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

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

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Amendments made to the Tenth Two-Monthly Status Report on the Coronavirus Act

The tenth two-monthly status report, laid in Parliament on 25 November 2021, contained errors regarding the indemnity arrangements provided for under section 11 of the Coronavirus Act.

Section 11 was introduced to ensure any gaps in indemnity cover for NHS clinical negligence would not delay or prevent care during the pandemic. The previous version of this report mistakenly read that, those working on the vaccination programme in NHS settings are also covered under arrangements provided for by section 11. However, these workers are covered by other indemnity arrangements, and not by the powers under section 11.

This table sets out these changes, with the bold text representing the changes from the previous version.

Report and page number	Original Text	Revised Text
page namber		
Tenth Report	Section 11 of the Act was introduced to	Section 11 of the Act was introduced to
(page 8)	ensure any gaps in indemnity cover for	ensure any gaps in indemnity cover for
	NHS clinical negligence would not delay or	NHS clinical negligence would not delay
	prevent care during the pandemic. Without	or prevent care during the pandemic.
	extra indemnity cover, novel and emerging	Without extra indemnity cover, novel
	treatments and flexible approaches could	and emerging treatments and flexible
	not have gone ahead. Section 11 continues	approaches could not have gone ahead.
	to allow the Government to fill these gaps	Section 11 continues to allow the
	and move quickly to respond to the	Government to fill these gaps and move
	pandemic. Section 11 also provides	quickly to respond to the pandemic.
	reassurance to patients that they will have a	Section 11 also provides reassurance to
	route of redress should they suffer harm	patients that they will have a route of
	while receiving care related to Covid-19 and	redress should they suffer harm while
	to clinicians, including those working on	receiving care related to Covid-19 and
	the vaccination programme in NHS	to clinicians, so they do not need to
	settings, so they do not need to worry	worry about indemnity arrangements.
	about indemnity arrangements. As per	As per section 89 of the Act, section 11
	section 89 of the Act, section 11 is not a	is not a temporary provision and so
	temporary provision and so cannot be	cannot be expired early.
	expired early.	

Introduction

2021 has been a significant year in our fight against Covid-19. The successful roll-out of the vaccination programme has enabled many of our freedoms to be restored and life to return closer to normal throughout the whole of the United Kingdom (UK).

As part of the early response to the pandemic, the UK Government introduced the Coronavirus Act 2020 ("the Act") and corresponding regulations under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 ("Public Health Act") to protect as many people as possible. In combination,

these two Acts have proven essential to mitigate the risk of transmission in our communities, to protect the NHS and enable it to function effectively, and to save lives. As well as efforts to tackle the health impacts of the virus, it was critical that the Government took action to support individuals, businesses, and the economy. The capacity and resilience of the health and care systems needed to be shored up and the continued delivery of essential public services had to be protected. The Act has allowed the Government to deliver these goals.

The temporary, non-devolved powers in the Act are subject to a six-monthly renewal vote in the House of the Commons. The last such vote was on 19 October where the Commons approved a motion "that the temporary provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 should not yet expire". The Government has continued regularly to review the temporary, non-devolved powers in the Act and, in line with the evolving situation, has begun suspending and expiring powers early where they are no longer needed. In December 2020, the Mental Health provisions under section 10 of the Act were expired early for England, as they were no longer deemed necessary to deal with the pandemic. Similarly, twelve provisions were expired and three suspended at the one-year review in March 2021. During the latest six-month review conducted in September 2021, a further seven provisions and parts of an eighth were identified for early expiry. Regulations to expire these provisions were laid on 27 October 2021 under the draft affirmative procedure. If parliament approves those regulations, then 50% of the temporary non-devolved powers in the Act will have been expired early. Additionally, parts of a provision were identified to be suspended. An SI was laid on 27 October 2021 which came into force on 28 October which implemented this suspension.

The Government's approach has evolved based on the success of the vaccine programme, which continues to be our first line of defence. As of 15 November 2021, more than 50 million people in the UK have received their first dose and over 46 million of those have received their second. 88% of everyone in the UK over the age of 12 has received at least one vaccine dose, 80% of people have had at least two doses and 22% have had three doses. Vaccines give high levels of protection, but we know immunity reduces over time, particularly for older adults and at-risk groups. Therefore, steps are being taken through the booster programme to ensure our most vulnerable are protected over the winter. As of 15 November 2021, over 12 million have received their booster or third dose. The Government continues to encourage all those who are unvaccinated or eligible for a booster or third dose to come forward to get the vaccine.

We know that this winter is likely to be challenging, especially for the NHS. The Government published the <u>COVID:19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan</u> on 14 September 2021, which sets out the plan to sustain the progress made and prepare the country for future challenges, while ensuring the NHS does not come under unsustainable pressure. The Government has set out contingency measures under 'Plan B' for England, which will only be enacted if the data suggests further measures are necessary to protect the NHS.

The pandemic is far from over: new cases of the virus are relatively high; and the pressure on our hospitals is steadily growing. As such, the Government is confident that if things have to change, measures will be prompt and proportionate. Nonetheless, it remains important that everyone follows Government guidance to help further support the fight against the virus.

What the Act was designed to achieve

The Act was designed to help maintain critical public services and societal functions, support individuals and business and protect public health. The Act achieves this through five key areas:

1. **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 reduces 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 Covid-19 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 impacts of the Act

The remaining provisions in the Act continue to play an important role in the response to this pandemic across the five key areas outlined above during the coming winter.

In assessing the provisions in the Act, the Government has identified some which have minimised disruption to important public services during the pandemic and will benefit longer-term reform. This includes section 30 of the Act, which allows the suspension of inquests without a jury where Covid-19 is suspected as the cause of death, which the Government is seeking to make permanent through the Judicial Review and Courts Bill; and sections 53-55 enabling virtual court hearings, which have been incorporated into the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

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. One of the key areas in which the Act allows action to manage the Coronavirus response is increasing the available health and social care workforce.

