 expires. These Regulations referenced guidance issued by the Chief Medical Officers or Deputy Chief Medical Officers so that regulations continue to apply as and when the guidance is updated.

45	NHS pension schemes: suspension of restrictions on return to work: England and Wales	Came into force on Royal Assent	These measures allow retired and partially retired staff to do more work for the NHS without having their pension benefits suspended. This has allowed staff to work more flexibly during peak periods of the pandemic when the NHS has needed urgently increased capacity. In recent months, the provisions have allowed retired and partially retired staff to work on the vaccine rollout and contribute valuable capacity to the NHS.
			The provision will continue to be used by staff and employers for as long as it remains in effect. The measures allow staff to increase their working commitments without losing part of their pension benefits. This enables staff to contribute additional capacity during the vaccine rollout.
			The measures have been positive in removing barriers that would otherwise prevent retired staff from returning to work, or partially retired staff from taking on additional work.
			The measures remain proportionate to the initial aim of increasing NHS capacity by offering greater flexibility to retired and partially retired staff.
			The provisions have remained in effect since the Coronavirus Act received Royal Assent. Section 45 contains a six-month sunsetting clause which takes effect when the provision is turned off. The sunsetting clause was included because the provisions allow staff and employers to change their working patterns, so it was agreed that an adjustment period would be helpful when the provisions are switched off to allow staff and employers time to adjust to a return to business as usual arrangements.
			As the provisions allow staff to adjust their working patterns, we recommend they are left in effect for as long as required to avoid unnecessary disruption that would be caused by turning them off then on again. If the provisions are turned off too early, there is a risk staff would not engage with them if they were turned back on.
			However, we recognise the requirement for the provisions to remain in effect will reduce as pressure on the NHS eases. Although the peaks of the pandemic have passed, the potential for extra workforce capacity created by these provisions is helpful during the vaccine rollout period.
50 Sch 20	Power to suspend port operations	Came into force on Royal Assent	The purpose of these powers is to ensure the border can continue to be protected in the event that, due to coronavirus, there are insufficient officers to maintain

			adequate border security. The powers enable the Secretary of State to direct a port operator in the UK to suspend relevant operations and to issue consequential directions to other parties if the Secretary of State considers it appropriate in connection with the primary direction.  Protecting the border is a fundamental duty for government and this provision is an important safeguard which ensures that we can respond proportionately, dynamically, and in a timely fashion where there is a real and significant risk to border
51	Dowers relating to	Como into foras	Security.
51 Sch 21	Powers relating to potentially infectious persons	Came into force on Royal Assent	Under the Coronavirus Act, the powers under the schedule for Potentially Infectious Persons are essential to controlling and containing the virus in the long term. Public Health Officers (PHO) have used the powers a total of 10 times, but not since October 2020. However, they continue to be part of a suite of powers to support a range of strategic responses throughout the lifecycle of the pandemic.  Police have not used these powers to date and are only to be used after obtaining advice from a public health officer.
			No directions have been issued by immigration officers to date.
			The Schedule 21 powers are important for controlling and containing the virus, and are applicable to all potentially infectious persons, not only international travellers. They are part of a suite of powers to support a range of strategic responses throughout the lifecycle of the pandemic and, ensures the risk of onward transmission is immediately minimised, until longer term pandemic control is achieved sustainably both in the UK and internationally.
52 Sch 22	Powers to issue directions relating to events, gatherings and premises	Came into force on Royal Assent	This streamlines existing legislation in England and Wales, to ensure that powers to prevent events or gatherings can be deployed as quickly as possible in the event this is justified by the evidence. It also extends the power to Scotland and Northern Ireland too, where there is no equivalent legislation.  The government has not exercised the powers conferred through this provision in England.  However, as we move through the roadmap, this provision may be used in order to control local outbreaks, rather than a national approach as done
			previously.  Regulations made using powers contained in Public

