

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CENTRAL REGISTER (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2008 SSI/2008/358

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 57(3)(i), (4) and (6) of the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”). It is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The purpose of this instrument is to make minor consequential amendments to the National Health Service Central Register (Scotland) Regulations 2006, to update the bodies contained in the Regulations with which information is shared. Those Regulations are updated to reflect the transfer of the equivalent National Health Service Central Register for England and Wales from the Office of National Statistics - on the abolition of that Office - to the Health and Social Care Information Centre, a Special Health Authority which is part of the NHS in England and Wales. The instrument also removes a now redundant reference to the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency.

The National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) for Scotland is a thin set of basic details of those born in Scotland or who have been on the list of a GP in Scotland, held for health and local authority purposes. It acts principally as an index to NHS patients, allowing the smooth transfer of patients’ medical records when they move between NHS Board areas, or across borders within the UK.

The instrument makes no change to the scope of the information that can be shared to or from the NHSCR. It will come into force on 1 December 2008.

Consultation

No consultation was considered necessary, because the nature of these minor amendments is purely consequential to the changes in structure to the NHS in England and Wales, and to the abolition of the Scottish Drug Enforcement Agency.

Financial Effects

The instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Executive, local government or on business.

General Register Office for Scotland
November 2008