EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations, which come into force on 4th October 2002, amend the Nursing and Midwifery Student Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1992 ("the principal Regulations"). The principal Regulations govern allowances paid to persons attending courses of education in Colleges of Nursing and Midwifery in Scotland, and prescribe the conditions and requirements subject to which allowances may be paid.

The principal Regulations are amended to provide for new eligibility criteria, detailed in Regulation 4 and Schedule 1, whilst Schedule 2 makes provision as to when a person is to be treated as ordinarily resident in a place for or at a particular time. Regulation 2 provides a definition of the phrase 'relevant day' as contained within Schedules 1 and 2.

The principal Regulations are further amended to allow the Scottish Ministers to pay allowances to students on distance learning courses as well as students attending courses of education (Regulation 5). In consequence, the requirement placed on the recipient of an allowance to 'attend regularly' the course of education is replaced with an obligation to comply with the requirements of the course (Regulation 7).

Finally, Regulation 6 amends the principal regulations so that an application for an allowance may be made by electronic means.