



Health and Social Care Act 2012

2012 CHAPTER 7

PART 11

MISCELLANEOUS

Duties to co-operate

291 Breaches of duties to co-operate

- (1) If the Secretary of State is of the opinion that bodies subject to a relevant co-operation duty have breached or are breaching the duty, or are at significant risk of breaching the duty, the Secretary of State may give a written notice of the Secretary of State's opinion to each body.
- (2) The relevant co-operation duties are—
 - (a) the duty under section 288 (co-operation by [^{F1}NHS England] with the Care Quality Commission),
 - [^{F2}(b) the duty under section 290(2),]
 - (c) the duty under section 70 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (co-operation by the Care Quality Commission with [^{F3}NHS England]),
 - (d) any duties imposed by an enactment on relevant bodies to co-operate with each other in the exercise of their respective functions.
- (3) The Secretary of State must publish each notice given under subsection (1) in such form as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if, having given a notice under subsection (1), the Secretary of State is satisfied that—
 - (a) the bodies concerned have breached or are continuing to breach the duty or, the risk of a breach having materialised, are breaching the duty, and
 - (b) the breach is having a detrimental effect on the performance of the health service (or, where the effect of the breach on the performance of the health service is both beneficial and detrimental, its overall effect is detrimental).

Changes to legislation: Health and Social Care Act 2012, Section 291 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 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

- (5) The Secretary of State may by order prohibit each body from exercising specified functions, or from exercising specified functions in a specified manner, unless the other body concerned agrees in writing that the body may do so.
- (6) The power to make an order under subsection (5)—
- (a) may be exercised so as to specify different functions in relation to each body, but
 - (b) may not be exercised so as to prevent a body from complying with a requirement imposed by or under an enactment or by a court or tribunal.
- (7) In default of agreement as to the exercise of a function specified in an order under subsection (5), a body may exercise the function in accordance with provision determined by arbitration.
- (8) An order under subsection (5) must specify the period for which a prohibition imposed by it has effect; and the period specified for that purpose may not exceed one year beginning with the day on which the order comes into force.
- (9) But if the Secretary of State is satisfied that the breach is continuing to have a detrimental effect (or an effect that overall is detrimental) on the performance of the health service, the Secretary of State may by order extend by one year the period for which the prohibition for the time being has effect.
- (10) In this section, “the health service” means the comprehensive health service continued under section 1(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 291(2)(a) substituted (1.7.2022) by [Health and Care Act 2022 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 186(6), **Sch. 5 para. 98(a)**; S.I. 2022/734, reg. 2(a), **Sch.** (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
- F2** S. 291(2)(b) substituted (1.7.2022) by [Health and Care Act 2022 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 186(6), **Sch. 5 para. 98(b)**; S.I. 2022/734, reg. 2(a), **Sch.** (with regs. 13, 29, 30)
- F3** Words in s. 291(2)(c) substituted (1.7.2022) by virtue of [Health and Care Act 2022 \(c. 31\)](#), s. 186(6), **Sch. 5 para. 98(c)**; S.I. 2022/734, reg. 2(a), **Sch.** (with regs. 13, 29, 30)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 291(2)(d) modified by 2006 c. 41, s. 14Z24(3) (as inserted (27.3.2012 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\)](#), **ss. 26**, 306(1)(d)(4); S.I. 2013/160, art. 2(2) (with arts. 7-9))
- C2** S. 291(2)(d) modified by 2006 c. 41, s. 13Z4(3) (as inserted (27.3.2012 for specified purposes, 1.4.2013 in so far as not already in force) by [Health and Social Care Act 2012 \(c. 7\)](#), **ss. 23(1)**, 306(1)(d)(4); S.I. 2013/160, art. 2(2) (with arts. 7-9))

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 291 partly in force; s. 291 in force for specified purposes at Royal Assent, see s. 306(1)(d)
- I2** S. 291 in force at 1.10.2012 in so far as not already in force by S.I. 2012/1831, **art. 2(2)**

Changes to legislation:

Health and Social Care Act 2012, Section 291 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 29 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.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2012/1831 art. 10 by [S.I. 2012/2657 art. 15](#)

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):

- Pt. 9 Ch. 1B inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 96](#)
- s. 102(4)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 1 para. 13(3) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 28](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- s. 105(3A)(3B) inserted by [2013 c. 24 Sch. 14 para. 21](#)
- s. 106(3A)(3B) inserted by [2013 c. 24 Sch. 14 para. 22](#)
- s. 250(2)-(2B) substituted for s. 250(2) by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 250(6)-(6D) substituted for s. 250(6) by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 251 substituted for s. 251 by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(3\)](#)
- s. 251C(6A) inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 259(1)(aa)(b) substituted for s. 259(1)(b) by [2022 c. 31 s. 98\(b\)](#)
- s. 259(1)(aa) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/98 Sch. para. 17\(11\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#) (This amendment comes in force at the same time as 2022 c. 31, s. 98 comes into force)
- s. 259(10A)(10B) inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 98\(h\)](#)
- s. 304(5)(ja) inserted by [2022 c. 31 s. 95\(5\)](#)