# EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

# The Rate Relief (Energy Efficiency Homes Scheme) (Revocation and Savings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011

## S.R. 2011 No. 92

## 1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Finance and Personnel to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 30D of the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (S.I. 1977/2157 (N.I. 28)) ("the 1977 Order") and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

## 2. Purpose

2.1. These Regulations revoke, with savings provision, the Rate Relief (Energy Efficiency Homes Scheme) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 which provided for rate relief for dwellings in respect of which owner-occupiers had made energy efficiency improvements to their home.

2.2. Regulation 1 contains the citation and commencement provisions.

2.3. Regulation 2 contains interpretation provisions.

2.4. Regulation 3 contains time limited protection (savings provisions) applicable for cases where an application form has been requested from the Energy Saving Trust before 1st April 2011 and an application is subsequently made to the Energy Saving Trust before 1st July 2011.

## 3. Background

3.1. The Energy Efficiency Homes scheme was introduced on 1st April 2010 with the aim of improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock in Northern Ireland. It provided for a rate rebate where loft and cavity wall insulation is installed to the required standards.

3.2. The Northern Ireland Executive has agreed to closure of the scheme, with the transfer of the associated savings into the Green New Deal.

## 4. Consultation

4.1. The decision to revoke the scheme was made in the context of wider policy decisions related to Budget 2010 and the proposals therein.

4.2. The agreement of the Finance and Personnel Committee and the Northern Ireland Executive was obtained prior to the making of these Regulations.

## 5. Equality Impact

5.1. It is the Department's assessment that there are no new equality impact implications in respect of the Regulations.

## 6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A regulatory impact assessment was not considered necessary as there will be minimal new direct costs or savings for business, charities or voluntary bodies.

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1. The Regulations will result in a reduction in the overall amount of rate rebate paid. It is intended that the savings associated with this will be transferred to funding of the Green New Deal.

7.2. This is one of a number of schemes providing financial assistance to householders who undertake work to bring their homes up to modern standards of insulation. These are run by other Government Departments and organisations, but the Energy Saving Trust can still make referrals to alternative incentive schemes as appropriate. The closure of the rates scheme will mean that these other schemes may experience some increase in demand, though the Department expects such an increase will be modest given the relatively low numbers who qualified in 2010/2011 for the rate rebate.

## 8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. It is the view of the Department that these Regulations are compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## 9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

## 10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable.

## 11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.