EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE SCHEME (SCOTLAND)AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2009 S.S.I. 2009/ 392

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 15 of the Social Security Act 1990**.** The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The instrument has three main purposes.

Firstly, to extend the definition of an "energy inefficient dwelling" beyond those dwellings which do not reach SAP rating of 39 or above to include those which do not achieve a SAP rating of 55 or above.

Secondly, to extend that definition to include mobile homes which have certain sources of heating which are considered to be inefficient, or which have high "U-values". This will remove any uncertainty as to those mobile homes which are energy inefficient for the purposes of the scheme, thereby ensuring that eligible mobile homes have access to assistance.

Finally, to allow the higher maximum amount of grant (£6,500) to apply to all applications where the works carried out involve the installation of an air source heat pump. This will be particularly beneficial in areas which are not connected to a mains gas supply as this type of system will normally provide greater energy efficiency than most other types of heating systems. The choice of this more energy efficient and cost effective system currently cannot be made available within the lower maximum amount of grant (£4,000).

Consultation

Following publication of the Scottish Government's review of fuel poverty in May 2008, the Fuel Poverty Forum was re-established to advise on the future of fuel poverty policy in Scotland. It produced its report in October 2008, the main recommendation of which was to replace the Warm Deal and Central Heating Programmes with a new Energy Assistance Package. The Forum was then given the remit of monitoring the implementation of the Energy Assistance Package. The changes to the package contained in this instrument reflect discussions at the Forum's meeting on 27 October 2009.

Financial Effects

The instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Executive, local government or on business. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been completed.

Scottish Executive Housing and Regeneration Directorate
10th November 2009