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. The purpose of the temporary registration of these professionals is to provide the NHS with additional workforce capacity to deal with the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. As of 21 October 2021, both the NMC and the HCPC had over 14,000 registrants on their respective emergency registers. We also know that, at a national level, around 4,000 healthcare professionals are employed on the basis of temporary registration based on data from the Bring Back Staff scheme run by NHS England/Improvement. Based on current projections relating to Coronavirus case numbers, it is expected that there will be an increased demand on the NHS workforce over the winter period spanning 2021/22 not only due to Covid-19 but influenza (flu) and other seasonal respiratory conditions as well. This, on top of the vaccine programme commitments that will continue across autumn and winter, including both the flu vaccine and the roll out of the Covid-booster vaccination programme, means that these powers remain important to cope with increasing demands.

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 Covid-19 pressures. Temporary registrants can help ensure the health system works at maximum capacity. This power in the Act has been used continuously since enactment, 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 Social Work England that they were

practising. The availability of temporary registrants within the social care sector has provided a valuable contingency in employers' planning during the pandemic.

Section 14 of the Act allows relevant NHS bodies the option not to comply with the requirement to carry out Continuing Healthcare (CHC) assessments before discharging a patient from hospital, and into the community. While CHC assessments were paused nationally from 19 March to 31 August 2020, they were reintroduced from 1 September 2020 following publication of Restart Guidance on 21 August 2020. Although it is not currently being used, the provision will be retained in case it is needed to support timely discharge from hospital and the effective prioritisation of health and social care staff and resources. This means that the measure can be relied upon quickly if necessary, without the need to make regulations to revive it, and would provide an option of last resort to support NHS capacity and help address pressures this winter, if necessary.

Section 45 of the Act suspends 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, without having their pension benefits suspended. 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 full-time equivalent (FTE) rate (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 in the Act have been vital in providing the extra support needed to facilitate the effective vaccine rollout across the country. Between 9 September and 14 November 2021, this workforce has supported the administration of around 14.6 million doses 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 extraordinary pressures resulting from Covid-19. The pandemic has presented our health service with unprecedented challenges, but it has retained, at its heart, the need to provide people with the care they need when they need it, without the system becoming overwhelmed.

Section 11 of the Act 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 have gone ahead. Section 11 continues to allow the Government to fill these gaps and move quickly to respond to the pandemic. Section 11 also provides reassurance to patients that they will have a route of redress should they suffer harm while receiving care related to Covid-19 and to clinicians, so they do not need to worry about indemnity arrangements. As per section 89 of the Act, section 11 is not a temporary provision and so cannot be expired early.

The Schedule 20 (section 50) powers in the Act ensure a response can be mounted quickly and effectively in the event that an outbreak of Covid-19 leads to many Border Force staff being unwell and unable to work, resulting in a scenario where there are insufficient staff to adequately protect the UK's border. This provision ensures that the Government has the power to instruct ports to close, were this event to arise. There is a high threshold for the use of the power and it would only be used where the Secretary of State believes that it is necessary, proportionate, and there is a real and significant risk to border security; and only after all other reasonably practicable measures avenues have been exhausted.

Sections 53-56 of the Act 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, the legislative provisions have allowed thousands of hearings to take place since the passing of the Act, with over 13,000 hearings per week currently taking place using remote technology across 3,200 virtual courtrooms. The

number of virtual hearings per week has reduced since the move to Step 4 of the Government's Roadmap as it is now possible for more hearings to be held in person. However, these provisions in the Act remain important, with around 40-45% of hearings each day including one or more parties joining remotely, down from 88% at the height of lockdown. The provisions allow the courts to deal promptly and safely with proceedings, avoiding unnecessary social contact and travel, but allowing key services within the justice system to continue to be delivered while upholding the principle of open justice. These provisions have also been vital in supporting court recovery and helping courts work through the backlog of cases as quickly and efficiently as possible by enabling preliminary hearings to take place remotely so that courtrooms can be reserved for more hearings (particularly trials) that must happen in court. Provisions were included in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill (introduced in March) to make these powers permanent, subject to Parliamentary approval of the Bill.

Supporting people

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

The power under section 39 in the Act allowed 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 Covid-19. The rebate scheme was an important part of the wider package of support to employers. The scheme closed to new claims on 30 September 2021. Budget 2021 forecasted that approximately £35m will be spent on the rebate in 2021-22, based on the scheme continuing to the end of September 2021. An administrative period of three months means businesses will, until 31 December 2021, be able to claim back SSP costs via the rebate for any eligible absence that occurred up to 30 September 2021.

Section 75 of the Act allows for financial assistance provided to businesses under section 8 of the Industrial Development Act 1982, which is designated as coronavirus-related, does not count towards the overall limit on assistance that can be provided to business under section 8 of the latter Act. This change has enabled businesses to access loan schemes such as the Bounce Back Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme, and the Future Fund. As of 31 May 2021, these schemes have collectively approved more than £79 billion worth of finance through more than 1.6 million facilities. To ensure transparency of expenditure under the Industrial Development Act, the Business Secretary already reports annually to Parliament. However, the Business Secretary has gone further in relation to the Coronavirus Act, and will continue, to ensure full transparency on spend related to Covid-19 by reporting to Parliament on a quarterly basis. The latest report published is Q2 2021 (April – June) which was published on 15 November 2021 As per section 89 of the Act, section 75 (1) is not a temporary provision and so cannot be expired early.

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). After running continuously for nineteen months, the schemes closed on 30 September 2021. There have been 11.7 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 £70 billion in claims. Applications for the fifth and final SEISS grant closed on 30 September 2021. Up to 7 October 2021, £28.1 billion has been paid in SEISS grants in total. Across the five grants, 2.9 million individuals have received a grant and 10.4 million total grants have been claimed. As per section 89 of the Act, section 76 is not a temporary provision and so cannot be expired early.

Section 82 prevents landlords of commercial properties from being able to evict tenants for the non-payment of rent, providing continued support for businesses given the high levels of unpaid rent accrued since March 2020 until new measures can be put in place. The measures have been in place since March 2020 and extended in three-monthly periods until 30 June, when the measures were extended again until 25 March 2022. These provisions have prevented commercial landlords from evicting tenants owing to non-payment of rent, protecting businesses and the jobs that they support during enforced sector closures and partial closures at a time when trading was still restricted. Data from Remit Consulting indicates that while overall rent collection is at 85.2% at 35 days past the September 2021 quarter date, a total of £6.97bn of rent is missing since the start of the pandemic. It is clear from the lower levels of rent that there would be substantial scope for evictions for the non-payment of rent if the current tenant protection measures were not in place, resulting in business failures and job losses. The Government has now introduced the Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill in Parliament. This will 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 a negotiated settlement cannot be reached.

