POLICY NOTE

THE HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE SCHEME (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2013

SSI 2013/253

Powers under which Instrument is made

1. The Home Energy Assistance Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2013 ("the Amendment Regulations") are made by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of powers conferred by section 15 of the Social Security Act 1990.

Parliamentary Procedure

2. This Scottish Statutory Instrument is subject to the negative Parliamentary procedure.

Summary of Policy Proposals

3. Under the Energy Assistance Scheme, individuals can apply for grant to have installation measures installed and/or their central heating system repaired or replaced. The level of grant and eligibility for grant is set out in the Home Energy Assistance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (SSI 2013/148), which came into force on 1 July 2013.

4. SSI 2013/148 consolidated and amended the Home Energy Assistance Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/48) to reflect the change in eligibility in moving from stage 4 of the Energy Assistance Package to the Energy Assistance Scheme and also to update references to the Disability Living Allowance to reflect the rollout of the Personal Independence Payments and the introduction of Armed Forces Independence Payments by the UK Government.

5. SSI 2013/148 omitted to include individuals receiving a Council Tax Reduction under the scheme introduced by the Scottish Government following the abolition of Council Tax Benefit on 1 April 2013. The Amendment Regulations make provision to treat individuals eligible for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme on the same basis as those eligible for Council Tax Benefit had been treated before.

Consultation

6. We have not consulted on the Amendment Regulations. The Amendment Regulations will bring SSI 2013/148 into line with the previously stated policy objectives.

Financial Effect and Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment

7. Given the nature of this instrument, a full Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been completed.

Scottish Government
Directorate for Housing, Regeneration and Welfare.