POLICY NOTE

THE REGULATION OF CARE (SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2024

SSI 2024/56

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 44(1)(b) and 80(2) of The Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 (the Act). The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Summary Box

The purpose is to reduce the number of register parts from 23 to 4 by creating only 2 categories of 'social service worker' rather than 21.

Policy Objectives

To make registration, and being registered, straightforward and easy to understand. The current Register structure has developed over time since the introduction of registration for social workers in 2003. It has been recognised that the structure of the Register needs to change to reflect changing and emerging roles, as well as changes in the way services are delivered. Streamlining the register to four parts will reduce the need for people to be registered on multiple parts, whilst also making the process of getting promoted or changing service an easier and less laborious process.

There will be a transitional provision stating that on the day the legislation comes into force, everyone registered on an old part will automatically become registered on the specified new part. This also applies to individuals that are applying to the register up until the 3rd of June.

EU Alignment Consideration

This instrument is not relevant to the Scottish Government's policy to maintain alignment with the EU.

Consultation

To comply with the requirements of the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001, a public consultation took place from 4 October 2023 to 2 January 2024.

As a result of that consultation, the vast majority of respondents were supportive of the proposals, with many highlighting that reducing the number of register parts will help improve the process of registering with the SSSC.

A full list of those consulted and who agreed to the release of this information is attached to the consultation report published on the Scottish Government website, it includes UNISON Scotland, the Care Inspectorate, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and various Health and Social Care Partnerships.

Impact Assessments

An Equality impact assessment has been undertaken for the proposed amendment and is attached.

Financial Effects
The Minister for Children, Young People & Keeping the Promise confirms that no BRIA is necessary as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

Scottish Government
Children and Families Directorate

22 February 2024