53 Sch 23 54 Sch 24 55 Sch 25	Expansion of availability of live links in criminal proceedings  Expansion of availability of live links in other criminal hearings  Public participation in proceedings	Came into force on Royal Assent	Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 have been used to restrict gatherings. Currently in force are The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) (England) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/750). Sections 53-56 have been introduced to allow the courts and tribunals system to continue to function throughout the pandemic and ensure that more people are able to access justice.  Despite the considerable challenges and restrictions in place during this time, the legislative provisions have allowed thousands of hearings to take place since the passing of the Act and the take-up of remote technology has increased significantly, with over 18,000 hearings per week taking place
	conducted by video or audio		using remote technology across 3,200 virtual court rooms.
56 Sch 26	Live links in magistrates' court appeals against requirements or restrictions imposed on a potentially infectious person	Came into force on Royal Assent	<ul> <li>At present, around 45% of hearings each day include one or more parties joining remotely [to note that this is down from 88% at the height of the lockdown and reflects the impact as we have re-opened the courts estate and are now able to hear more cases in person].</li> <li>The provisions therefore need to remain in place as Covid-19 remains a threat to the public and as the courts and tribunals recover to pre-Covid hearing capacity. With continued social distancing required, it is not possible to operate courts at sufficient capacity in physical sites alone to be able to manage the number of outstanding cases. We therefore need these provisions to be maintained to enable continued use of video and audio hearings.</li> <li>The provisions allow the courts to deal promptly and safely with proceedings, avoiding unnecessary social contact and travel, whilst allowing key services within the justice system to continue to be delivered while upholding the principle of open justice.</li> <li>It is important to note that Sections 53 – 55 have been included in Clauses and updated in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, which was introduced in March 2021.</li> </ul>
58 Sch 28	Powers in relation to transportation, storage and disposal of dead bodies etc	Parts 1 and 4 of sch 28 came into force on Royal Assent and remain in force An SI was made	The Section 58 powers were introduced to ensure that the UK was prepared for a reasonable worst case of deaths. Scientific modelling at the time indicated that the number of people who might die was likely to significantly exceed the national or local capacity to manage the deceased.
		on 20 April and came into force	The Section 58 powers are split into information gathering powers and powers of direction. The

on 21 April provisions in England and Northern Ireland.

information gathering powers (also known as part 1 suspending these powers) enable local authorities and government to develop a more comprehensive understanding of where pressures are occurring in the death management system, allowing for targeted interventions to support existing procedures. The powers of direction (also known as part 2 powers) are extraordinary measures which must be activated by the appropriate national authority. These would allow national or local governments to take control of a component or components of the death management process. These powers would only be used in extreme circumstances, whereby scientific evidence and operational advice suggests local capacity could otherwise be overwhelmed. Part 3 allows for central government to intervene if a local authority is unable to manage the death management system effectively. Part 4 was introduced as an amendment to the Bill during its passage through the House to ensure that the wishes of the deceased were respected if powers of direction were needed.

#### Part 1 Powers

Local authorities are not required to inform the government if they have used the Part 1 powers to obtain this information. We are aware London, Lincolnshire and Merseyside have made explicit use of these powers where voluntary engagement with the sector has proved inadequate. Often, the known existence of these provisions means that their explicit use is unnecessary as voluntary compliance is sufficient.

Part 1 powers remain available for local authorities to use to ensure they are able to collect the information they need to ensure the effective operation of the death management system.

Only part 1 (information- gathering powers) provisions have been used to assist in data collection covering such issues as body storage capacity, staff absences, and the number of burials and cremations undertaken. Information is reviewed on a regular basis and allows both local authorities and the government to develop a fuller understanding of where pressures are occurring in the system and allows for targeted intervention to support existing processes or boost capacity. Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) report regularly to the government on local capacity and usage in their death management system to inform the Government's policy and operational decisions around death management. Local authorities have