Containing and slowing the virus

The Government's objective has always been to save lives and protect the NHS. As set out in the Covid-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021, the Government's aims to sustain the progress made and prepare the country for future challenges, while ensuring the NHS does not come under unsustainable pressure. Provisions within the Act continue to be effective in allowing the Government to protect society following the removal of most restrictions.

Section 38 in the Act continues to support schools and education settings. 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. However, the Government recognises that Covid-19 will cause further disruption this academic year, with some pupils currently not able to attend school if they test positive for Covid-19. The Secretary of State for Education has therefore issued a new remote education temporary continuity direction for academic year 2021/22, providing clarity to the sector about what is expected and ensuring consistency with last academic year. Having reviewed the use of the notices and the requirements needed for the Department for Education's Contingency Framework, the Government is now able to expire 19 of the possible 29 provisions listed in Schedule 17 which could be modified or disapplied via a notice, only retaining those which would either need to be used or explored for mobilising the Contingency Framework, to ensure relevant protections to individuals and the sector. A Statutory Instrument was laid on 27 October 2021 which, if Parliament approves, will expire the 19 provisions as well as seven other powers from the Act.

Other provisions were introduced through the Act which aimed to contain and slow transmission of the virus to protect public health. This included Schedule 21 (section 51) which provided powers relating to potentially infectious people, and Schedule 22 (section 52) which provided powers relating to events, gatherings, and premise. Following the latest six-month review, a Statutory Instrument was laid on 27 October 2021 which will expire these powers, subject to Parliamentary approval as they are no longer deemed necessary and proportionate in response to the pandemic. These changes highlight the shift in focus of this Act towards provisions which enable and support individuals, businesses, and public services.

Managing the deceased with respect and dignity

The steps the Government has taken throughout the pandemic have been designed to save lives. Regrettably, and despite the Government's best efforts, people have suffered the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19. The Government is committed to ensuring the deceased are

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. These measures have widened the scope of who can certify a cause of death; they have enabled medical practitioners to complete and sign a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) when the attending doctor has not been available (due to illness, self-isolation or any other reason), thus preventing delays to the death management process and associated pressures building on the health service. They have also enabled deaths to be registered when access to offices has not been possible, and more generally reduced the footfall at register offices, by allowing deaths to be registered by telephone rather than face to face and for associated documents to be electronically sent rather than by hand. This has enabled deaths to be registered without delay and the timely arrangement of funerals. The provisions have also benefited the continuing ongoing recovery of other registration services such as the registering of births. The provisions continue to alleviate the pressures within both the health service and the local registration service.

The powers under section 19 of the Act remove the requirement for provision of a confirmatory medical certificate from a second medical practitioner, independent of the first, to accompany an application for cremation. The provision has contributed to ongoing Covid-19 management, and to national recovery, by reducing demand on the medical profession and increasing their capacity to focus on frontline duties at a time when they are managing a number of significant additional pressures arising from the pandemic (including vaccination rollout); and by supporting timely cremations during periods of excess deaths, thereby reducing pressure on mortuary capacity and on the death management process.

The powers under section 30 of the Act allow most inquests where Covid-19 is suspected as the cause of death to take place without a jury. Coroner services continue to experience difficulties in hearing jury and non-jury complex inquests and section 30 has continued to support efforts to mitigate the impact of the increased demands the pandemic has placed on them, and to assist their recovery plans. Section 30 continues to be necessary 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 would exacerbate the existing inquest backlog across England and Wales. This provision will support efforts to keep coroner services functioning in the light of continuing pressures. Although statistics on the number of deaths reported to the coroner where the deceased had been diagnosed with Covid-19 are not held. Ministry of Justice coroner statistics for 2020 published on 13 May 2021 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 added to coroners' inquest backlogs had they needed to be held with a jury. There were 3.845 natural cause inquest conclusions in the 2020 calendar year, a number of which would have been where Covid-19 had been suspected as the cause, and would also have increased coroners' inquest backlogs had they had to be held with a jury. The Judicial Review and Courts Bill, which is currently before Parliament, contains a measure which is similar to section 30 of the Act.

Equalities and Human Rights

The Government appreciates the impact that many of the provisions of the Act have had 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 undergoes appropriate checks and balances.

The Government has considered its Public Sector Equality Duty in assessing the impacts of either retaining, suspending, or expiring provisions throughout the lifespan of the Act. The Government will continue monitoring the remaining powers in the Act, and the impact retaining the powers on human rights and will take action if it is deemed appropriate.

The Government is determined to continue addressing the pre-existing health inequalities which have contributed to the unequal effect of Covid-19 across different segments of our society. The causes of these inequalities are varied and will require a wide-ranging long-term response, encompassing levelling up health, the economy, welfare and more. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) will work across the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the rest of government, the healthcare system, local government and industry to be creative about how we shift our focus towards preventing ill health, in particular in the places and communities where there are the most significant disparities.

Reporting and Accountability Arrangements for the Coronavirus Act

The Government recognises the vital importance of Parliamentary scrutiny and has built in checks and balances on the use of the Act. Therefore, Part 2 of the Act also includes various arrangements to facilitate accountability and transparency over the use of powers set out in Part 1.

The Act requires that the temporary, non-devolved 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 the latest evidence. To date, three six-monthly reviews have taken place, in September 2020, March 2021 and most recently in September 2021. On all occasions, Parliament voted to renew the temporary, non-devolved provisions in the Act. Other accountability measures include the one-year 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 tenth 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 for tackling the pandemic. For example, the Scottish Government publish a report on the use of the emergency powers contained within the Act and the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 every two months. However, as the Act contains powers which relate to each nation, extensive engagement has taken place with the Devolved Administrations on the approach.

