

POLICY NOTE

THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 (REMUNERATION) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2021

SSI 2021/18

The above instrument is made by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 11 and 16(2) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 and all other powers enabling them to do so. It is subject to the negative procedure.

Policy Objectives

This instrument makes provision in relation to the remuneration of local authority councillors. It amends the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 to increase the level of remuneration payable to local authority councillors by 4.2%, which increase will take effect from 1 April 2021.

Consultation

There is no requirement for the Scottish Ministers to undertake a consultation before making a recommendation on councillors' salaries. Ministers are following the same procedure as in 2020, to increase councillors' pay annually in line with the percentage increase in the median annual earnings of public sector workers in Scotland. This information is published by the Office of National Statistics in the *Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings*.

Impact Assessments

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken as the increase in councillors' remuneration applies to all local authority members. The Scottish Ministers have decided that a Business Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required as there is no impact on business or the third sector and the impact on the public sector (council budgets) is not expected to cause a significant financial pressure. The salary increase would be met from existing council budgets: it is estimated that for 2021-22 the total cost would be around £1.2 million across all 32 councils.

Financial Effects

The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning confirms that no BRIA is necessary as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

Local Government and Analytical Services Division
The Scottish Government
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