

of education standards and other related functions. The 1979 Act brought together all the statutory bodies concerned with regulating the professions at both pre- and post-registration levels and rationalised the regulatory structures across the UK.

3 A review of the organisation and functioning of the five statutory bodies in 1989 led to the 1992 Act and changes in legislation - the UKCC became the directly elected body and the National Boards became smaller, executive bodies appointed by the respective Secretaries of State (and, for Northern Ireland, the Head of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland). All professional conduct functions were transferred to the Central Council.

4 Nurses have been regulated under statutory professional self-regulation since 1919; and midwives since 1902. Until 1979, health visitors were regulated through their nursing qualification, with other arrangements made under a separate body for their education and training as health visitors.