			reported that the information-requiring provisions help them to understand the capacity of the death management system in their area so that they can prepare accordingly.  Part 2 and 3 Powers  These have been suspended since April and have not therefore been used. However, they remain an important contingency measure given the on-going pandemic and the unpredictable nature of the virus. They will only be revived by regulation if the course of the pandemic suggests they may be required. Even if they are revived, the threshold for their actual activation remains very high, requiring evidence that the death management system in a local area is likely to be overwhelmed  Part 4 Powers  Part 4 provisions were introduced to ensure that the wishes of the deceased were respected if powers of direction under Parts 2 or 3 were ever used
59	Elections and referendums due to be held in England in period after 15 March 2020	Came into force on Royal Assent	The impact of this provision was to allow returning officers and others responsible for the running of polls to postpone any local authority byelections (for example council parish, mayoral) and local referendums (for example neighbourhood planning)
60		Came into force on Royal Assent	which were ongoing within a period of 30 days from 15 March 2020 should they choose, by removing the statutory duty to do so from them.
61	Power to postpone	Came into force on Royal Assent	The provision came into force on Royal Assent and most of such polls were postponed to 6 May 2021 consequently.  This provision enabled returning officers to avoid running polls at a time when the pandemic was developing in the UK. The use of polling stations and related activity would have increased the spread of the virus. This allowed staff to be readily re-deployed to other duties to support the response to the pandemic.  This provision has supported the aim of protecting public health by containing and slowing the spread of the virus.  The May 2021 elections took place successfully following the action plan the Government published to deliver them in a Covid-secure way
62	Power to postpone a recall petition	Came into force on Royal Assent	Since the Act came into force, there have been no recall petitions triggered. Had there been a duty on a Petition Officer to organise a recall petition, the

	1	1	
	under the Recall of MPs Act 2015		possibility to defer the petition would have allowed for the electorate in that constituency to make their views known (i.e. by attending a petition signing station) at a later date without having to act in a way contrary to the public health guidance. It has contributed to allowing staff to be freed up from being on standby for any electoral event during the period until 6 May 2021 and to be readily redeployed to other duties to support the response to the pandemic.
63	Power to make supplementary etc	Came into force on Royal Assent	No SIs have been made over the latest reporting period on this matter
	provision		An SI was made on 3 April 2020: The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, SI 2020/395.
			An SI was made on 15 April 2020: The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Structural Changes) (Consequential Amendments) (England) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/426) which ensure that local government reorganisation in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, which had been dependant on local elections taking place throughout those areas in May 2020, is still implemented, ensuring continued effective delivery of local public services in those areas.
			Another SI was made on 1 September 2020: Postponed Elections and Referendums (Coronavirus) and Policy Development Grants (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/926) which deals with various matters relating to polls 49 Provision Status Aim of Provision Use of and Impact of Provision where the electoral timetable had started so that the candidate position, their expenditure and how paperwork from the poll, including postal votes, are addressed.
			This has supported the benefits brought about by the postponement of the polls which have supported the aim of protecting public health by containing and slowing the spread of the virus.
71	Signatures of Treasury Commissioners	Expired	Following the one-year review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021 and was debated and approved by both Houses. The SI came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired this provision.
72	Power under section 143 of the Social Security	Came into force on Royal Assent	These powers were taken to enable the government to respond flexibly to the pandemic through the National Insurance system. The government has a

	Administration Act 1992		range of significant interventions to support employers including but not limited to the	
73	Power under the section 145 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992	Came into force on Royal Assent	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the	
74	Power under section 5 of the National Insurance Contributions Act 2015	Came into force on Royal Assent	Covid19.	
75	Disapplication of limit under section 8 of the Industrial Development Act 1982	Came into force on Royal Assent	The provision is in use to facilitate the provision of financial support to business affected by Coronavirus and is in active use. BEIS Ministers are satisfied that the status of Section 75 is appropriate as the provision is and remains in use to facilitate the provision of support to business. The provision is in use to facilitate the provision of financial support to business affected by Coronavirus and is in active use. The power is required to ensure financial assistance to companies can continue to be delivered and to support them to manage the impacts of Coronavirus.	
			To ensure transparency of expenditure under the Industrial Development Act the Business Secretary already reports annually to Parliament. However, we have gone further in relation to the Coronavirus Act – the Business Secretary has already and will continue to report to Parliament on a quarterly basis to ensure full transparency on spend related to Coronavirus. The latest report that has been published is Q4 2020 (Oct – Dec) which was published on 17th May. Q1 2021 (Jan – March) was published on 21st July.	
			It has always been envisaged that this power would continue and not be repealed (an intent recorded on the face of the Act and accepted by Parliament as under section 89(1), the temporary provisions in the Act expires after 2 years, with the exception of several provisions, including section 75(1)).	
76	HMRC functions	Came into force on Royal Assent	The government has used this power to direct HMRC to have new functions in respect of the payment and management of amounts in respect of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme and the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme.  The powers set out in S76 cannot be expired. They	
			support the Government's continued ability to manage the economic response to the ongoing pandemic.	