Mechanism to Change the Status of Provisions

The Government has always sought to balance the need to be able to respond effectively to the pandemic with a commitment to maintain powers for the shortest possible time and expire provisions which are no longer necessary or proportionate.

Under section 88 of the Act, many of the provisions contained within the Act can be suspended if the current scientific advice and public health situation mean that they are no longer required. They can then be revived again if circumstances and advice change. This allows Government to be cautious in the approach they take towards the provisions as the evidence and data changes. Section 22 in the Act was suspended as of 21 April 2021, following the one-year review along with Parts 2 and 3 of Schedule 28 (section 58). On 28 October 2021, The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Suspension: Disposal of Bodies) Regulations 2021 came into force

which suspended Parts 1, 4 and 5 of Schedule 28 (section 58) meaning that the full provision is now suspended. In addition, the Government laid The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Residential Tenancies and Notices) (Amendment and Suspension) (England) Regulations 2021 on 8 September 2021 in relation to Schedule 29 (section 81) (Residential tenancies: England and Wales: Protection from eviction). This Statutory Instrument returned notice periods for residential tenancies in England to the pre-Covid lengths from 1 October 2021 whilst retaining the ability to reapply longer notice periods until 25 March 2022 as a backstop, should the future public health situation warrant a further extension.

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. Regulations to expire powers early are laid under the draft affirmative procedure, and so again are subject to approval by both Houses of Parliament before coming into force. Section 90(1) was used to expire the Mental Health provisions under section 10 of the Act (in relation to England) in December 2020 and twelve provisions following the one-year review of the Act (see table at the end of this document for more detail on what has been expired previously). Following the third six-monthly review, regulations were laid on 27 October 2021 which, subject to Parliamentary approval, will expire seven provisions and parts of an eighth. As outlined in the nineth two-monthly report, this includes:

- Section 23: Time limits in relation to urgent warrants etc under Investigatory Powers
 Act
- Section 37 (Schedule 16): Temporary closure of educational institutions and childcare premises
- Section 51 (Schedule 21): Powers relating to potentially infectious persons
- Section 52 (Schedule 22): Powers to issue directions relating to events, gatherings, and premises
- **Section 56 (Schedule 26):** Live links in magistrates' court appeals against requirements or restrictions imposed on a potentially infectious person
- Section 77: Uprating of working tax credits etc.
- Section 78: Local Authority Meetings.
- 19 of the possible 29 provisions which could be modified or disapplied via a notice under **Schedule 17 (section 38)** of the Act. These provisions are:
 - Section 43 of the Children and Families Act 2014
 - Section 44(1) of the Children and Families Act 2014
 - o Children and Families Act 2014 section 42
 - Section 512(3)(b) and (c)(ii) of the Education Act 1996
 - Education Act 1996 sections 512 to 512ZB
 - Education Act 2005 section 13(2)(b)
 - Section 87 School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA)
 - Section 88D School Standards and Framework Act 1998
 - Section 99 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998
 - Education Act 1996 sections 508A to 508F
 - Education Act 1996 section 14
 - Education and Skills Act 2008 section 124(2)
 - Education and Skills Act 2008 section 125(2)
 - The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 section 44
 - The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 section 51A
 - Education Act 1996 sections 15ZA to 15ZC
 - o Childcare Act 2006 sections 7 and 7A
 - Childcare Act 2006 Section 12
 - School Standards and Framework Act 1998 section 70

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:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-status

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."

Status Table

(All Part 1)	Provision		Use of provision since Royal Assent – 25 th November 2021
And Schedules 1		Came into force on Royal Assent	No change in terminology
	Emergency	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. The purpose of the temporary registration of these professionals is to provide the NHS with additional workforce capacity to deal with the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.
			The provision has been used from the time it was enacted, providing the NHS with additional workforce capacity to deal with the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. • Over 14,000 registrants are on NMC temporary registers. • Over 14,000 registrants are on HCPC temporary registers. We also know that, at a national level, circa 4,000 healthcare professionals are employed on the basis of temporary
6	Emergency		registration based on data from the Bring Back Staff scheme run by NHS England/Improvement. Based on current projections relating to Coronavirus case numbers, it is expected that there to be an increased demand on the NHS workforce over the winter period spanning 2021/22 not only due to Covid-19 but influenza and other seasonal respiratory conditions as well. This, on top of the vaccine programme commitments that will continue across Autumn and Winter, including both the flu vaccine and the roll out of the Covid-booster vaccination programme, means that these powers remain vital to cope with increasing demands.
Sch 5	,	on Royal Assent	This provision allows the temporary registration of social workers who had recently left the profession, so that they may provide support to health and social care providers facing coronavirus pressures.

			This power has been used continuously since enactment, when 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 practising. As there is no requirement on registrants to tell SWE whether they are practising, the actual number is likely to be higher.
			Temporary registrants can help ensure the health and care system can work at maximum capacity. Social workers operate at the interface of hospitals and arranging care and support for people ready for discharge, as well as those supported at home and their family carers. Their role will be essential in ensuring the NHS can cope with winter pressures from the combined impact of coronavirus, influenza, and other seasonal respiratory conditions. Social workers also have a vital role in keeping children safe. While there is uncertainty in projecting the impact of restrictions, school closures and self-isolation on seasonal trends as we move into winter, we anticipate that children's services may experience uneven increases in demand through the following months.
			Employers have advised that the availability of temporary registrants has provided a valuable contingency in their planning throughout the pandemic.
8		Expired	Following the one-year review, a Statutory
Sch 7 9	volunteering leave Compensation for emergency volunteers	'	Instrument was laid under the draft affirmative procedure on 21 April 2021 and debated and approved by both Houses. The Statutory Instrument came into force on 16 July 2021 and expired these provisions.
10 and Sch 8	modification of mental	Expired (in relation to England)	These powers were expired in relation to England on 10 December 2020.
11			As per section 89 of the Act, section 11 is not temporary and, therefore, not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.
			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 can only be used where there are gaps in existing indemnity cover. Some examples include:

- NHS England/Improvement'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;
- Lateral flow testing of asymptomatic staff in primary care to maintain NHS capacity. Indemnity is provided for peer to peer testing where this is not covered by standard indemnity arrangements; and
- 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.

