

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE SOCIAL SECURITY (WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS) MISCELLANEOUS
AMENDMENTS REGULATIONS 2006**

2006 No. 909

- 1.** This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Work and Pensions and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

- 2. Description**
 - 2.1 This instrument revokes the Social Security (Working Neighbourhoods) Regulations 2004 (“the 2004 Regulations”) from 24 April 2006. Social Security benefit claimants will no longer be required to take part in Work Focused Interviews or go on Employment Zone programmes by virtue of the 2004 Regulations. They may be required to do those things from 24 April 2006 under other legislation.

 - 2.2 Transitional provisions are included for claimants on Employment Zone programmes at the date the 2004 Regulations are revoked. Such claimants can stay on that programme under the 2004 Regulations for up to six months.

- 3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**
 - 3.1 None

- 4. Legislative Background**
 - 4.1 The 2004 Regulations applied to claimants in 12 areas of Great Britain from April 2004. It took claimants out of other Work Focused Interview and Employment Zone legislation and put them into a more intensive regime to test whether it was worthwhile introducing a new scheme nationwide. The test ends on 24 April 2006 so the 2004 Regulations need to be revoked on that date.

- 5. Extent**
 - 5.1 This instrument applies to all of 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

7.1 The 2004 Regulations were introduced to test whether a programme of intensive work-focused personal support would help benefit claimants in 12 deprived sites into work. This involved working with residents to identify and tackle barriers that were preventing them from working.

7.2 The 2004 Regulations end on 24 April 2006 with evaluation results informing future Government policy for deprived areas. (A full evaluation report is due to be published in October 2006.)

7.3 The transitional provisions allow for individuals to continue on Employment Zone programmes under the 2004 Regulations, after 24 April 2006 where the programme commenced on or before 23 April 2006. This continuation is subject to a final cut-off date of 31 October 2006. The cut off is necessary to avoid an open-ended continuation (with a diminishing number of participants which would render contracts unviable). These transitional provisions can cater for those jobseekers whose participation has been interrupted by illness, holidays or sanctions.

7.4 During the planning stage of the 2004 Regulations officials worked with other Government Departments and partner (voluntary, public and private sector) organisations to agree a design that allowed maximum flexibility at a local level. All 12 sites engaged in significant consultation with local partner organisations and many developed focus groups that included residents to develop and implement local plans.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

8.2 There is no impact on the public sector.

9. Contact

9.1 Craig Parkin at the Department for Work and Pensions Tel: 0114 259 5589 or e-mail: craig.parkin@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.