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: The Government has extended the CJRS for a further five months until the end of September 2021. In addition to NICs and pensions, the Government has now introduced an employer contribution towards the cost of unworked hours of 10% in July, increasing to 20% in August and September as the economy reopens and demand returns. As at 14 June 2021, there have been 11.6 million unique jobs supported by the CJRS since its inception. A total of 1.3 million employers have made a claim through the CJRS since it started in March 2020, totalling £65.9 billion in claims. Self Employed Income Support Scheme: The Government announced at Budget 2021 that the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will continue until September, with a fifth grant. Individuals are able to qualify for the new grants based on their 2019-20 tax returns. This means that hundreds of thousands of self-employed individuals may be newly eligible for the SEISS, including many new to self-employment in 2019-20. The fourth SEISS grant is worth 80% of average trading profits. The fifth and final SEISS grant providing support in the summer will include a turnover test (similar to those in operation in other countries' schemes) to ensure that the most generous support is targeted at those who need it the most. To date £25.2 billion has been paid in Self-Employment Income Support Scheme grants in total (up to 6 June 2021). Across the four grants 2.9 million individuals have received a grant and 9.1 million total grants have been claimed. 77 Up-rating of Came into force The basic element of Working Tax Credit was working tax credit on Royal Assent increased by an additional £1,045 a year above the rate of £1,995 previously announced in a Written etc Ministerial Statement on 4 November 2019 (HCWS75), to £3,040 a year for 2020/2021. A corresponding increase was introduced under separate legislation, of £20 extra a week for the 2020/21 tax year, to the rate of the Universal Credit standard allowance. The provision also stipulated that HMT Ministers and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions disregard these increases when they conducted their annual reviews of benefit rates in advance of the 2021/22 tax year. The measure has supported some 1.7 million low income households receiving tax credits with additional financial support in 2020/21.

	 The increase to the basic rate of working tax credit by section 77(1) only had effect for the tax year 2020-21 which ended on 5 April 2021. The annual reviews referred to in subsections (2) and (3) were carried out in Autumn 2020.
,	carried out in Autumn 2020.  The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, made under Section 78 allowed local authority meetings before 7 May 2021 to be held remotely. The regulations were brought in specifically to help local authorities deal with the challenges of holding in-person meetings during the Coronavirus pandemic.  The regulations also allowed local authorities to provide remote access to members of the public, and they removed the requirement for local authorities to hold an annual meeting in 2020.  These regulations applied to all councils, combined authorities, police and crime panels, port health authorities, local planning authorities, fire and rescue authorities, National Parks, conservation boards, as well as Mayoral and urban development corporations. They helped local authorities to redeploy resources to deal with the pandemic and ensure that essential business continued whilst protecting the health and safety of their members, officers and the public.  Since 4 April 2020 local authorities were able to hold meetings remotely through regulations made under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. These arrangements only applied to meetings before 7 May 2021.  To extend the regulations to cover meetings after 6 May 2021 required primary legislation. The Government considered the case for legislation carefully, including the significant impact it would have on the Government's legislative programme which is already under severe pressure in these unprecedented times. We were also mindful of the excellent progress that has been made on the vaccination programme and the progress through each of the steps of the Government's roadmap for lifting covid-19 restrictions.  Given this context, the Government has concluded that it was not possible to bring forward emergency legislation on this issue at this

