

qualifications are laid down by the many specialist groups of nurse professionals and other organisations, amongst which are the UKCC and National Boards.

14 Second level nurses (previously enrolled nurses) appear on separate parts of the register. These registrations totalled 163,000 at 31 March 1998 (although some of these will probably have converted to RN first level). Whilst this training no longer exists, these parts of the register are still open to entrants mainly for European Economic Area [EEA] applicants who do not meet Sectorial Directive requirements for general nursing. The role of second level nurses vis a vis first level nurses has often been misunderstood by employers.

3 Sources of funding

15 Funding is by way of three-yearly subscription from all registrants. This is currently £36 every three years and has not increased since 1993.

16 The UKCC is an autonomous body, funded principally by registrants and accountable to the public for their safety through Parliament (the Secretary of State), and accountable to registrants for the proper discharge of its functions on their behalf. The National Boards as Non Departmental Public Bodies are accountable to their sponsoring departments, on whom they rely for funding to carry out their duties under the Act.