

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **THE HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE SCHEME (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT (No. 2) REGULATIONS 2011**

#### **SSI 2011/350**

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 instrument amends the Home Energy Assistance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (“the principal Regulations”), and has the principal objective of extending eligibility under that scheme to Carers who live in energy inefficient dwellings.

The Regulations extend eligibility to apply for a grant under the principal Regulations to persons who are, or who live with a partner who is, in receipt of carer’s allowance. Eligibility has been so extended, in recognition of the pressures in such households as a result of higher fuel costs. An applicant for a grant under the new categories of eligible persons must live in an energy inefficient dwelling and be an owner or tenant of it, as well as meeting some further requirements as to length of residence.

#### **Consultation**

Following publication of the Scottish Government’s review of fuel poverty in May 2008, the Fuel Poverty Forum was re-established to advise on the future of fuel poverty policy in Scotland. It produced its report in October 2008, the main recommendation of which was to replace the Warm Deal and Central Heating Programmes with a new Energy Assistance Package. The Forum was then given the remit of monitoring the implementation of the Energy Assistance Package. The changes to the principal Regulations contained in this instrument have been the subject of consultation with the Forum. In addition we have consulted on the proposed changes with Carers Scotland, the principal charity representing Carers.

#### **Financial Effects**

The Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment confirms that no BRIA is necessary as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

Assistance under the Energy Assistance Package is subject to budgetary provision and it is anticipated that these changes will be managed within existing budgets.

Scottish Government  
Directorate for Housing, Regeneration, Culture and Commonwealth Games  
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