

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE HEALTHY START SCHEME AND WELFARE FOOD (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS 2010**

2009 No. 434

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Purpose of the instrument

2.1 The Regulations uprate the income threshold for families qualifying for Healthy Start through receipt of Child Tax Credit to £16,190 in the Healthy Start and Welfare Food (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/ 3262).

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Context

4.1. This is a routine amendment that ensures that the qualifying criteria for Healthy Start keep pace with increases in the income thresholds for tax credits.

5. Territorial Extent and Application

5.1 This instrument applies to Great Britain.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

- *What is being done and why*

7.1 The Regulations increase the income threshold for families qualifying for the scheme through receipt of Child Tax Credit from £16,040 to £16,190. This increase will ensure that the scheme continues to support all families getting Child Tax Credit at the highest rate (but not Working Tax Credit unless the run-on only is in payment) when the relevant tax credit thresholds are increased on 6 April 2010.

- *Consolidation*

7.2 No timetable has yet been set for consolidation of the principle Regulations.

8. Consultation outcome

8.1 We have not consulted on these amendments. Proposals for establishing a new welfare food scheme, to be called Healthy Start, were consulted on in autumn 2002. A draft of the 2005 Regulations was then consulted on in early 2005.

9. Guidance

9.1 No new guidance is required to explain how the Regulations will operate.

9.2 Application leaflets and other communication materials for Healthy Start scheme beneficiaries and health professionals are routinely updated in March annually to reflect changes to the income threshold in the new financial year.

10. Impact

10.1 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is negligible.

10.2 The impact on the public sector is negligible.

10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument.

11. Regulating small business

11.1 The change will have no impact on small businesses.

12. Monitoring & review

12.1 The purpose of increasing the income threshold is to ensure that the scheme continues to be available to all those pregnant women and children under 4 years old in families getting Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit) at the highest rate. Keeping Healthy Start thresholds in line with the relevant tax credit threshold guarantees this without the need for additional monitoring.

13. Contact

Angela Walker at the Department of Health Tel: 020 7972 1377 or email: angela.walker@dh.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.