



Education Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 56

PART IX

ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS

CHAPTER I

ANCILLARY FUNCTIONS OF SECRETARY OF STATE

General functions

495 Determination of disputes.

- (1) Except where this Act expressly provides otherwise, any dispute between a [^{F1}local authority] and the governing body of a school as to the exercise of any power conferred or the performance of any duty imposed by or under this Act may be referred to the Secretary of State (despite any enactment which makes the exercise of the power or the performance of the duty contingent upon the opinion of the authority or of the governing body).
- (2) The Secretary of State shall determine any dispute referred to him under subsection (1).
- (3) Any dispute between two or more [^{F1}local authorities] as to which of them is responsible for the provision of education for any pupil shall be determined by the Secretary of State.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1158\)](#), **Sch. 2 para. 7(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 7(4)(5))

Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Cross Heading: General functions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 495 modified (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 44(7) (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- C2** Ss. 495-498 modified (1.4.2003 for E.; 31.10.2005 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 34(7), 216(4) (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2003/124, art. 4; S.I. 2005/2910, art. 4, Sch.
- C3** S. 495(1) extended (1.11.1996) by 1988 c. 40, s. 219(2) (as substituted (1.11.1996) by 1996 c. 56, ss. 582(1), 583(2), Sch. 37 Pt. 1 para.77 (with ss. 1(4), 561, 562, **Sch. 39**))
- C4** S. 495(1)(2) applied (with modifications) (E.) (1.2.2008) by The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/2979), reg. 1(1), **Sch. 1 para. 5**

496 Power to prevent unreasonable exercise of functions.

(1) If the Secretary of State is satisfied (either on a complaint by any person or otherwise) that a body to which this section applies have acted or are proposing to act unreasonably with respect to the exercise of any power conferred or the performance of any duty imposed by or under this Act, he may give such directions as to the exercise of the power or the performance of the duty as appear to him to be expedient (and may do so despite any enactment which makes the exercise of the power or the performance of the duty contingent upon the opinion of the body).

(2) The bodies to which this section applies are—

- (a) any [^{F1}local authority][^{F2}in England], [^{F3}and]
- ^{F4}[(b) the governing body of any community, foundation or voluntary school [^{F5}[^{F6}in England], of any community or foundation special school [^{F6}in England], or of any maintained nursery school][^{F6}in England].]

^{F7}(3)

^{F7}(4)

[^{F8}(5) This section is subject to sections 508I and 509AE (complaints about transport arrangements etc).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), **Sch. 2 para. 7(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 7(4)(5))
- F2** Words in s. 496(2)(a) inserted (20.2.2014) by School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (anaw 1), s. 100(4), **Sch. 5 para. 2(4)(a)**; S.I. 2014/178, art. 2(f) (with art. 3)
- F3** Word in s. 496(2)(a) inserted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), **Sch. 30 para. 129(a)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F4** S. 496(2)(b) substituted (1.9.1999) for s. 496(2)(b)(c) by 1998 c. 31, ss. 140(1), 145(3), **Sch. 30 para. 129(b)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F5** Words in s. 496(2)(b) substituted (8.1.2007) by Education and Inspections Act 2006 (c. 40), ss. 168(1), 188(2)
- F6** Words in s. 496(2)(b) inserted (20.2.2014) by School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (anaw 1), s. 100(4), **Sch. 5 para. 2(4)(b)**; S.I. 2014/178, art. 2(f) (with art. 3)
- F7** S. 496(3)(4) omitted (1.8.2012) by virtue of Education Act 2011 (c. 21), ss. 45(2)(b), 82(3); S.I. 2012/1087, art. 2 (with art. 6)

Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Cross Heading: General functions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F8** S. 496(5) inserted (12.1.2010 for specified purposes, 1.4.2010 in so far as not already in force) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), **Sch. 2 para. 7**; S.I. 2009/3317, art. 2, Sch. (with art. 3); S.I. 2010/303, art. 3, Sch. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Ss. 495-498 modified (1.4.2003 for E.; 31.10.2005 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 34(7)**, 216(4) (with **ss. 210(8)**, 214(4)); S.I. 2003/124, art. 4; S.I. 2005/2910, art. 4, Sch.
- C5** S. 496 applied (with modifications) (10.2.2009) (with application in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by The School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/3090), regs. 1(1), **10**
- C6** S. 496 modified (1.11.1996) by 1988 c. 40, **s. 219(3)** (as substituted (1.11.1996) by 1996 c. 56, **ss. 582(1)**, 583(2), Sch. 37 Pt. I para. 77 (with **ss. 1(4)**, 561, 562, **Sch. 39**))
S. 496 modified (1.9.1998) by 1997 c. 44, **s. 43(4)**; S.I. 1998/386, art. 2(4), **Sch. 1 Pt. IV**
S. 496 modified (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, **s. 44(7)** (with **ss. 138(9)**, 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
S. 496 modified (1.4.2001 (E.), 1.4.2002 (W.)) by 2000 c. 21, **s. 113(3)** (with s. 150); S.I. 2001/654, art. 2(2), **Sch. Pt. II** (with art. 3); S.I. 2001/2705, art. 2(1), **Sch. Pt. I**
- C7** S. 496 extended (1.11.1996) by 1992 c. 13, **s. 56(3)** (as added (1.11.1996) by 1996 c. 56, **ss. 582(1)**, 583(2), Sch. 37 Pt. I para. 112 (with **ss. 1(4)**, 561, 562, **Sch. 39**))
S. 496 extended (1.11.1996) by 1992 c. 13, **s. 57(6)(a)** (as substituted (1.11.1996) by 1996 c. 56, **ss. 582(1)**, 583(2), Sch. 37 Pt. I para. 113 (with **ss. 1(4)**, 561, 562, **Sch. 39**))
S. 496 extended (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 24, **Sch. 4 para. 10** (with **ss. 138(9)**, 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- C8** S. 496: power to apply conferred (1.10.1998) by 1998 c. 31, **s. 105(7)** (with **ss. 138(9)**, 144(6)); S.I. 1998/2212, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
- C9** S. 496 applied (7.8.2000 for E., 1.11.2000 for W.) by 2000 c. 22, s. 23, **Sch. 1 para. 10(a)**; S.I. 2000/2187, **art. 2(c)**; S.I. 2000/2948, **art. 2**
S. 496 applied (E.) (20.1.2003) by The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/2903), regs. 1(2), **8**
S. 496 applied (E.) (20.1.2003) by The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Secondary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/2904), regs. 1(2), **8** (with reg. 9)
- C10** S. 496 continued (W.) (22.3.2001) by S.I. 2001/1274, **art. 3(4)(a)**
- C11** S. 496 modified by 2000 c. 21, s. 113A(10) (as inserted (1.4.2003 for E., 1.8.2004 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 72(1)**, 216(4) (with **ss. 210(8)**, 214(4)); S.I. 2003/124, art. 4; S.I. 2004/1728, art. 4, Sch. Pt. 1)
- C12** S. 497: power to apply conferred by 1998 c. 31, s. 89(2) (as inserted (1.10.2002 for E., 1.2.2006 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 48**, 216(4) (with **ss. 210(8)**, 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2439, art. 3; S.I. 2006/172, art. 4, Sch.)
- C13** S. 496 applied (E.) (27.2.2007) by The School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/194), regs. 1(1), **10**
- C14** S. 496 applied (1.4.2007) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), **ss. 15(1)**, 109(2); S.I. 2007/1019, art. 3
- C15** S. 496 applied (with modifications) (E.) (1.2.2008) by The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/2979), reg. 1(1), **Sch. 1 para. 6**
- C16** S. 496 applied (31.8.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), **ss. 29(1)**, 109(2); S.I. 2008/17, art. 2(a)
- C17** S. 496 restricted (1.10.2010) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 15), **ss. 87(2)**, 216(3) (with **ss. 6(4)**, 84, 89(2), 205); S.I. 2010/2317, art. 2(6)(a) (as amended (1.10.2010) by S.I. 2010/2337, art. 2)
- C18** S. 496 applied (1.10.2010) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 15), **ss. 87(1)**, 216(3) (with **ss. 6(4)**, 84, 89(2), 205); S.I. 2010/2317, art. 2(6)(a) (as amended (1.10.2010) by S.I. 2010/2337, art. 2)
- C19** S. 496 applied by 2000 c. 22, Sch. A1 para. 9(a) (as inserted (3.12.2011 for specified purposes) by Localism Act 2011 (c. 20), s. 240(2), **Sch. 2 para. 2**; S.I. 2011/2896, art. 2(e))
- C20** S. 496 applied (1.2.2012) by The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/8), regs. 1(1), **32** (with reg. 1(3)(4))