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. As well as providing reassurance to clinicians, 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 may be required in future. For this reason, the section 11

			powers are excluded from the Act's expiry
14	NHS Continuing Healthcare Assessments	Came into force on Royal Assent	provisions. Section 14 of the Act allows the NHS the option not to comply with the requirement to carry out Continuing Healthcare (CHC) assessments before discharge from hospital, and in the community.
			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.
			Although it is not currently being used, section 14 has been retained to support timely discharge from hospital and the effective prioritisation of health and social care staff and resources as required. This means that the measure can be relied upon quickly if necessary, without the need to make regulations to revive it, and would provide an option of last resort to support NHS capacity and help address pressures this winter, if all other options had been exhausted.
15 Sch 12	Local authority care and support	Part 1 expired 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 have widened the scope of who can certify a cause death; they have enabled medical practitioners to complete and sign a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) when the attending doctor has not been available (due to illness, self-isolation or any other reason), thus preventing delays to the death management process and associated pressures building on the health service. They have enabled deaths to be registered when access to offices has not been possible, and, more

generally, reduced footfall at register offices by allowing deaths to be registered by telephone, rather than face to face, and for associated documents to be electronically sent, rather than by hand. This has enabled deaths to be registered without delay and facilitated the timely arrangement of funerals. The provisions have also benefited the ongoing recovery of other registration services which cannot be delivered remotely, such as the registering of births and marriages.

The provisions continue to alleviate pressures within both the health service and the local registration service. Both the death certification and the registration modifications stand ready to be used in any further waves going forward into the winter period.

The modifications to the certification and registration of deaths have been vital in meeting the ever-increasing 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 in the availability of medical practitioners to complete Medical Certificates which is currently impacted by various factors, including the backlog in medical procedures; the need to ensure delivery of the vaccine; vacancies; absences due to sickness or isolating; and in some areas, leave postponed during the pandemic emergency. 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 beneficial 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. The General Register Office attends weekly 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 has been reported. The sector overwhelmingly wishes for the easements to continue postpandemic. As we continue to move away from the peak of the pandemic and the coronavirus vaccine rollout continues, the pressures on the medical and registration services to deliver death certification and registration services has changed but not diminished and we still need to avoid any onward delays. For example, the medical profession has been impacted by doctors not being available to sign MCCDs through taking time off to recharge after the demands of 2020/21. For registration purposes, the continuation of death registration easements will ensure that Covid-secure office space can be utilised to assist wider civil registration recovery including vital services such birth registrations, marriages, and civil partnerships. A large number of marriages will have been deferred due to the pandemic: in addition to the ceremonial activity, this will continue to generate a high level of advance office footfall, as prior to a civil marriage or civil partnership couples must attend and give formal notice of their intent. Confirmatory medical Came into force 19 This provision removes the requirement for on 26 March provision of a confirmatory medical certificate not required for 2020 certificate from a second medical cremations: England practitioner, independent of the first, to and Wales accompany an application for cremation. It contributes to ongoing Covid-19 management, and to national recovery, by: reducing demand on the medical profession and increasing their capacity to focus on frontline duties at a time when they are managing a number of significant additional pressures arising from the pandemic (including vaccination rollout); and supporting timely cremations during periods of excess deaths, thereby reducing pressure on mortuary capacity and the death management process.

			Confirmatory medical certificates are provided by medical practitioners in addition to their role as healthcare providers. Medical practitioners not involved in the care of the deceased would otherwise be required to attend the deceased and consult
			medical records. Retention of section 19 also avoids the confusion and administrative burden of reintroducing the confirmatory cremation certificate for only a short period, pending its planned abolition with the expected introduction of a statutory Medical Examiner scheme, subject to the passage of the Health and Care Bill.
			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/coroners-statistics-2020 . Annual statistics from The Cremation Society (https://www.cremation.org.uk/Annual-statistics-1960-2020) show that 542,774 cremations were carried out in the British Isles in 2020.
			As per section 89 of the Act, section 19(11) is not temporary and therefore not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.
22	Appointment of temporary Judicial Commissioners	Suspended	This provision was suspended on 21 April 2021, following the one-year review of the Act.
			The provision 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.
			Regulations were made on 26 March 2020 for 12 months and ten temporary Judicial Commissioners were appointed for an initial six-month term. They were not reappointed following this and those regulations expired in March 2021.

			Given the vital role Judicial Commissioners play in protecting our national security and the prevention of serious crime, it is proportionate to keep this power suspended in case it needs to be revived in future.
23	Time limits in relation to urgent warrants etc under Investigatory Powers Act		Following the last six-month review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will expire these provisions if Parliament agrees.
			This power enables the time allowed for urgent warrants to be reviewed by a Judicial Commissioner, and how long they can last before they need to be renewed, to be varied. It is not envisaged that this power will be required at this stage in the pandemic.
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.
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
26	Authorities which may require information	Expired	approved by both Houses. The SI came into force on 16 July 2021 which expired these
27	Restrictions on use and disclosure of information	Expired	provisions.
28 Sch 15	Enforcement of requirement to provide information	Expired	
29	Meaning of 'food supply chain' and related expressions	Expired	
30	Suspension of requirement to hold inquests with jury: England and Wales		These provisions allow the majority of inquests where Covid-19 is suspected as the cause of death to take place without a jury.
			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 remain 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.

The Judicial Review and Courts Bill which is currently before Parliament contains a measure which effectively continues section 30.

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 facing.

