EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES ETC.) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2006

2006 No. 1550

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

This memorandum contains information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

2. Description

2.1 The primary purpose of the instrument is to ban the use of national and premium rate telephone lines by providers of General Ophthalmic Services. Also, minor changes to regulations to make for consistency across NHS primary care services and consequential amendments to the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) Regulations 1986 and the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services Supplementary List) and (General Ophthalmic Services Amendment and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2005.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1 These regulations amend the General Ophthalmic Services Regulations 1986 and the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services Supplementary List) and (General Ophthalmic Services Amendment and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2005.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to England.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

7.1 The instrument makes for consistency with primary medical and dental services by banning the use of national and premium rate telephone numbers by providers of General Ophthalmic Services in the same way as for those sectors.

7.2 It also makes for consistency across NHS primary care by introducing a power for payments to be made to suspended provided and performers of General Ophthalmic Services and in respect of NHS complaints procedures.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies

9. Contact

Derek Busby at the Department of Health Tel: 020 7633 4159 or e-mail: derek.busby@dh.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.