



Department for  
Business & Trade

Guidance

# UK regulated professions and their regulators

Updated 28 May 2025

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This page provides details of professions regulated by law in the UK, and in parts of the UK, and their associated regulators, as defined in the Professional Qualifications Act.

## What is a regulated profession?

**'Regulated profession'** is a term which is defined in the [Professional Qualifications Act \(https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2865\)](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2865). It means a profession which is regulated by law in the UK or a part of the UK. 'Profession' includes an occupation or trade, or any subdivision and specialism within a profession. The Bill sets out that a profession is regulated by law where there is a legal requirement to have certain qualifications or experience (or meet an alternative condition or requirement) in order to undertake certain professional activities or use a protected title.

**'Regulator'** is also a defined term in the Professional Qualifications Act. It means a person with functions under legislation relating to the regulation of a regulated profession.

Regulators carry out a range of functions in relation to the professions they regulate, including making sure individuals have the necessary qualifications and/or experience to practise the profession and taking any necessary enforcement action. In some cases, these functions are carried out by a single regulator for an individual profession and in other cases the functions are distributed across several regulators.

Regulators include bodies to which regulatory functions have been delegated, where the delegation is authorised by legislation and irrespective of whether the regulator is specified in the legislation.

These definitions are set out in Clause 16 of the [Professional Qualifications Act \(https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2865\)](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2865).

## Which professions are regulated in the UK, and who regulates them?

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has compiled this list after extensive engagement with departments, devolved administrations and regulators. The professions listed reflect those discussions, including on how specialisms within professions should be presented. The professions and regulators listed are those covered by the Professional Qualifications Act only.

The table will be updated to incorporate changes to regulated professions or regulators, for example if there are changes to relevant legislation that change the regulators that regulate a certain profession.

Some professions are regulated on a UK-wide basis, while some professions are regulated separately in different parts of the UK. Where a profession is regulated separately in different parts of the UK, each profession is shown as a distinct entry in the table with the regulator for that profession identified.

More than one regulator is listed for some professions. For these professions, regulatory functions are distributed across several regulators, including where one regulator has delegated a function to another regulator. There are also some professions where particular regulatory functions are delivered by different bodies in different parts of the UK, and these bodies are set out against those professions.

## List of UK regulated professions and their regulators

### Education

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
College Lecturer	General Teaching Council for Scotland
Further Education Teacher	Education Workforce Council
Level 2 Early Years Practitioner	Department for Education
Level 3 Early Years Educator	Department for Education
School Teacher	Education Workforce Council
School Teacher	General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland
School Teacher	General Teaching Council for Scotland

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
School Teacher	Teaching Regulation Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education
Youth Support Worker	Education Workforce Council
Youth Worker	Education Workforce Council

## Healthcare

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Anaesthesia Associate	General Medical Council
Arts Therapist	Health and Care Professions Council
Biomedical Scientist	Health and Care Professions Council
Chiropodist/Podiatrist	Health and Care Professions Council
Chiropractor	General Chiropractic Council
Clinical Dental Technician	General Dental Council
Clinical Scientist	Health and Care Professions Council
Dental Hygienist	General Dental Council
Dental Nurse	General Dental Council
Dental Technician	General Dental Council
Dental Therapist	General Dental Council
Dentist	General Dental Council

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Dietitian	Health and Care Professions Council
Dispensing Optician	General Optical Council
Hearing Aid Dispenser	Health and Care Professions Council
Medical Practitioner	General Medical Council
Midwife	The Nursing and Midwifery Council
Nursing Associate	The Nursing and Midwifery Council
Occupational Therapist	Health and Care Professions Council
Operating Department Practitioner	Health and Care Professions Council
Optometrist	General Optical Council
Orthodontic Therapist	General Dental Council
Orthoptist	Health and Care Professions Council
Osteopath	General Osteopathic Council
Paramedic	Health and Care Professions Council
Pharmaceutical Chemist	Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
Pharmacist	General Pharmaceutical Council
Pharmacy Technician	General Pharmaceutical Council
Physician Associate	General Medical Council

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Physiotherapist	Health and Care Professions Council
Practitioner Psychologist	Health and Care Professions Council
Prosthetist/Orthotist	Health and Care Professions Council
Radiographer	Health and Care Professions Council
Registered Nurse	The Nursing and Midwifery Council
Speech and Language Therapist	Health and Care Professions Council
Student Dispensing Optician	General Optical Council
Student Optometrist	General Optical Council

## Legal

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Advocate	The Faculty of Advocates
Barrister	The General Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland
Barrister	The General Council of the Bar (which has delegated its regulatory powers to the Bar Standards Board)
Chartered Legal Executive	Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (which has delegated its regulatory powers to CILEx Regulation)