We do not hold statistics on the number of deaths reported to the coroner where the deceased had been diagnosed with Covid-19. However, Ministry of Justice 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 added to coroners' inquest backlogs had they needed to be held with a jury. There were 3.845 natural cause inquest conclusions in the 2020 calendar year, a number of which would have been where Covid-19 had been suspected as the cause, and would also have increased coroners' inquest backlogs had they had 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

37	Temporary closure of		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. Following the last six-month review, a
Sch 16	educational institutions and childcare premises	on Royal Assent, to be expired	Statutory Instrument was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will expire this provision if Parliament agrees.
			This Schedule gives 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.
			The Secretary of State for Education might have opted 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 were met. However, the use of this provision has never been required and education settings began to return to full on-site attendance from 8 March 2021. Restricting attendance in education settings has been possible through guidance only, and attendance will continue to be managed in this way should it be necessary to do so. After careful consideration, the Government has concluded that this power is unlikely to be needed in the future and so the intention is
38 Sch 17	Temporary continuity: education, training and childcare	on Royal Assent,	for it to be expired. Following the last six-month review, a Statutory Instrument was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will expire parts of these provisions if Parliament agrees. As outlined in the 'Six-month review' section of the report, 19 of the possible 29 provisions under Schedule 17 will be expired. 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
			Notices regarding mandatory attendance, pupil registration, school inspections and Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) have been issued to carefully manage the sector's response to Covid-19. Since May 2020, 39 notices have been issued and a

notice disapplying requirements for the inspection of collective worship and denominational education for schools of religious character continued to be issued monthly until the end of August 2021. Other notices remain under review should they be needed urgently to respond to challenges relating to Covid-19. Notices are used to provide relevant protections to the sector and ensure stakeholders are able to support the effective delivery of the Department for Education's Contingency Framework.

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. Local authorities can be authorised to issue such directions in relation to registered childcare providers, schools and 16-19 Academies in their areas. The Office for Students can be authorised to issue directions in relation to registered higher education providers.

The Secretary of State for Education has not used this power in the past two months. The last remote education temporary continuity direction was issued on 26 August 2021.

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. However, we recognise that Covid-19 will cause further disruption this academic year, with pupils currently not able to attend school if they test positive for Covid-19, and the possibility that wider attendance restrictions may need to be reintroduced.

The Secretary of State for Education has therefore issued a new remote education temporary continuity direction for academic year 21/22, providing clarity to the sector about what is expected and ensuring consistency with the last academic year. The temporary continuity direction requires schools to provide remote education for state-funded, school-aged pupils whose attendance would be contrary to local public health advice or UK central government guidance or law relating to Covid-19. Schools must also have regard to the

		1	expectations for remote education which
			remain the same as the last academic year.
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' statutory sick pay (SSP) for absences related to coronavirus. The rebate scheme was an important part of the Governments wider package of support to employers. The scheme closed to new claims on the 30 September 2021, however an administrative period of three months will mean businesses will, until 31 December 2021, be able to claim back SSP costs via the rebate for any eligible absence that occurred up to 30 September 2021.
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. This 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 and supports delivery of SSP for impacted employees 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 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. The power in section 41 also allows the Government to use relevant notifications, i.e. from the Test and Trace scheme, to

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			trigger SSP eligibility. The provision came into force on Royal Assent of the Act.
45	NHS pension schemes: suspension of restrictions on return to work: England and Wales	Came into force on Royal Assent	These measures suspend rules in the NHS Pension Scheme to allow retired and partially retired staff to return to work or increase their working commitments. This aims to boost NHS capacity throughout the pandemic response.
			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, and are needed during the winter period when the NHS is likely to need additional capacity.
			In September 2021 DHSC confirmed to the NHS that the measure will not be up for renewal beyond March 2022 and that it will expire when the temporary provisions are due to expire as per s89(1) of the Act. This effectively created a 6 month notice period to allow for staff and employers to adjust to the return to business as usual. 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 abruptly, there is a risk staff would not respond positively if they were turned back on.
50 Sch 20	Power to suspend port operations	Came into force on Royal Assent	The purpose of this power is to ensure that we can continue to protect the border in the event that, due to Covid-19, there is a real and significant risk that there are or will be insufficient officers to maintain adequate border security, and the Secretary of State has taken such other measures as are reasonably practicable to mitigate that risk.
			Specifically, the Schedule provides powers for the Secretary of State to direct a port operator in the UK (i.e. a person concerned in the management of any port, for example airport, ferry port, international rail terminal) to suspend relevant operations. The Schedule also provides the Secretary of State with a power to issue consequential directions to other parties if the Secretary of State considers it appropriate in connection with the primary direction.

It remains a key contingency measure to enable Border Force (BF) to maintain a secure border if, as a consequence of Covid-19, BF frontline resources are impacted to such an extent that there are insufficient officers to carry out essential, ministerially mandated checks and controls at individual ports. Modelling suggests that the increase in passenger volumes into 2022 will increase the likelihood of using this power rather than diminish it. While we are currently seeing manageable border gueues at approximately 28% of pre-pandemic passenger volumes, our modelling suggests demand could rise to circa 40% before the end of the year, with some carriers and ports suggesting this could be as high as 60-70% of pre-pandemic demand. Protecting the border is a fundamental duty for government. While the threat of coronavirus remains, this power is needed to continue to provide for the scenario where, due to Covid-19, there are insufficient officers to maintain adequate border security. The power to suspend port operations will only be used where the Secretary of State believes that it is necessary, proportionate, and there is a real and significant risk to border security. As per section 88 of the Act, Schedule 20 is unable to be suspended. Therefore, the Government maintains this power as a contingency for the reason outlined above. 51 Came into force Following the last six-month review, an SI Powers relating to Sch 21 potentially infectious on Royal Assent, was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will persons to be expired expire these provisions if Parliament agrees. The Schedule 21 powers were important for controlling and containing the virus, and were applicable to all potentially infectious persons, not only international travellers. They were part of a suite of powers to support a range of strategic responses throughout the lifecycle of the pandemic. Public Health Officers (PHO) have used the powers a total of 10 times, but not since October 2020. Police have not used these powers to date and were only to use them after obtaining advice from a public health officer. As such the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care is no longer of the opinion

