



Chapter 12 Responsibilities after a patient's death

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LATEST!

The impetus for law reform (page 496) Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (page 526)

The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 created a new position of national head of the coroner system, the office of Chief Coroner of England and Wales. The first Chief Coroner was appointed in 2012 with responsibility for the oversight and leadership of the new national framework for coroners under the 2009 Act. The main responsibilities of the office include setting national standards for all coroners, approving future coroner appointments and publishing coroners' reports to authorities to prevent other deaths.

Benefit and harm (page 499)

In March 2012, the Ministry of Justice published a new version of the *Charter for Bereaved People* to reflect changes under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. The new document, *Guide to Coroners and Inquests and Charter for coroner services*, extends the scope of the charter to include everyone who comes into contact with the coroner service, rather than just bereaved people. The document can be found at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/burials-and-coroners/guide-charter-coroner.pdf> (accessed 8 April 2013)

Human Tissue Act 2004 (page 522)

On 25 January 2013 the Government announced that, following a consultation exercise, it did not intend to proceed with its plan to abolish the Human Tissue Authority. The Government's response to the consultation can be found at: <https://www.wp.dh.gov.uk/publications/files/2013/01/Government-Response.pdf> (accessed 8 February 2013).