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
CILEX Practitioner	Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (which has delegated its regulatory powers to CILEx Regulation)
Conveyancing Practitioner	The Law Society of Scotland
Costs Lawyer	Association of Costs Lawyers (which has delegated its regulatory powers to the Costs Lawyer Standards Board)
Executry Practitioner	The Law Society of Scotland
Licensed Conveyancer	Council for Licensed Conveyancers
Licensed Probate Practitioner	Council for Licensed Conveyancers
Notary Public	The Law Society of Scotland
Notary Public	Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland
Notary Public	The Master of the Faculties
Patent Attorney (Patent Agent)	Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (which has delegated its regulatory powers to the Intellectual Property Regulation Board)
Registered Trade Mark Attorney (Registered Trade Mark Agent)	Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (which has delegated its regulatory powers to the Intellectual Property Regulation Board)
Solicitor	The Law Society (which has delegated its regulatory powers to the Solicitors Regulation Authority)
Solicitor	The Law Society of Northern Ireland
Solicitor	The Law Society of Scotland

## Professional and Business Services

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Administration of Oaths	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Architect	Architects Registration Board
Insolvency Practitioner	Insolvency Service Northern Ireland, Department for the Economy has an oversight role in relation to the Recognised Supervisory Bodies and Recognised Qualifying Bodies, which are: Insolvency Practitioners Association, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and Law Society of Northern Ireland
Insolvency Practitioner	Insolvency Service on behalf of the Secretary of State for Business and Trade has an oversight role in relation to the Recognised Supervisory Bodies and Recognised Qualifying Bodies, which are: Insolvency Practitioners Association, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland
Local Public Audit	Financial Reporting Council has an oversight role in relation to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Probate Practitioner (non-contentious probate)	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland
Statutory Audit	The Financial Reporting Council has an oversight role in relation to the Recognised Supervisory Bodies and Recognised Qualifying Bodies, which are: Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, Association of International Accountants, Chartered Accountants Ireland, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

## Social care

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Adoption Service Manager	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Adoption Service Manager	Social Care Wales
Adult Care Home Manager	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Adult Care Home Manager	Social Care Wales
Adult Care Home Worker	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Adult Care Home Worker	Social Care Wales
Adult Placement Manager	Social Care Wales
Advocacy Manager	Social Care Wales
Care Inspectorate Authorised Officer	Scottish Social Services Council
Day Care Manager	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Day Care Worker	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Domiciliary Care Manager	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Domiciliary Care Manager	Social Care Wales
Domiciliary Care Worker	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Domiciliary Care Worker	Social Care Wales
Fostering Service Manager	Social Care Wales

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Manager in Adult Day Care Services	Scottish Social Services Council
Residential Child Care Manager	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Residential Child Care Manager	Social Care Wales
Residential Child Care Worker	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Residential Child Care Worker	Social Care Wales
Residential Family Centre Manager	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Residential Family Centre Manager	Social Care Wales
Residential Family Centre Worker	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Residential Family Centre Worker	Social Care Wales
Social Work Student	Social Care Wales
Social Worker	Northern Ireland Social Care Council
Social Worker	Scottish Social Services Council
Social Worker	Social Care Wales
Social Worker	Social Work England
Worker in a Care at Home Service	Scottish Social Services Council
Worker in a Residential School Care Accommodation	Scottish Social Services Council
Worker in Care Home Services for Adults	Scottish Social Services Council

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Worker in Day Care of Children Services	Scottish Social Services Council
Worker in Residential Child Care Services	Scottish Social Services Council

## Transport

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Able Seafarer Deck Certificate – II/5 and Able Seafarer Engine – STCW III/5	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Aerobatic Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Aeromedical Examiner	Civil Aviation Authority
Air Ground Communications Service Operator	Civil Aviation Authority
Air Traffic Controller	Civil Aviation Authority
Air Traffic Controller Assessor	Civil Aviation Authority
Air Traffic Controller Instructor	Civil Aviation Authority
Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel	Civil Aviation Authority
Aircraft Cabin Crew	Civil Aviation Authority
Approved Driving Instructor	Driver and Vehicle Agency Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland)
Approved Driving Instructor	Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Approved Motorcycle Instructor (Northern Ireland)	Driver and Vehicle Agency Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland)
Boatmasters' Licence	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Certified Motorcycle Instructor	Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Certifying Staff (Continuing Airworthiness of Aircraft)	Civil Aviation Authority
Commercial Balloon Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Commercial Banner Towing Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Commercial Aeroplane Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Commercial Airship Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Commercial Helicopter Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Commercial Sailplane Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Dangerous Goods Driver	Department for Transport
Deck Officer, Management Level – STCW II/2 and Deck Officer, Operational Level – STCW II/1	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Deck Skipper of a Fishing Vessel and Engineer Officer of a Fishing Vessel	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Electro-technical Officer (ETO) – STCW III/6	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Engineer Officer, Management Level, III/2 and Engineer Officer, Operational Level STCW III/1	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Flight Examiner	Civil Aviation Authority
Flight Information Service Officer	Civil Aviation Authority
Flight Instructor	Civil Aviation Authority
Flight Test Pilot	Civil Aviation Authority
Maritime Labour Convention Ships Cook	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Maritime Pilot	Competent Harbour Authorities, Trinity House
Professional Driver of Large Vehicles (HGV/PSV)	Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Professional Driver of Large Vehicles (HGV/PSV)	Driver and Vehicle Agency Northern Ireland – Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland)
Rating Deck (STCW II/4) Engine Room Rating (STCW III/4) Electro-tech Rating (STCW III/7)	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport
Rescue and Firefighting Personnel	Civil Aviation Authority
Road/Street Works Operative	Street Works Qualification Register
Road/Street Works Supervisor	Street Works Qualification Register
Dangerous Goods Safety Adviser	Department for Transport
Safety Adviser for the Transport of Dangerous Goods	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Train Driver	Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland)
Train Driver	Office for Rail and Road
Transport Manager	Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Vessel Traffic Services Operator	Maritime and Coastguard Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport

