NOTE BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

THE EDUCATION (STUDENT LOANS) AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2006 SSI/2006/316

1. These regulations were made under section 1 (7) of and paragraph 1(1)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990. They amend the Education (Student Loans) Regulations 1998, which govern mortgage-style loans and are subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Mortgage style loans are still available annually to students who began their course, or continuous programme of study, prior to the introduction of income contingent loans in 1998/99. These loans will continue to be made available until all such students have graduated or have left higher education and the number of students receiving these loans is falling year on year. Because they specify the loan rates, which usually change each year, amendments are normally made annually.

3. Because student support is a devolved matter, Scottish Ministers must make amendments in the Scottish Parliament to principal Regulations "in or as regards Scotland". These Regulations govern loan eligibility for Scottish domiciled students studying courses anywhere in the UK, eligibility for which is certified by the academic institutions. These amended Regulations set the same maximum levels for mortgage-style student loans as those which were/are to be laid in May 2006 by the Department for Education and Skills.

Changes

4. The changes made by these amending Regulations are to the general benefit of eligible students. They increase the maximum amount that may be lent to students in relation to an academic year in line with inflation. These new rates were announced earlier this year and published in the Student Awards Agency for Scotland's literature at Easter.

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