54 Sch 24	in criminal proceedings	Came into force	allow the courts and tribunals system to continue to function throughout the pandemic and ensure that more people are able to access justice.
53 Sch 23	•		As the Government has not exercised the powers under Schedule 22, the Government intends to expire the powers, should Parliament agree Sections 53-55 have been introduced to allow the courts and tribunals system to
			equivalent legislation. To date, regulations made using powers contained in Public 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).
			These powers were introduced to streamline 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
52 Sch 22	Powers to issue directions relating to events, gatherings and premises	Came into force on Royal Assent	published on gov.uk on 27 October 2021 and in the London Gazette on 28 October 2021 to revoke the declaration. Following the six-month review, a Statutory Instrument was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will expire these provisions if Parliament agrees.
			that these powers remain necessary and proportionate and so they will be expired, if Parliament agrees. These powers can only be used when the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has made a declaration that the incidence or transmission of coronavirus constitutes a serious and imminent threat to public health in England, and that the powers in Schedule 21 would be an effective means of tackling this. Such a declaration was previously issued on 10 February 2020. Under paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 21, the Secretary of State has a duty to revoke the declaration under this schedule when he is no longer of the view that the powers are an effective means of preventing significant transmission. As the Statutory Instrument was laid to expire these provisions, a notice was also

	in other criminal		The legislative provisions have allowed
	hearings		thousands of hearings to take place using
55 Sch 25	Public participation in	on Royal Assent	audio and video links since the passing of the Act. The take-up of remote technology has increased significantly, with over 13,000 hearings per week taking place using remote technology across 3,200 virtual court rooms.
			At present, over 40-45% of hearings each day include one or more parties joining remotely (to note this is down from 88% at the height of the lockdown and reflects the impact as the courts estate has been reopened and it becomes possible to hear more cases in person).
			These provisions have been necessary during the Covid-19 emergency response in ensuring that the courts can continue to run under social distancing restrictions by keeping the travel of participants and public to and from court to a minimum and enabling participants and non-party observers to attend hearings remotely.
			These provisions have also been vital in supporting court recovery and helping courts work through the backlog of cases as quickly and efficiently as possible by enabling preliminary hearings to take place remotely so that courtrooms can be reserved for more hearings (particularly trials) that must happen in court.
			It is important to note that sections 53 – 55 outlined above will be replaced by permanent provisions via clauses167-169 of the Police Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, subject to Parliament's approval.
56 Sch 26		Came into force on Royal Assent, to be expired	Following the last six-month review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will expire these provisions if Parliament agrees.
	infectious person		Section 56 and Schedule 26 provide for the use of live links in appeals against requirements or restrictions imposed on a potentially infectious person. This appeal right is linked to Schedule 21 of the Act, which enables public health officers, immigration officers and constables to exercise powers regarding potentially infectious persons. The Government intends to expire this power, making this appeal provision superfluous.
			In addition, an amendment to the Magistrates' Courts Rules earlier this year

			has clarified and regulated the power of magistrates' courts to make live link directions in civil proceedings such that a standalone power to order video links in these cases is no longer necessary.
58 Sch 28	Powers in relation to Si transportation, storage and disposal of dead bodies etc	uspended	Two SIs have been made which have suspended Section 58. Parts 2 and 3 were suspended as of 21 April under these regulations. Parts 1, 4 and 5 were suspended as of 28 October 2021 under these regulations.
			The section 58 powers were introduced to ensure that the UK was prepared for a reasonable worst-case scenario of the number 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.
			The section 58 powers are split into information gathering powers and powers of direction.
			Part 1 Powers
			The information gathering powers (also known as Part 1 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.
			We are aware London, Lincolnshire and Merseyside have made explicit use of these powers where voluntary engagement with the sector has proved inadequate. Local authorities are not required to inform the government if they have used the Part 1 powers to obtain this information. Use of the other powers is dependent upon certain tests which depend on timely and accurate information flow.
			The Part 1 powers have enabled local authorities and others to maintain an accurate picture of the capacity of the death management system in their area so they can identify and address emerging issues. The other powers have not been used throughout the Government's response to the pandemic. We do not wish to maintain provisions that have not been used, but since these remain an important lever in our contingency planning, we wish to maintain the ability to revive them if needed, rather

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		than expiring them. Death follows infection and critical illness, usually in hospital, so given the time taken for a rise in infections, then hospitalisations to occur, there would be sufficient time for us to anticipate problems in the death management system and revive the necessary death management powers. Part 2 and 3 Powers	
		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.	
		These have been suspended since April. 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 the powers 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 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.	
	Came into force on Royal Assent	As per section 89 of the Act, sections 59-61 are not temporary and therefore not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.	
Postponement of elections due to be held on 7 May 2020	Came into force on Royal Assent	the running of polls to postpone any local authority byelections (for example council	
Power to postpone certain other elections and referendums	Came into force on Royal Assent	parish, mayoral) and local referendums (fo	

			should they choose, by removing the statutory duty to do so from them.
			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 redeployed 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 under the Recall of MPs Act	Came into force on Royal Assent	As per section 89 of the Act, section 62 is not temporary and therefore not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.
	2015		This provision allowed Petition Officers the possibility to defer the petition. It ensured the electorate in that constituency had the ability 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 public health guidance. It has allowed staff to be freed up from being on standby for any electoral event during the period up until 6 May 2021. This meant they could be readily re-deployed to other duties to support the response to the pandemic as needed.
			Between when the Act came into force and 6 May 2021 no recall petitions were triggered.
63	Power to make supplementary etc provision		As per section 89 of the Act, section 63 is not temporary and therefore not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.
			No SIs have been made over the latest reporting period on this matter
			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 ensured that local government reorganisation in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire, which had been dependant on local elections taking place throughout those areas in May 2020, was 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 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 Administration Act 1992	Came into force on Royal Assent	As per section 89 of the Act, sections 72-74 are not temporary and therefore not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.
73	Power under the section 145 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992	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 made a range of significant interventions to support
74	5 of the National Insurance Contributions Act 2015	Came into force on Royal Assent	employers including but not limited to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Statutory Sick Pay rebate scheme. At this time, the government does not consider further support is required but remains ready to do whatever is required to support the economic recovery from Covid-19.
75	Disapplication of limit under section 8 of the Industrial Development Act 1982		As per section 89 of the Act, section 75(1) is not temporary and therefore not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.
	-		The provision is in use to facilitate the provision of financial support to business affected by Coronavirus. 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.
				To ensure transparency of expenditure under the Industrial Development Act the Business Secretary already reports annually to Parliament. However, the Government has 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 published is Q2 2021 (April – June) which was published on 15 November 2021
4	76	HMRC functions		As per section 89 of the Act, section 76 is not temporary and therefore not subject to the renewal vote or sunset date of the Act.
				The government has used this power to direct HMRC to have new functions relating to the payment and management of amounts in respect of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) and the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme.
				The powers set out in Section 76 cannot be expired. They support the Government's continued ability to manage the economic response to the ongoing pandemic.
				Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme After running continuously for nineteen months, the scheme closed on 30 September 2021.
				There have been 11.7 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 £70 billion in claims.
				Self-Employment Income Support Scheme Applications for the fifth and final SEISS grant closed on 30 September 2021. Up to 7 October 2021, £28.1 billion has been paid in SEISS grants in total. Across the five grants 2.9 million individuals have received a grant and 10.4 million total grants have been claimed.
			on Royal Assent, to be expired	Following the last six-month review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will expire these provisions if Parliament agrees.
				This power allowed for the rate of Working Tax Credit to be increased by an additional