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- C21** Ss. 496, 497 modified by 2002 c. 32, s. 135C(4) (as inserted (1.4.2012) by Education Act 2011 (c. 21), ss. 9, 82(3); S.I. 2012/924, art. 2)
- C22** S. 496: transfer of functions (7.8.2013) by The Transfer of Functions (Youth Leisure-time Activities) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1721), arts. 1(2), 2(b)(i) (with art. 4)
- C23** S. 496 functions transferred (9.11.2016) by The Transfer of Functions (Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/997), arts. 1(2), 10(2)(d) (with arts. 10(3), 11, 12)
- C24** S. 496(1) modified (7.8.2013) by The Transfer of Functions (Youth Leisure-time Activities) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1721), arts. 1(2), 3(3)(a) (with art. 4)

497 General default powers.

- (1) If the Secretary of State is satisfied (either on a complaint by any person interested or otherwise) that a body to which this section applies have failed to discharge any duty imposed on them by or for the purposes of this Act, he may make an order—
- (a) declaring the body to be in default in respect of that duty, and
 - (b) giving such directions for the purpose of enforcing the performance of the duty as appear to him to be expedient.
- (2) The bodies to which this section applies are—
- (a) any [^{F1}local authority][^{F9}in England], [^{F10}and]
 - ^{F11}(b) the governing body of any community, foundation or voluntary school [^{F12}in England][^{F13}, of any community or foundation special school [^{F12}in England], or of any maintained nursery school][^{F12}in England].]
- (3) Any directions given under subsection (1)(b) shall be enforceable, on an application made on behalf of the Secretary of State, by an order of mandamus.
- ^{F14}(4)
- ^{F14}(5)
- [^{F15}(6) This section is subject to sections 508I and 509AE (complaints about transport arrangements etc).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), Sch. 2 para. 7(2) (with Sch. 2 para. 7(4)(5))
- F9** Words in s. 497(2)(a) inserted (20.2.2014) by School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (anaw 1), s. 100(4), Sch. 5 para. 2(5)(a); S.I. 2014/178, art. 2(f) (with art. 3)
- F10** Word in s. 497(2)(a) inserted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), Sch. 30 para. 130(a) (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), Sch. 1
- F11** S. 497(2)(b)(c) substituted (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 140(1), Sch. 30 para. 130(b) (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), Sch. 1.
- F12** Words in s. 497(2)(b) inserted (20.2.2014) by School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (anaw 1), s. 100(4), Sch. 5 para. 2(5)(b); S.I. 2014/178, art. 2(f) (with art. 3)
- F13** Words in s. 497(2)(b) substituted (8.1.2007) by Education and Inspections Act 2006 (c. 40), ss. 168(2), 188(2)
- F14** S. 497(4)(5) omitted (1.8.2012) by virtue of Education Act 2011 (c. 21), ss. 45(2)(c), 82(3); S.I. 2012/1087, art. 2 (with art. 6)

