

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 (REMUNERATION) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2008 (SSI 2008/415)

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Section 11 and Section 16(2) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The general purpose of the regulations is to increase the levels of remuneration paid to members of local authorities for the years ending 31 March 2009 and again from 1 April 2009. The increases follow on recommendations from the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) as part of an annual uprating review of councillors’ remuneration initially prescribed in The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/183).

The 2004 Act provides for the payment by local authorities of remuneration to their members. The regulations propose that all councillors should receive the same percentage increase in each year.

The regulations specify the increases in remuneration for council members who are conveners and vice conveners of joint boards, and enable councils with sole responsibility for police and fire and rescue functions to offer similar increases when determining the remuneration paid to conveners and vice conveners, within specified minimum and maximum levels.

Consultation

The following bodies have been consulted on a draft of the instrument in accordance with the requirements of Section 11(4) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.

The Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee

The following organisations were also consulted on the recommendations made by the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee in their report published in September 2008.

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers
National Association of Councillors

Financial Effects

The instrument will have financial implications for Local Government but these are likely to be offset by amendments proposed to councillor allowances and expenses levels. Current expenditure on councillors’ remuneration is likely to increase by £0.5m per year nationally. It is for councils to continue to meet the costs of paying their councillors, as at present.

Scottish Government Public Service Reform Directorate
15 December 2008