## Other professions

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Agricultural Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Department of Health (Northern Ireland)
Agricultural Analyst	Food Standards Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers
Agricultural Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Agricultural Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Welsh Ministers
Appointed Doctor	Health and Safety Executive
Appointed Doctor	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Approved Medical Examiner of Divers	Health and Safety Executive
Approved Medical Examiner of Divers	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Cash and Valuables in Transit Operative	Security Industry Authority
Close Protection Operative	Security Industry Authority
Door Supervisor	Security Industry Authority

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Farrier	Farriers Registration Council
F-Gas Handler for Air-Conditioning Systems in Motor Vehicles	Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (appropriate authority), Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Natural Resources Wales (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland District Councils (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (enforcing authority), Welsh Local Authorities (enforcing authority), Welsh Port Health Authorities (enforcing authority), City and Guilds (certification body), Institute of the Motor Industry (certification body), Skills and Education Group Awards (certification body)
F-Gas Handler for Electrical Switchgear	Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (appropriate authority), Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Natural Resources Wales (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland District Councils (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Welsh Local Authorities (enforcing authority), Welsh Port Health Authorities (enforcing authority), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (enforcing authority), EA Technology Limited (certification body), Lucy Electric Ltd (certification body), Northern Ireland Electricity plc (certification body), National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (certification body), Western Power Distribution plc (certification body)
F-Gas Handler for F-Gas-Based Solvents	Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (appropriate authority), Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Natural Resources Wales (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland District Councils (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (enforcing authority), Welsh Local Authorities (enforcing authority), Welsh Port Health Authorities (enforcing authority), Fraser Technologies (certification body)
F-Gas Handler for Stationary Fire	Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (appropriate authority), Environment

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Protection Systems and Equipment	Agency (enforcing authority), Welsh Local Authorities (enforcing authority), Welsh Port Health Authorities (enforcing authority), Natural Resources Wales (enforcing authority), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (enforcing authority), Fire Industry Association (certification body)
F-Gas Handler for Stationary Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat Pump Equipment and Refrigerated Trucks and Trailers	Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (appropriate authority), Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Natural Resources Wales (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland District Councils (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (enforcing authority), Welsh Local Authorities (enforcing authority), Welsh Port Health Authorities (enforcing authority), Building Engineering Services Association (certification body), City and Guilds (certification body), LCL Awards (certification body)
Food Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Food Analyst	Food Standards Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers
Food Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Department of Health (Northern Ireland)
Food Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Welsh Ministers
Food Examiner	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Department of Health (Northern Ireland)
Food Examiner	Food Standards Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers
Food Examiner	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Food Examiner	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Welsh Ministers
Inspectors of Weights and	Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland)

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Measures	
Inspectors of Weights and Measures	Secretary of State for Business and Trade and Local Weights and Measures Authorities
Offshore Medic	Health and Safety Executive
Offshore Medic	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Ozone-Depleting Substances Handler	Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (appropriate authority), Environment Agency (enforcing authority), Natural Resources Wales (enforcing authority), Northern Ireland District Councils (enforcing authority), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (enforcing authority), Welsh Ministers (appropriate authority), Welsh Local Authorities (enforcing authority), Welsh Port Health Authorities (enforcing authority)
Professional Diver	Health and Safety Executive
Professional Diver	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Professional Driver and Attendant Engaged in the Transport of Livestock, Equines and Poultry	Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Professional Driver and Attendant Engaged in the Transport of Livestock, Equines and Poultry	Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Scottish Ministers

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Professional Driver and Attendant Engaged in the Transport of Livestock, Equines and Poultry	Animal and Plant Health Agency on behalf of Welsh Ministers
Public Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Department of Health (Northern Ireland)
Public Analyst	Food Standards Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers
Public Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Public Analyst	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Welsh Ministers
Public Surveillance Operative	Security Industry Authority
Radiation Protection Adviser	Health and Safety Executive
Radiation Protection Adviser	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Registered Gas Engineer	Health and Safety Executive
Registered Gas Engineer	Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland
Registered Veterinary Nurse	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Security Guard	Security Industry Authority
Slaughterer	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland)
Slaughterer	Food Standards Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers

<b>Profession, Professional Activity or Protected Title</b>	<b>Regulator(s)</b>
Slaughterer	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Slaughterer	Food Standards Agency on behalf of Welsh Ministers
Vehicle Immobiliser	Security Industry Authority
Veterinary Surgeon	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Waste Manager	Environment Agency and Natural Resources on behalf of Welsh Ministers



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