EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE HOUSING GRANTS (APPLICATION FORMS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2008
SSI/2008/283

1. The above Regulations were made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 237 and 330 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987. The Regulations are subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

2. The schedules in the Housing Grants (Application Forms) (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (the principal regulations) contain application forms for improvement grant not relating to works for a disabled occupant; improvement grant relating to works for a disabled occupant; repairs grant; and grant for a means of escape from fire in a house in multiple occupation. The purpose of the current Regulations is to amend the application forms in the principal regulations to reflect amendments to the Housing Grants (Assessment of Contributions) (Scotland) Regulations 2003. Those latter amendments are to take account of the introduction of a new benefit, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), by the Welfare Reform Act 2007, which is taking forward the policy of the UK Government, social security being a reserved matter. As from 27 October 2008 ESA will replace incapacity benefit and income support paid on incapacity grounds to become the main income replacement benefit for people with a disability or health condition. People already in receipt of incapacity benefit or income support will continue to receive these benefits, but new applicants will receive ESA.

3. The amendments to the principal regulations involve the addition to the grant application forms of references to Income-related ESA and Contributory ESA in those places where there are currently references to income support or incapacity benefit respectively.

Consultation

4. A consultation on these regulations was not considered necessary, since they are making changes necessary as a result of the Housing Grants (Assessment of Contributions) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2008. However, the planned changes were discussed with CoSLA and Ownership Options.

Financial Effects

5. These Regulations have no financial effects on the Scottish Government, business, charities or the voluntary sector. Changes to forms may lead to minimal costs for local authorities. The UK Government has made funding available to local authorities to support the implementation of ESA.

Scottish Government
Directorate of Housing and Regeneration
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