



# Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015

## 2015 asp 5

### *Welfare funds*

#### **1 Welfare funds**

Each local authority is to maintain a fund (called a “welfare fund”) comprising—

- (a) any grants paid into the fund by the Scottish Ministers, and
- (b) any amounts paid into the fund by the local authority.

#### **Commencement Information**

**II** [S. 1](#) in force at 1.4.2016 by [S.S.I. 2015/428](#), [art. 2\(2\)](#)

#### **2 Use of welfare funds: assistance for short term need and community care**

- (1) A local authority may use its welfare fund only in order to provide occasional financial or other assistance to or in respect of individuals for the purposes of—
  - (a) meeting, or helping to meet, an immediate short term need—
    - (i) arising out of an exceptional event or exceptional circumstances, and
    - (ii) that requires to be met to avoid a risk to the wellbeing of an individual,or
  - (b) enabling qualifying individuals to establish or maintain a settled home.
- (2) “Qualifying individuals” means individuals who have been or, without the assistance, might otherwise be—
  - (a) in prison, hospital, a residential care establishment or other institution, or
  - (b) homeless or otherwise living an unsettled way of life.
- (3) The assistance which a local authority may use its welfare fund to provide does not include making loans.
- (4) A local authority may exercise its power under subsection (1) by making a payment to a third party with a view to the third party providing, or arranging the provision of, goods or services to or in respect of an individual.

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015, Cross Heading: Welfare funds. (See end of Document for details)

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#### **Commencement Information**

**I2** S. 2 in force at 1.4.2016 by S.S.I. 2015/428, **art. 2(2)**

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015,  
Cross Heading: Welfare funds.