

# Publication withdrawn

The draft regulations were withdrawn in April 2024.

[The National Medical Examiner \(Additional Functions\) Regulations 2024](#) were laid before Parliament on 15 April 2024.

Read more about [death certification form and the introduction of medical examiners](#).

**2024 No. 000**

**MEDICAL PROFESSION, ENGLAND AND WALES**  
**CORONERS, ENGLAND AND WALES**

**The National Medical Examiner (Additional Functions) Regulations  
2024**

*Made - - - -*

*Laid before Parliament*

*Coming into force*

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 21(2)(b) and 176(3) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009(a).

In accordance with section 21(3) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, the Secretary of State has consulted the Welsh Ministers.

**Citation, commencement and extent**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the National Medical Examiner (Additional Functions) Regulations 2024 and come into force on [X].

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Coroners and Justice Act 2009;

“National Medical Examiner” means a person appointed under section 21(1) of the Act;

“section 19(4) regulations” means any regulations made under section 19(4) of the Act;

“section 20(1) regulations” means any regulations made under section 20(1) of the Act.

**National Medical Examiner’s functions**

3. In addition to the function conferred by section 21(2)(a) of the Act, the National Medical Examiner is to have the functions conferred by regulations 4 to 8.

### **Provision of advice to the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers**

4.—(1) The National Medical Examiner must provide such advice to the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers as the Secretary of State or the Welsh Ministers may request, or as is required, in the opinion of the National Medical Examiner, in relation to the functions of—

- (a) attending practitioners under section 20(1) regulations; and
- (b) medical examiners(a).

(2) In paragraph (1), "attending practitioner" has the meaning given in section 20(1) regulations.

### **Provision of advice to the Chief Coroner**

5. The National Medical Examiner must provide such advice to the Chief Coroner as the Chief Coroner may request in relation to causes of death, including in relation to the cause of death of any particular person.

### **Guidance to English NHS bodies and Welsh NHS bodies**

6.—(1) The National Medical Examiner may issue guidance to English NHS bodies(b) and Welsh NHS bodies(c) in relation to—

- (a) the qualification requirements for medical examiners;
- (b) the qualification requirements for someone acting on behalf of a medical examiner in accordance with section 20(1) regulations;
- (c) the functions of medical examiners;
- (d) the functions of someone acting on behalf of a medical examiner in accordance with section 20(1) regulations; and
- (e) the appropriate training to be undertaken by medical examiners from time to time to ensure that they have the experience and skills necessary to carry out their functions.

(2) The National Medical Examiner must consult the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers before issuing, amending or revoking any guidance under paragraph (1).

### **Standards of performance for medical examiners**

7. The National Medical Examiner is to—

- (a) prepare and publish standards of performance that medical examiners are expected to attain in exercising their functions;
- (b) keep the standards of performance under review; and
- (c) prepare and publish any revised standards of performance should the review suggest that to be necessary.

### **Reports to the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers**

8. The National Medical Examiner must, on reasonable request by the Secretary of State or the Welsh Ministers, and at least annually, provide to the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers reports and information in relation to—

- (a) the way in which the National Medical Examiner has exercised their functions during the period covered by the report;

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(a) For the meaning of "medical examiners", see section 48 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

(b) For the meaning of "English NHS bodies", see section 18A(4) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

(c) For the meaning of "Welsh NHS bodies", see section 18B(3) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

- (b) the way in which medical examiners have exercised their functions under section 19(4) regulations and section 20(1) regulations, including in relation to the meeting of the standards of performance published under regulation 7; and
- (c) the way in which attending practitioners have exercised their functions under section 20(1) regulations.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department of Health and Social Care

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations confer on the National Medical Examiner appointed by the Secretary of State under section 21(1) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (“the Act”) functions additional to the function of issuing guidance to medical examiners conferred on the National Medical Examiner by section 21(2)(a) of the Act.

The additional functions conferred are—

- providing advice to the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers in relation to the exercise of functions exercised by attending practitioners and medical examiners (regulation 4);
- providing advice to the Chief Coroner in relation to causes of death (regulation 5);
- issuing guidance to English NHS bodies and Welsh NHS bodies in relation to the qualification requirements of medical examiners and officers acting on behalf of medical examiners, their respective functions and the appropriate training to be undertaken by medical examiners (regulation 6);
- preparing and publishing standards of performance in relation to the exercise of medical examiners’ functions under the Act and keeping those standards under review (regulation 7); and
- providing reports and information to the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers about the exercise of functions by the National Medical Examiner, medical examiners and attending practitioners (regulation 8).