

# Protecting the public: An overview of the NMC

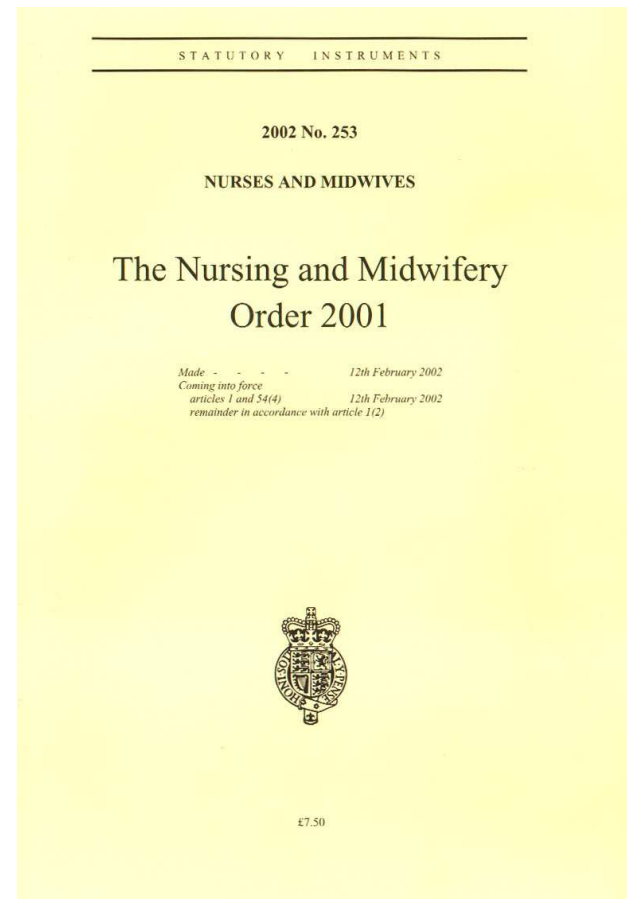
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## Safeguarding the public


- One of 9 organisations regulating health professionals in the UK
- Independent of government but accountable to Parliament
- Reviewed by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
- Funded by the registration fees of nurses and midwives - € 93

# Safeguarding the public

- Established by The Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001
- Regulate nurses and midwives across all four countries of the UK and the Islands
- Regulate nurses and midwives in the public, private and voluntary sectors




## **Responsibilities of the NMC**



We register all nurses and midwives and ensure that they are properly qualified and competent to work in the UK.

We set the standards of education, training and conduct that nurses and midwives need to deliver high quality healthcare consistently throughout their careers.

## **Responsibilities of the NMC**



We ensure that nurses and midwives keep their skills and knowledge up to date and uphold the standards of their professional code.

We have fair processes to investigate allegations made against nurses and midwives who may not have followed the code.

We ensure that midwives are safe to practise by setting rules for their practice and supervision.

## Registering professionals

- Over 600,000 nurses and midwives on our register
- Around 20,000 new graduates join each year
- Three parts to our register – nurses, midwives and specialist community public health nurses
- Applications from within the EU and overseas

## Setting standards

- We establish the standards for education, training, conduct, performance and ethics that nurses and midwives have to adhere to
- We quality assure nursing and midwifery education in the UK
- *The code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives*
- *Midwives rules and standards*

## Maintaining skills

- We establish standards that nurses and midwives have to meet to stay on the register
- These include required hours of practice and training
- Revalidation is in early stages
- We provide advice and support to help nurses and midwives apply our rules, standards and guidance

## Investigating allegations

- Last year just over 2,000 nurses and midwives were referred to us
- Nurses and midwives can be referred because of concerns about their conduct, competence and health
- Our panels have the power to impose a wide range of sanctions including striking people off the register

## Regulating midwives

- Midwives have been regulated since 1902 – Central Midwives Board
- Midwifery regulation joined with nursing regulation in 1983 – UKCC
- *Midwives rules and standards*
- Midwifery committee is set in statute

## **Statutory supervision of midwives**

- Framework that supports public protection
- Supports midwives in and with their practice
- Promotes best practice and excellence in care
- Prevents poor practice
- Intervenes in unacceptable practice

## **Supervision of midwives**

- Statutory supervision operating since the early 1900s
- Organised in areas known as local supervising authorities (LSAs)
- Each LSA has a midwifery officer
- Each unit has a team of supervisors

## Regulating midwives

- Every practising midwife in the UK has a named supervisor of midwives
- This person is not their employer or manager but is another specially trained midwife
- Supervisors of midwives are responsible for signing annual intention to practice form confirming that midwives are eligible to practice

## **Regulation is everyone's business**

- Regulatory board establishes standards
- Individual nurses and midwives practice according to their code
- Employers use strong governance procedures

Thank you

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