			All local authority meetings in England were in the scope of the regulations. It has been down to the local authority to decide what was appropriate in their specific circumstances.  Local authorities consistently highlighted that remote meetings were beneficial in terms of enabling councillors to balance work and caring responsibilities, had a positive environmental impact, increased public participation and member attendance, and that councils welcome the flexibility to hold in person or hybrid meetings under the regulations as they determine appropriate.  In anticipation of the expiry of these provisions, the Government launched a call for evidence on 25 March to gather the views of local authorities and inform any potential future legislation regarding the use of remote meetings beyond the pandemic. The call for evidence closed on 17 June. The Department is now reviewing the responses to the consultation and the Government will respond in due course.
79	Extension of Business Improvement Districts (BID) arrangements: England	Expired	Following the one-year review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021 and was debated and approved by both Houses. The SI came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired this provision.
81 Sch 29	Residential tenancies in England and Wales: protection from eviction	Came into force on Royal Assent	These measures give tenants more time before the landlord is able to bring possession proceedings and thus delays the point at which the tenant may be required to leave their home. This provides more time for tenants to seek to resolve the issue or find alternative accommodation. This has supported tenants in allowing them to remain in their homes for longer or to have more time to make alternative arrangements safely – thereby reducing the risk of transmission that arises from movement and homelessness and reducing the subsequent pressure on public services.  From 26 March to 28 August 2020, landlords were required to provide three months' notice. From 29 August 2020 to 31 May, the requirement was six months' notice apart from the most serious cases.
			The serious cases are anti-social behaviour, rioting, false statement by the tenant, domestic abuse in the social sector, rent arrears over six months' rent, where the tenant has passed away and where the tenant doesn't have the right to rent under immigration law.  In recognition of progress being made with the national Roadmap and thanks to vaccine progress, from 1 June 2021 notice periods that were six

months were reduced to four months. The threshold for what constitutes 'serious arrears' was lowered from six months of arrears to four months of arrears. Notice periods for the most serious cases remain lower. The notice period for non-serious rent arrears will reduce again from four months to two months from 1 August 2021. This is a proportionate approach that recognises the continuing need to protect public health, as well as avoid sharp drops in requirements that could incentivise the serving of notice and create pressures for public services.

These measures apply to most renters in the private and social sectors, covering 8.4 million households, and has applied to most types of notice of intention to seek possession of the property. They have provided renters with a proportionate level of support and will continue to do so as the measures taper down as we progress with the Roadmap.

The Government does not collect data on the number of notices served, as landlords are not required to report this information. However, data from HM Courts & Tribunal Service showed that between January to March 2021, possession claims in county courts were down 74% on the previous year and repossession activity by bailiffs was down 96%. The latest homelessness statistics covering the period October – December 2020 also show a 40% decrease in households owed a homelessness duty due to the end of an Assured Shorthold Tenancy compared with the same period in 2019. Whilst this is in large part a reflection that bailiff possession activity was restricted during this period, it also demonstrates that landlords were not able to progress cases to court as quickly as they have been previously, helping ensure that tenants are able to remain in their homes.

The Government laid a Statutory Instrument on 12 May 2021 that extends the measures until 30 September 2021 but tapers down notice periods from 1 June 2021. The continuation of the measures also recognises the continuing, but reduced need, to protect public health, as well as minimise pressures on public services.

Our current intention is that notice periods will revert to normal, pre-COVID lengths from 1 October, unless the public health situation warrants a further extension. We will keep this under review.

Business tenancies Came into force in England and Wales: protection from forfeiture etc

on Royal Assent

Prevents landlords of commercial properties from being able to evict tenants for the non-payment of rent, providing continued support for businesses

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given the high levels of unpaid rent accrued since March 2020 until new measures can be put in place.

Many businesses have not yet fully recovered from the impact of the pandemic, particularly in vulnerable sectors such as hospitality. Significant debts have accrued for back payments of rent, with the British Property Federation (BPF) estimating that by 30 June 2021, £7.5bn of commercial rent will be in arrears. The most recent data from Remit Consulting indicates that while overall rent collection is at 80.7% at 90 days past the March due date, £1bn of rent is missing from the March quarter, totalling a potential shortfall of up to £6.4bn since the start of the pandemic. Hospitality rent payment continues to lag behind, with just 58.6% of rent collected within the same period; this is particularly acute in the pubs, bars and restaurants sector owing to opening restrictions, with just 28.4% of rent paid 90 days after the March payment date. It is clear from the low levels of rent collected in these sectors that there would be substantial scope for evictions for the nonpayment of rent if the current measures were not in place, resulting in mass business failures and job losses.

