

POLICY NOTE

THE CLIMATE CHANGE (DUTIES OF PUBLIC BODIES: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2015

SSI 2015/347

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 46(1) and 96(2) of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and all other powers enabling them to do so. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Policy Objectives

This Order requires specified Scottish public authorities (“listed bodies”) to prepare annual reports on compliance with their climate change duties, and to send these reports to the Scottish Ministers within 8 months from the end of each financial year. The order sets out the form of these reports and the information to be included. The aim is improve the quality and consistency of climate change information reported by the listed bodies. The new reporting requirement will help to ensure that a consistent approach is adopted. It will also help to better inform future Scottish Government climate change policy and support.

Consultation

A public consultation was undertaken on a draft of the Order. This consultation ran for 14 weeks from 20 February to 29 May 2015, with a total of 73 responses being received. There was broad stakeholder support for the proposals. Overall, stakeholders found the proposal to be a positive step towards introducing an improved reporting method for the public sector. Further to comments received, the deadline for submitting annual reports was extended from 6 to 8 months, some adjustments were made to the entries in Schedule 1 and some of the wording used in the report form in Schedule 2 was adjusted to make it clearer.

Impact Assessments

Screening reports were undertaken in relation to equalities, the environment and children rights and welfare issues. In the context of these policy proposals, full impact assessments were not prepared for this instrument, as no such significant impacts were foreseen.

Financial Effects

A respondent questionnaire and draft Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (“BRIA”) were included as part of the public consultation. The new reporting requirements apply only in relation to listed bodies. No significant additional financial impact is foreseen as most of these bodies already report broadly equivalent information on a voluntary basis. The BRIA is published on the Scottish Government’s website at: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/compliance-with-climate-change-duties>.

Scottish Government
Energy and Climate Change Directorate
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