

## **POLICY NOTE**

### **THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 (REGISTER OF INTERESTS) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2014**

#### **SSI 2014/50**

1. The above Regulations are made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 7(2) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000. They are subject to the negative procedure.

#### **Policy Objective**

2. Under the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000, the Scottish Ministers were required to lay before the Parliament a Model Code of Conduct for Members of Devolved Public Bodies. The Act established a framework to ensure the highest standards of behaviour were maintained by local authority councillors and members of certain public bodies. Public Bodies listed in schedule 3 of the Act are required to produce a code of conduct in line with the Model Code.

3. The original Model Code was approved by the Parliament in December 2001. A new Model Code was approved by the Parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and was published on the Scottish Government website on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.

4. The provisions in the new Model Code dealing with the registration of members' interests are different in certain respects from the equivalent provisions in the previous Model Code. These Regulations therefore amend The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Regulations 2003 to ensure members are clear about the notifications that will now need to be given in respect of registrable interests.

#### **Consultation**

5. A public consultation was held in February 2013 to obtain views on the proposed Members Model Code of Conduct. The consultation ran for 12 weeks between 1<sup>st</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> April. The consultation document and analysis report can be viewed on the Scottish Government's website, along with those responses where respondents gave permission for these to be published.

6. One of the recommendations arising from the consultation was for the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 (Register of Interests) Regulations 2003 to be amended in line with the changes being introduced in the new Model Code.

7. Policy officials engaged with key stakeholders to obtain their views on the proposed amending Regulations. Responses welcomed and supported the amended Regulations.

#### **Impact Assessments**

8. As the policy has no direct impact on equalities, business or the third sector, or on the environment or environmental issues, neither an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA), Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required.

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