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- F15** S. 497(6) inserted (12.1.2010 for specified purposes, 1.4.2010 in so far as not already in force) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), **Sch. 2 para. 8**; S.I. 2009/3317, art. 2, Sch. (with art. 3); S.I. 2010/303, art. 3, Sch. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Ss. 495-498 modified (1.4.2003 for E.; 31.10.2005 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 34(7), 216(4)** (with **ss. 210(8), 214(4)**); S.I. 2003/124, art. 4; S.I. 2005/2910, art. 4, Sch.
- C12** S. 497: power to apply conferred by 1998 c. 31, s. 89(2) (as inserted (1.10.2002 for E., 1.2.2006 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 48, 216(4)** (with **ss. 210(8), 214(4)**); S.I. 2002/2439, art. 3; S.I. 2006/172, art. 4, Sch.)
- C21** Ss. 496, 497 modified by 2002 c. 32, s. 135C(4) (as inserted (1.4.2012) by Education Act 2011 (c. 21), **ss. 9, 82(3)**); S.I. 2012/924, art. 2)
- C25** S. 497 applied (with modifications) (10.2.2009) (with application in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by The School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/3090), regs. 1(1), **10**
- C26** S. 497 modified (1.11.1996) by 1988 c. 40, **s. 219(3)** (as substituted (1.11.1996) by 1996 c. 56, **ss. 582(1), 583(2), Sch. 37 Pt. 1 para. 77** (with **ss. 1(4), 561, 562, Sch. 39**))
S. 497 modified (1.9.1998) by 1997 c. 44, **s. 43(4)**; S.I. 1998/386, art. 2(4), **Sch. 1 Pt. IV**
S. 497 modified (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, **s. 44(7)** (with **ss. 138(9), 144(6)**); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- C27** S. 497: power to apply conferred (1.10.1998) by 1998 c. 31, **s. 105(7)** (with **ss. 138(9), 144(6)**); S.I. 1998/2212, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
- C28** S. 497 applied (3.12.1998) by S.I. 1998/2876, **reg. 21**
S. 497 applied (7.8.2000 (E.), 1.11.2000 (W.)) by 2000 c. 22, s. 23, **Sch. 1 para. 10(b)**; S.I. 2000/2187, **art. 2(c)**, S.I. 2000/2948, art. 2
S. 497 applied (E.) (20.1.2003) by The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/2903), regs. 1(2), **8**
S. 497 applied (E.) (20.1.2003) by The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Secondary Schools) (England) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/2904), regs. 1(2), **8** (with reg. 9)
- C29** S. 497 extended (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, s. 24, **Sch. 4 para. 10** (with **ss. 138(9), 144(6)**); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- C30** S. 497 modified by 2000 c. 21, s. 113A(10) (as inserted (1.4.2003 for E., 1.8.2004 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 72(1), 216(4)** (with **ss. 210(8), 214(4)**); S.I. 2003/124, art. 4; S.I. 2004/1728, art. 4, Sch. Pt. 1)
- C31** S. 497 applied (E.) (27.2.2007) by The School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/194), regs. 1(1), **10**
- C32** S. 497 applied (1.4.2007) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), **ss. 15(2), 109(2)**; S.I. 2007/1019, art. 3
- C33** S. 497 modified (E.) (25.5.2007) by The Education (Supply of Information about the School Workforce) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/1264), regs. 1(1), **10**
- C34** S. 497 modified (E.) (1.9.2007) by The Education (Supply of Information about the School Workforce) (No.2) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/2260), regs. 1(1), **11**
- C35** S. 497 applied (with modifications) (E.) (1.2.2008) by The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Application of Enactments) (England) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/2979), reg. 1(1), **Sch. 1 para. 6**
- C36** S. 497 applied (31.8.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), **ss. 29(2), 109(2)**; S.I. 2008/17, art. 2(a)
- C37** S. 497 restricted (1.10.2010) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 15), **ss. 87(2), 216(3)** (with **ss. 6(4), 84, 89(2), 205**); S.I. 2010/2317, art. 2(6)(a) (as amended (1.10.2010) by S.I. 2010/2337, art. 2)
- C38** S. 497 applied (1.10.2010) by Equality Act 2010 (c. 15), **ss. 87(1), 216(3)** (with **ss. 6(4), 84, 89(2), 205**); S.I. 2010/2317, art. 2(6)(a) (as amended (1.10.2010) by S.I. 2010/2337, art. 2)
- C39** S. 497 applied by 2000 c. 22, Sch. A1 para. 9(b) (as inserted (3.12.2011 for specified purposes, 4.5.2012 in so far as not already in force) by Localism Act 2011 (c. 20), s. 240(2), **Sch. 2 para. 2**; S.I. 2011/2896, art. 2(e); S.I. 2012/1008, art. 4(b))
- C40** S. 497 applied (1.2.2012) by The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/8), regs. 1(1), **32** (with reg. 1(3)(4))

Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Cross Heading: General functions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- C41** S. 497: transfer of functions (7.8.2013) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Youth Leisure-time Activities\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1721\)](#), arts. 1(2), **2(b)(ii)** (with art. 4)
- C42** S. 497 functions transferred (9.11.2016) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\)](#), arts. 1(2), **10(2)(d)** (with arts. 10(3), 11, 12)
- C43** S. 497(1)(3) modified (7.8.2013) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Youth Leisure-time Activities\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1721\)](#), arts. 1(2), **3(3)(b)** (with art. 4)

[^{F17}497A Power to secure proper performance of [^{F16}local authority’s education functions]

^{F18}(1) This section applies to [^{F19}a local authority’s education functions][^{F19}the education functions of a local authority in England] .]

(2) If the Secretary of State is satisfied (either on a complaint by any person interested or otherwise) that a [^{F1}local authority] are failing in any respect to perform any function to which this section applies to an adequate standard (or at all), he may exercise his powers under subsection ([^{F20}(4), (4A) or (4B)]).

[The Secretary of State may also exercise his powers under subsection (4), (4A) or ^{F21}(2A) (4B) where—

- (a) he has given a previous direction under subsection (4), (4A) or (4B) in relation to a [^{F1}local authority] in respect of any function to which this section applies, and
- (b) he is satisfied that it is likely that if no further direction were given under subsection (4), (4A) or (4B) on the expiry or revocation of the previous direction the authority would fail in any respect to perform that function to an adequate standard (or at all).]

(3) ^{F22}.....

[^{F23}(4) The Secretary of State may under this subsection give the authority or an officer of the authority such directions as the Secretary of State thinks expedient for the purpose of securing that the function is performed on behalf of the authority by such person as is specified in the direction; and such directions may require that any contract or other arrangement made by the authority with that person contains such terms and conditions as may be so specified.]

[The Secretary of State may under this subsection direct that the function shall be ^{F24}(4A) exercised by the Secretary of State or a person nominated by him and that the authority shall comply with any instructions of the Secretary of State or his nominee in relation to the exercise of the function.

[So far as is appropriate in consequence of a direction given under subsection (4A), ^{F25}(4AA) a reference (however expressed) in an enactment, instrument or other document to a local authority is to be read as a reference to the person by whom the function is exercisable.

(4AB) Subsection (4AC) applies if a direction given under subsection (4A) expires or is revoked without being replaced.

(4AC) So far as is appropriate in consequence of the expiry or revocation, a reference (however expressed) in an instrument or other document to the person by whom the function was exercisable is to be read as a reference to the local authority to which the direction was given.]

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(4B) The Secretary of State may under this subsection (whether or not he exercises the power conferred by subsection (4) or (4A) in relation to any function) give the authority or an officer of the authority such other directions as the Secretary of State thinks expedient for the purpose of securing that the function is performed to an adequate standard.]

[^{F26}(5) Where the Secretary of State considers it expedient that—

- (a) in the case of directions given under subsection (4), the person specified in the directions, or
- (b) in the case of directions given under subsection (4A), the Secretary of State or a person nominated by him,

should perform other functions to which this section applies in addition to the function to which subsection (2) or (2A) applies, the directions under subsection (4) or (4A) may relate to the performance of those other functions as well; and in considering whether it is expedient that that person should perform any such additional functions, the Secretary of State may have regard to financial considerations.]

(6) Any direction under this section may either—

- (a) have effect for an indefinite period until revoked by the Secretary of State, or
- [^{F27}(b) have effect for a period specified in the direction unless revoked earlier by the Secretary of State.]

(7) Any direction given under subsection [^{F28}(4), (4A) or (4B)] shall be enforceable, on an application made on behalf of the Secretary of State, by an order of mandamus.]

