POLICY NOTE

THE HEALTH PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS) (RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS) (LOCAL LEVELS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT (NO. 18) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2021

SSI 2021/168

The above instrument was made in exercise of the power conferred by paragraph 1(1) of schedule 19 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. The instrument is subject to made affirmative procedure by virtue of paragraph 6(3) of schedule 19 of the Act.

These Regulations amend the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 18) Regulations 2021 to bring forward the coming into force date of the relevant provisions which allow places of worship to reopen in Level 4.

Legislative background

1. The UK Coronavirus Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 25 March 2020. Under that Act, the Scottish Government made regulations (in force from 26 March 2020) to implement physical distancing and impose restrictions on gatherings, events and operation of business activity. From 14 September 2020 they were replaced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. From 9 October 2020 those Regulations were suspended and replaced by the Health Protection (Coronavirus) Restrictions and Requirements) (Additional Temporary Measures) (Scotland) Regulations 2020. A new levels-based approach was introduced on 2 November 2020, when the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 ("the principal regulations") came into force and revoked the previous regulations.

Policy Objectives

Places of worship

2. These Regulations adjust coming into force date of the provisions which allow places of worship to reopen from 26 March. The new date for reopening is 25 March.

Consultation

3. There has been no public consultation in relation to this instrument.

Impact Assessments

4. Impact Assessments have not been prepared for this instrument due to the urgent requirement for a change to be made. The provisions are subject to strict obligations on the Scottish Government to review their necessity.

Scottish Government
Directorate for Constitution and Cabinet
24 March 2021