On 24 June 2021 a further SI was laid before Parliament, extending the measures for nine months until 25 March 2022, following a Call for Evidence launched by Government in April on the state of negotiations between landlords and tenants regarding rent arrears and ongoing lease terms. The Government did not consider that allowing the current moratorium to lapse on 30 June 2021 was appropriate as it was likely to lead to a significant level of evictions and business insolvencies which threaten jobs.

We intend to bring forward separate primary legislation to ringfence rent debt accrued during the pandemic by businesses affected by closures, and set out a process of binding arbitration to be undertaken between landlords and tenants where agreement cannot be reached to defer or waive entirely a proportion of those rent arrears. In order to legislate for this, an extension sufficient to pass new legislation is required, i.e., nine months. As such, the provisions of Section 82 have been extended, whilst primary legislation can be drafted and put into place following the expiration of the current measures.

Given the time it will take to draft legislation, and for a Bill to receive Royal Assent – which may not be until April 2022 – the continued extension of these

			provisions under the Coronavirus Act will be necessary. Expiry of the current measures risks creating a wave of insolvencies and job losses, as landlords would be able to recoup rental arrears by taking their tenants to court or through peaceable reentry.
84	Postponement of General Synod Elections	Expired	Following the one-year review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021, and was debated and approved by both Houses. The SI came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired this provision.
			For the avoidance of doubt the SI saves the operation of General Synod of the Church of England (Postponement of Elections) Order 2020, SI 2020/526 and General Synod of the Church of England (Postponement of Elections) (Amendment) Order 2020, SI 2020/1123.

# **Changes to Status during Reporting Period**

number (and relevant schedule number where applicable)	Measure	Type of change	Details of change	Secondary legislation making the change
Section 8	Leave	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 9	Emergency Volunteers	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 15 (part 1 of schedule 12)	Local authority care and support.	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 24	Extension of time limits for retention of fingerprints and DNA profiles.	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 25	Power to require information relating to food supply chains	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 26	Authorities which may require information	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 27	information	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 28	Enforcement of requirement to provide information	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)
Section 29	Meaning of 'food supply chain' and related expressions	Expired under section 90(1)	An SI was laid on 21 April 2021 which came into force on 16 July 2021 to expire these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Early Expiry) Regulations 2021 (legislation.gov.uk)

Section 71	Signatures of	Expired under	An SI was laid on 21	The Coronavirus Act
	Treasury Commissioners.	section 90(1)	April 2021 which came into force on 16 July	2020 (Early Expiry)
	Commissioners.		,	Regulations 2021
			2021 to expire these	(legislation.gov.uk)
			powers.	
Section 79	Business	Expired under	An SI was laid on 21	The Coronavirus Act
	Improvement	section 90(1)	April 2021 which came	2020 (Early Expiry)
	Districts (BIDs).		into force on 16 July	Regulations 2021
			2021 to expire these	(legislation.gov.uk)
			powers.	
Section 84	Postponement of	Expired under	An SI was laid on 21	The Coronavirus Act
	General Synod	section 90(1)	April 2021 which came	2020 (Early Expiry)
	elections.	, ,	into force on 16 July	Regulations 2021
			2021 to expire these	(legislation.gov.uk)
			powers.	