[^{F29}(8) This section is subject to sections 508I and 509AE (complaints about transport arrangements etc).]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) Order 2010](#) (S.I. 2010/1158), **Sch. 2 para. 7(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 7(4)(5))
- F16** Words in s. 497A title substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) Order 2010](#) (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 7(9)(a)**
- F17** S. 497A inserted (1.10.1998) by [1998 c. 31, s. 8](#) (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1998/2212, art. 2(1), **Sch.1 Pt. I**.
- F18** S. 497A(1) substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) Order 2010](#) (S.I. 2010/1158), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 7(9)(b)**
- F19** Words in s. 497A(1) substituted (20.2.2014) by [School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Act 2013](#) (anaw 1), s. 100(4), **Sch. 5 para. 2(6)**; S.I. 2014/178, art. 2(f) (with art. 3)
- F20** Words in s. 497A(2) substituted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002](#) (c. 32), **ss. 60(3), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F21** S. 497A(2A) inserted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002](#) (c. 32), **ss. 60(4), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F22** S. 497A(3) repealed (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002](#) (c. 32), **ss. 60(5), 216(4), Sch. 22 Pt. 3** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F23** S. 497A(4) substituted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002](#) (c. 32), **ss. 60(6), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F24** S. 497A(4A)(4B) inserted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002](#) (c. 32), **ss. 60(7), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I

Changes to legislation: Education Act 1996, Cross Heading: General functions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F25** Ss. 497A(4AA)-(4AC) inserted (13.5.2014) by Children and Families Act 2014 (c. 6), **ss. 101(2), 139(4)**
- F26** S. 497A(5) substituted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 60(8), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F27** S. 497A(6)(b) substituted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 60(9), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F28** Words in s. 497A(7) substituted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 60(10), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F29** S. 497A(8) inserted (12.1.2010 for specified purposes, 1.4.2010 in so far as not already in force) by Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (c. 22), s. 269(4), **Sch. 2 para. 9**; S.I. 2009/3317, art. 2, Sch. (with art. 3); S.I. 2010/303, art. 3, Sch. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Ss. 495-498 modified (1.4.2003 for E.; 31.10.2005 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), **ss. 34(7), 216(4)** (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2003/124, art. 4; S.I. 2005/2910, art. 4, Sch.
- C44** S. 497A applied (with modifications) (1.3.2005 for E.) by Children Act 2004 (c. 31), **s. 50(1)-(3), (5)(6), 67(7)(e)**; S.I. 2005/394, art. 2(1)(f)
- C45** S. 497A modified (1.9.1999) by 1998 c. 31, **s. 44(7)** (with ss. 138(9), 144(6)); S.I. 1999/2323, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- C46** S. 497A applied (with modifications) (1.4.2007) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), **s. 15(3)(5)(6), 109(2)**; S.I. 2007/1019, art. 3
- C47** S. 497A applied (with modifications) (31.8.2008) by Childcare Act 2006 (c. 21), **s. 29(3)(5)(6), 109(2)**; S.I. 2008/17, art. 2(a)
- C48** S. 497A: transfer of functions (7.8.2013) by The Transfer of Functions (Youth Leisure-time Activities) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1721), arts. 1(2), **2(b)(iii)** (with art. 4)
- C49** S. 497A functions transferred (9.11.2016) by The Transfer of Functions (Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/997), arts. 1(2), **10(2)(d)** (with arts. 10(3), 11, 12)
- C50** S. 497A(2)(3)-(4B)(6)(7) modified (7.8.2013) by The Transfer of Functions (Youth Leisure-time Activities) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/1721), arts. 1(2), **3(3)(c)** (with art. 4)

[^{F30}497A] **Power to secure proper performance: duty of authority where directions contemplated**

Where, in relation to any function to which section 497A applies, the Secretary of State—

- (a) is satisfied as mentioned in subsection (2) or (2A)(b) of that section, and
- (b) has notified the [^{F1}local authority] that he is so satisfied and that he is contemplating the giving of directions under subsection (4) or (4A) of that section,

the authority shall give the Secretary of State, and any person authorised by him for the purposes of this section, all such assistance, in connection with the proposed exercise of the function by the Secretary of State or another person in pursuance of directions, as they are reasonably able to give.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by The Local Education Authorities and Children's Services Authorities (Integration of Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/1158), **Sch. 2 para. 7(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 7(4)(5))
- F30** S. 497AA inserted (26.7.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by Education Act 2002 (c. 32), ss. 61, 216(4) (with ss. 210(8), 214(4)); S.I. 2002/2002, art. 3; S.I. 2003/1718, art. 4, Sch. Pt. I

