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Committee Stage: Tuesday 18 January 2022

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## Professional Qualifications Bill [Lords] (Amendment Paper)

This document lists all amendments tabled to the Professional Qualifications Bill [Lords]. Any withdrawn amendments are listed at the end of the document. The amendments are arranged in the order in which it is expected they will be decided.

This document should be read alongside the Chair's provisional Selection and Grouping, which sets out the order in which the amendments will be debated.

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### Resolution of the Programming Sub-Committee

*The Programming Sub-Committee appointed by the Speaker in respect of the Bill agreed the following Resolution at its meeting on Monday 17 January (Standing Order 83C):*

That—

1. the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Tuesday 18 January) meet—
  - (a) at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 18 January;
  - (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 20 January;
2. the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00 pm on Thursday 20 January.

Paul Scully has given notice of his intention to make a motion in the terms of the Resolution of the Programming Sub-Committee (Standing Order No. 83C).

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Paul Scully

That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, any written evidence received by the Committee shall be reported to the House for publication.

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Bill Esterson 2  
Chi Onwurah

Clause 2, page 3, line 2, at end insert—

“(2A) In determining whether the condition in subsection (2) is met, the appropriate national authority must have regard to the availability of professional services in the regulated profession by reference to such factors as appear to the authority to be relevant including, but not limited to—

- (a) the extent of delays in accessing professional services,
- (b) the level of charges for services,
- (c) available workforce data, skills needs or workforce modelling forecasts,
- (d) vacancy levels or recruitment difficulties,
- (e) whether the profession is on the occupation shortage list, and
- (f) the views of the relevant regulator and of professional representative bodies.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment requires additional information to be taken into account by the appropriate national authority when deciding what regulations are to be made in accordance with the powers conferred under clause 1.

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Bill Esterson 3  
Chi Onwurah

Clause 9, page 8, line 12, at end insert—

- “(6) Nothing in this section affects the establishment or operation of a common framework agreement relating to professional qualifications.
- (7) A “common framework agreement” is any agreement between a Minister of the Crown and one or more devolved authorities as to how devolved or transferred matters previously governed by EU law are to be regulated.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment provides additional reassurances to devolved administrations that the Act does not affect the establishment or operation of common framework agreements which are devolved matters.

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Bill Esterson  
Chi Onwurah

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Clause 14, page 11, line 13, at end insert—

- “(6) Subsections (7) to (9) apply where the Secretary of State makes regulations as the appropriate national authority under this Act which extend to the whole of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (7) Before making such regulations, the Secretary of State must—
- (a) consult such persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, and
  - (b) following that consultation, seek the consent of the Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and a Northern Ireland department.
- (8) If consent to regulations is not given by a relevant authority set out in subsection (7)(b) within the period of one month beginning with the day on which consent is sought from that authority, the Secretary of State may make the regulations without that consent.
- (9) If regulations are made in reliance on subsection (8), the Secretary of State must publish a statement explaining why the Secretary of State decided to make the regulations without the consent of the relevant authority.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment obliges the Secretary of State to consult the devolved administrations where regulations affect a regulator that covers the whole of the United Kingdom.

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Paul Scully

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Clause 21, page 15, line 11, leave out subsection (2)

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This amendment removes the privilege amendment inserted by the Lords.

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Bill Esterson  
Chi Onwurah

NC1

To move the following Clause—

**“Advice for regulators concerning mutual recognition**

The Secretary of State must provide additional support, co-ordination and guidance to regulators under the Act on how to make the most of the provisions in the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement signed on 30 December 2020.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This new clause provides an obligation on the Secretary of State to provide guidance to regulators concerning mutual recognition under the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement.

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Bill Esterson  
Chi Onwurah

NC2

To move the following Clause—

**“Skills shortages reporting**

In relation to any regulated profession falling under the provisions of this Act, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament an annual report detailing any workforce shortages, including what measures are being taken to resolve the shortages.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This new clause obliges the Secretary of State to produce an annual report setting out which sectors are facing skills shortages and what measures are being taken to resolve the shortages.

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Bill Esterson  
Chi Onwurah

NC3

To move the following Clause—

**“Protection for existing recognised qualifications**

Nothing in this Act prevents, qualifies or otherwise affects the ability of those with existing recognised qualifications to continue practising the profession to which the qualifications relate in the United Kingdom or any part of the United Kingdom.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This new clause provides additional certainty for workers who already have their professional qualifications recognised in the UK that this legislation will not affect them negatively.

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Bill Esterson  
Chi Onwurah

NC4

To move the following Clause—

**“List of current regulators**

The Secretary of State must maintain a list of current regulators of regulated professions and must publish that list on the Government’s website.

**Member’s explanatory statement**

This new clause requires the Secretary of State to publish and maintain an up-to-date list of regulators on the gov.uk website.

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## Order of the House

**[15 December 2021]**

That the following provisions shall apply to the Professional Qualifications Bill [Lords]:

**Committal**

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

**Proceedings in Public Bill Committee**

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Thursday 20 January 2022.
3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

**Proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading**

4. Proceedings on Consideration shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which proceedings on Consideration are commenced.
5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.
6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading.

**Other proceedings**

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.
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