# **Changes to status since Enactment of the Act**

Section number (and relevant schedule number where applicable)	Measure	Type of change	Details of change	Secondary legislation making the change
Section 22	Appointment of temporary Judicial Commissioners	Suspended under section 88(2)	An SI was made on 20 April 2021 which came into force on 21 April 2021 to suspend these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Suspension: Temporary Judicial Commissioners, Urgent Warrants, and Disposal of Bodies) Regulations 2021
Section 23	Time limits in relation to urgent warrants etc under Investigatory Powers Act	Suspended under section 88(2)	An SI was made on 20 April 2021 which came into force on 21 April 2021 to suspend these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Suspension: Temporary Judicial Commissioners, Urgent Warrants, and Disposal of Bodies) Regulations 2021
Section 58 (parts 2 and 3)	Powers in relation to transportation, storage and disposal of dead bodies etc	Suspended under section 88(2)	An SI was made on 20 April 2021 which came into force on 21 April 2021 to suspend these powers.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Suspension: Temporary Judicial Commissioners, Urgent Warrants, and Disposal of Bodies) Regulations 2021
Mental Health a Capacity	ınd Mental			
Section 10,	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	under section	Section 10(1) came into force on 27 March 2020 in relation to Wales and has been expired in relation to England.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/336)

Section 10,	Temporary	Commencement	Section 10(3) and (4)	The Coronavirus Act
	modification of	under section	came into force on 2	2020 (Commencement
	mental health and	` '	April 2020 in Northern	No.1) Order (Northern
	mental capacity		Ireland.	<u>Ireland) 2020 (SI</u>
0 - 1 1- 1 - 0	legislation	0	0 -    -  - 0 /      -  -	2020/58)
Schedule 8	Temporary modification of	under section	Schedule 8 (paragraphs 1 to 2 and paragraphs	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement
	mental health and		11 to 13) came into force	
	mental capacity	01(2)	on 27 March 2020 in	Regulations 2020 (SI
	legislation		relation to Wales.	2020/366)
			Schedule 8 is now	
			expired in relation to	
	_		England.	
Schedule 10	Temporary		Schedule 10 came into	The Coronavirus Act
	modification of mental health and	under section	force on 2 April 2020 in Northern Ireland.	2020 (Commencement No.1) Order (Northern
	mental capacity	07(2)	Northern heland.	Ireland) 2020 (SI
	legislation			2020/58)
Schedule 11	Temporary	Commencement		The Coronavirus Act
	modification of		(paragraphs 1 to 10, 19,	
	mental health and	87(2)	20 (so far as it relates to	
	mental capacity legislation		paragraphs 5 and 9 only) and 22) came into	<u>Ireland) 2020 (SI</u> 2020/58)
	legisiation		force on 2 April 2020 in	<u> 2020/36)</u>
			Northern Ireland.	
Section 10 (1)	Temporary	Expired	The early sunsetting	The Coronavirus Act
! · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	modification of		of these provisions was	2020 (Expiry of Mental
	mental health and		made on 8 December	Health Provisions)
8	mental capacity legislation		2020 and came into force 9 December	(England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI
Parts 5, 6, 7 and	_		2020.	2020/1467)
8 of schedule 8				<u> </u>
	uthority care and			
support	T			
	-		Section 15 (in relation to	
schedule 12	• •		England) and part 1 of	2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations
		87(2)	schedule 12 (powers and duties of local	2020 (SI 2020/388)
			authorities in England)	2020 (01 2020/000)
			came into force on 31	
			March 2020	
Section 15,	Local Authority		Section 15 (in relation to	
schedule 12	1 1		Wales) and part 2 of	2020 (Commencement
		87(2)	schedule 12 (powers and duties of local	No. 1) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI
			authorities in Wales)	2020/366)
			came into force on 1	
			April 2020	
Section 16	Duty of local		Came into force on 5	The Coronavirus Act
	authority to		April 2020	2020 (Commencement
	assess needs: Scotland	87(2)		No. 1) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (SI
	Occiland			2020/121)
<u> </u>	1	I .	1	

Section 17	Section 16: further provision		Came into force on 5 April 2020	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/121)
Registration o stillbirths	f deaths and			
Section 18, schedule 13	Registration of deaths and still-births etc		Came into force on 26 March 2020	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/361)
Section 19	Confirmatory medical certificate not required for cremations: England and Wales		Came into force on 26 March 2020	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/361)
Section 21	Modifications of requirements regarding medical certificates for cremations: Northern Ireland	under section	Came into force on 26 March 2020	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/361)