

POLICY NOTE

THE NON-DOMESTIC RATING (TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEW FIBRE INFRASTRUCTURE) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2019

SSI 2019/42

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 6A(1)(b) of the Valuation and Rating (Scotland) Act 1956 and all other enabling powers. The instrument is subject to the negative procedure.

This Order provides for a separate entry to be made in the valuation roll for new fibre infrastructure which is laid, flown, blown, affixed or attached on or after 1 April 2019. Without this Order there would be no requirement that this infrastructure be valued separately from the rest of the telecommunications network it may be a part of.

Policy objectives

In the Scottish Budget 2019-20, the Scottish Government announced the creation of a 100% relief from 1 April 2019 for a ten-year period (to 31 March 2029) for new fibre infrastructure installed after 1 April 2019. This Order provides for the creation of a separate entry in the Roll for said infrastructure. This includes the new fibre; a proportion¹ of the poles, posts, towers, masts, mast radiators, pipes, ducts and conduits, etc. that is used solely in connection with the new fibre, and any parts of the lands and heritages which are exclusively occupied by the new fibre.

Replacement fibre is not considered new unless it upgrades what it replaces. The availability of relief is likely to incentivise the upgrading of fibre rather than like-for-like replacement.

Consultation

While there is no statutory requirement to consult on this Order, relevant Scottish Assessors were consulted in the drafting of this Order.

Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment

No Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment is required because the present instrument will not impose new regulatory burdens on businesses, charities or the voluntary sector.

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications arising from this Order.

Scottish Government
Local Government and Communities Directorate
February 2019

¹ In order to estimate this proportion, the Assessor is to calculate what the rateable value of the lands and heritages would be were they not subject to separate entries in the roll.