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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Ss. 495-498 modified (1.4.2003 for E.; 31.10.2005 for W.) by [Education Act 2002 \(c. 32\), ss. 34\(7\), 216\(4\)](#) (with [ss. 210\(8\), 214\(4\)](#)); [S.I. 2003/124, art. 4](#); [S.I. 2005/2910, art. 4, Sch.](#)
- C51** S. 497AA applied (with modifications) (1.3.2005 for E.; 1.10.2006 for W.) by [Children Act 2004 \(c. 31\), s. 50\(4\)\(5\), 67\(7\)\(e\)](#); [S.I. 2005/394, art. 2\(1\)\(f\)](#); [S.I. 2006/885, art. 4\(e\)](#)
- C52** S. 497AA applied (with modifications) (1.4.2007) by [Childcare Act 2006 \(c. 21\), s. 15\(4\)\(5\), 109\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2007/1019, art. 3](#)
- C53** S. 497AA applied (with modifications) (31.8.2008) by [Childcare Act 2006 \(c. 21\), s. 29\(4\)\(5\), 109\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2008/17, art. 2\(a\)](#)
- C54** S. 497AA: transfer of functions (7.8.2013) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Youth Leisure-time Activities\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1721\), arts. 1\(2\), 2\(b\)\(iv\)](#) (with art. 4)
- C55** S. 497AA modified (7.8.2013) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Youth Leisure-time Activities\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1721\), arts. 1\(2\), 3\(3\)\(d\)](#) (with art. 4)
- C56** S. 497AA functions transferred (9.11.2016) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\), arts. 1\(2\), 10\(2\)\(d\)](#) (with arts. 10(3), 11, 12)

[^{F31}497B Power to secure proper performance: further provisions.

- (1) Where the Secretary of State gives directions under [^{F32}section 497A(4) or (4A) to a [^{F1}local authority] or to an officer of such an authority, the specified person] shall, in the performance of the function or functions specified in the directions, be entitled to exercise the powers conferred by this section.

[In this section “the specified person” means—

- ^{F33}(1A) (a) in relation to directions under section 497A(4), the person specified in the directions, and
- (b) in relation to directions under section 497A(4A), the Secretary of State or the person nominated by him.]

- (2) The specified person shall have at all reasonable times—

- (a) a right of entry to the premises of the authority, and
- (b) a right to inspect, and take copies of, any records or other documents kept by the authority, and any other documents containing information relating to the authority, which he considers relevant to the performance of the specified function or functions.

- (3) In exercising the right to inspect records or other documents under subsection (2), the specified person—

- (a) shall be entitled at any reasonable time to have access to, and inspect and check the operation of, any computer and any associated apparatus or material which is or has been in use in connection with the records or other documents in question, and
- (b) may require—
- (i) the person by whom or on whose behalf the computer is or has been so used, or
- (ii) any person having charge of, or otherwise concerned with the operation of, the computer, apparatus or material,

to afford him such assistance as he may reasonably require (including, in particular, the making of information available for inspection or copying in a legible form).

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- (4) Without prejudice to subsection (2), the authority shall give the specified person all assistance in connection with the performance of the specified function or functions which they are reasonably able to give.
- (5) Subsection (2) shall apply in relation to any school maintained by the authority as it applies in relation to the authority; and without prejudice to that subsection (as it so applies)—
- (a) the governing body of any such school shall give the specified person all assistance in connection with the exercise of his functions which they are reasonably able to give; and
 - (b) the governing body of any such school and the authority shall secure that all such assistance is also given by persons who work at the school.
- (6) Any reference in this section to the specified person includes a reference to any person assisting him in the performance of the specified function or functions.
- (7) In this section “document” and “records” each include information recorded in any form.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Act substituted (5.5.2010) by [The Local Education Authorities and Children’s Services Authorities \(Integration of Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1158\)](#), **Sch. 2 para. 7(2)** (with [Sch. 2 para. 7\(4\)\(5\)](#))
- F31** S. 497B inserted (1.10.1998) by [1998 c. 31, s. 8](#) (with [ss. 138\(9\), 144\(6\)](#)); [S.I. 1998/2212](#), art. 2(1), **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
- F32** Words in s. 497B(1) substituted (1.10.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 62\(3\), 216\(4\)](#) (with [ss. 210\(8\), 214\(4\)](#)); [S.I. 2002/2439](#), art. 3; [S.I. 2003/1718](#), art. 4, Sch. Pt. I
- F33** S. 497B(1A) inserted (1.10.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 62\(3\), 216\(4\)](#) (with [ss. 210\(8\), 214\(4\)](#)); [S.I. 2002/2439](#), art. 3; [S.I. 2003/1718](#), art. 4, Sch. Pt. I