			£1,045 a year above the rate of £1,995 previously announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 4 November 2019 (HCWS75), to £3,040 a year for 2020/2021. These provisions ceased to have effect from 05/04/2021 and therefore are no longer required.
78	Local authority meetings	Came into force on Royal Assent, to be expired	Following the last six-month review, an SI was laid under the draft affirmative procedure, on 27 October 2021, which will expire these provisions if Parliament agrees.
			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
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		In response to the improving public health situation, the rollout of the vaccination programme and the easing of national lockdown restrictions, notice periods returned to pre-Covid lengths from 1 October 2021. An SI was laid on 8 September which retained the ability to reapply longer notice periods until 25 March 2022 as a backstop, should the future public health situation warrant a further extension.
			Longer notice periods gave tenants more time before the landlord could bring possession proceedings and thus delayed the point at which the tenant was required to leave their home. This supported tenants at the height of the pandemic by allowing them to remain in their homes for longer or to have more time to make alternative arrangements safely. This reduced the risk of transmission of Coronavirus that arises from movement and homelessness and reducing the subsequent pressure on public services.
			From 1 June 2021, reflecting the improving public health position notice periods were reduced from six to four months and 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 remained lower. Tapering down notice periods prevented a steep drop-off from the previous level, avoiding a possible spike of pressure on public services. From 1 August 2021, the notice period for non-serious rent arrears reduced again from four months to two months. These measures apply to most renters in the private and social sectors, covering 8.4 million households. 82 Business tenancies in Came into force Prevents landlords of commercial properties England and Wales: from being able to evict tenants for the nonon Royal Assent payment of rent, providing continued protection from support for businesses given the high levels forfeiture etc of unpaid rent accrued since March 2020 until new measures can be put in place. These measures have most recently been extended to 25 March 2022. These provisions have prevented commercial landlords from evicting tenants owing to non-payment of rent, protecting businesses and the jobs that they support during enforced sector closures and partial closures at a time when trading was still restricted. The measures are now providing breathing space for landlords and tenants to negotiate outstanding arrears while businesses continue to recovery. Many businesses have not yet fully recovered from the impact of the pandemic, particularly in vulnerable sectors such as hospitality. Data from Remit Consulting indicates that while overall rent collection is at 85.2% at 35 days past the September 2021 quarter date¹, a total of £6.97bn of rent is outstanding since the start of the pandemic.2 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 with 30 June 2021 was appropriate as

¹ Remit Consulting REMark – September 2021 Quarter – 35 Day Analysis Report.

² Remit REMark – June 2021 Quarter – 90 Day Analysis Report.

			it was likely to lead to a significant level of evictions and business insolvencies which threaten jobs. On 9 November 2021, Government introduced the Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill, that will ringfence rent debt built up due to enforced closures and introduce a binding arbitration process to resolve these debts as a last resort.
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

Section number (and relevant Schedule number where applicable)	Measure	Type of change	Details of change	Secondary legislation making the change
Section 58	Powers in relation	Suspended	An SI was made on 27	The Coronavirus Act
(Schedule 28)	to transportation,	under section	October 2021 which	2020 (Suspension:
parts 1, 4 and 5	storage and	88(2)	came into force on 28	Disposal of Bodies)
	disposal of dead		October 2021 to	(England) Regulations
	bodies etc		suspend these powers.	2021
				(legislation.gov.uk)

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 8	Emergency Volunteering 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	Compensation for 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.		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	Restrictions on use and disclosure of 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 Treasury Commissioners.	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 79	Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).	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 84	-	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 22	temporary Judicial Commissioners	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		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)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	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

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				Disposal of Bodies) Regulations 2021
Mental Health a Capacity	nd Mental			
Section 10,	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	under section		The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/336)
Section 10,	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	under section	Section 10(3) and (4) came into force on 2 April 2020 in Northern Ireland.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No.1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020 (SI 2020/58)
	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	under section 87(2)	1 to 2 and paragraphs 11 to 13) came into force on 27 March 2020 in relation to Wales. Schedule 8 is now expired in relation to England.	Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/366)
	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	under section		The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No.1) Order (Northern Ireland) 2020 (SI 2020/58)
	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	Commencement under section 87(2)	(paragraphs 1 to 10, 19, 20 (so far as it relates to paragraphs 5 and 9	
and parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 8	Temporary modification of mental health and mental capacity legislation	Expired	The early sunsetting of these provisions was made on 8 December 2020 and came into force 9 December 2020.	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Expiry of Mental Health Provisions) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1467)
NHS and local a support	uthority care and			
Section 15,	Local Authority care and support	Commencement under section 87(2)	Section 15 (in relation to England) and part 1 of Schedule 12 (powers and duties of local authorities in England) came into force on 31 March 2020	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/388)

Section 15, Schedule 12	Local Authority care and support	Commencement under section 87(2)	Section 15 (in relation to Wales) and part 2 of Schedule 12 (powers and duties of local authorities in Wales)	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/366)
			came into force on 1 April 2020	
Section 16	Duty of local authority to assess needs: Scotland	under section 87(2)	Came into force on 5 April 2020	The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Commencement No. 1) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/121)
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 of stillbirths	deaths and			
Section 18, Schedule 13	Registration of deaths and still-births etc	Commencement under section 87(2)	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)

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