

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2006

EXECUTIVE NOTE

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Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (S.S.I 2006/570)

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 15 of the Social Security Act 1990. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The purpose of the instrument is to put into effect the changes in fuel poverty programmes announced in Parliament on 14 March 2006 (see answer to Parliamentary Question S2W – 24143.)

The opportunity is also being taken to consolidate Home Energy Efficiency Scheme Regulations Amendments.

The Regulations will extend eligibility for the Central Heating Programme to provide upgrades to partial or inefficient systems for those on the guarantee element of Pension Credit and will extend eligibility for Warm Deal measures to families with disabled children.

They will also introduce a cap on the costs of individual installations. The level of the cap will be kept under review and will always allow the installation of the system available which presents best value for money. While people will still have a choice of fuel type the amount of grant available will be restricted to fuel types which do not breach the cap. The purpose of the cap is to ensure that as many households as possible benefit from the Programme.

The Regulations will also introduce into the Programme the repair of non-functioning systems. Introducing repairs where they are considered to be viable and cost effective will again help ensure that the maximum number of households are able to benefit from the Programme.

To make the Regulations simpler and more straightforward a number of paragraphs which dealt with the detail of such issues as making and processing applications have been removed. It is considered such issues are more appropriately dealt with through the contract with the managing agent and guidance from Communities Scotland.

Consultation

The changes to these Regulations reflect new fuel poverty measures which were consulted on in the autumn of 2005 when previous programmes were drawing to a close. No regulatory Impact Assessment has been carried out as the Regulations simply put into effect changes on which key stakeholders were consulted at that time.

Financial Effects

Resource has already been allocated to current Fuel Poverty Programmes. If widening eligibility puts stress on resource Ministers may consider introducing management targets to manage demand. The instrument has no financial effects on local government or on business. It makes minor changes to schemes which have been in operation for a number of years.

Scottish Executive Development Department

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