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** [Ss. 495-498](#) modified (1.4.2003 for E.; 31.10.2005 for W.) by [Education Act 2002 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 34\(7\), 216\(4\)](#) (with [ss. 210\(8\), 214\(4\)](#)); [S.I. 2003/124](#), art. 4; [S.I. 2005/2910](#), art. 4, Sch.
- C57** S. 497B applied (with modifications) (1.3.2005 for E.; 1.10.2006 for W.) by [Children Act 2004 \(c. 31\)](#), [s. 50\(4\)\(5\), 67\(7\)\(e\)](#); [S.I. 2005/394](#), art. 2(1)(f); [S.I. 2006/885](#), art. 4(e)
- C58** S. 497B modified (12.1.1999) by [S.I. 1998/3217](#), **reg.2(b)**
 S. 497B modified (1.9.1999) by [1998 c. 31, s. 44\(7\)](#), [145\(3\)](#) (with [ss. 138\(9\), 144\(6\)](#))
- C59** S. 497B applied (with modifications) (1.4.2007) by [Childcare Act 2006 \(c. 21\)](#), [s. 15\(4\)\(5\)](#), [109\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2007/1019](#), art. 3
- C60** S. 497B applied (with modifications) (31.8.2008) by [Childcare Act 2006 \(c. 21\)](#), [s. 29\(4\)\(5\)](#), [109\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2008/17](#), art. 2(a)
- C61** S. 497B(1)(1A) modified (7.8.2013) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Youth Leisure-time Activities\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1721\)](#), [arts. 1\(2\), 3\(3\)\(e\)](#) (with art. 4)
- C62** S. 497B(3) applied (1.10.2002 for E., 1.8.2003 for W.) by [Education Act 2002 \(c. 32\)](#), [ss. 64\(4\), 216\(4\)](#) (with [ss. 210\(8\), 214\(4\)](#)); [S.I. 2002/2439](#), art. 3; [S.I. 2003/1718](#), art. 4, Sch. Pt. I

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 13(2)(ba) substituted for s. 13(2)(aa)(b) by [2022 asc 1 Sch. 4 para. 8\(2\)](#)
- s. 15A(3A) inserted by [2022 asc 1 Sch. 4 para. 8\(3\)](#)
- s. 15B(3)(c) inserted by [2022 asc 1 Sch. 4 para. 8\(4\)](#)
- s. 17A functions made exercisable concurrently by [S.I. 2014/1012 art. 12\(1\)Sch. 2 para. 3](#)
- s. 17A functions made exercisable concurrently by [S.I. 2014/863 Sch. 2 para. 4](#)
- s. 17A functions made exercisable concurrently by [S.I. 2014/865 Sch. 2 para. 3](#)
- s. 17A functions made exercisable concurrently by [S.I. 2016/653 Sch. 3 para. 3](#)
- s. 17A-17D inserted by [2009 c. 22 s. 45](#)
- s. 17B-17D applied by [2009 c. 22 s. 86\(8\)](#)
- s. 457(4)(i)-(iia) repealed by [2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 1](#)
- s. 457(4)(iii) words repealed by [2012 c. 5 Sch. 14 Pt. 1](#)
- s. 508(4) inserted by [2022 asc 1 Sch. 4 para. 8\(7\)](#)
- s. 537AA inserted by [2008 c. 25 Sch. 1 para. 8](#)
- s. 548(7A)(7B) inserted by [2008 c. 25 Sch. 1 para. 9\(5\)](#)
- s. 578(1) words repealed by [2005 c. 18 Sch. 19 Pt. 1](#)