POLICY NOTE

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (ABSENT VOTING AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2016

SSI 2016/8

1. The Representation of the People (Absent Voting at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 are made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20(1) of the Scottish Elections (Reduction of Voting Age) Act 2015. These Regulations are subject to negative procedure.

Policy Objectives

2. The Representation of the People (Absent Voting at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 amend the Representation of the People (Absent Voting at Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/170).

3. These Regulations make provisions as a consequence of the reduction of the voting age at local government elections to 16 set out in the Scottish Elections (Reduction of Voting Age) Act 2015.

4. The changes made in the Regulations are as follows:

    - Regulation 2(a) reduces the age at which a person can attest an application for a proxy vote (by another person) to age 16.

    - Regulation 2(b) and (c) makes provision to protect information relating to any young person that is held on absent voter records or lists, unless it is requested in relation to a forthcoming local government election at which the young person will be aged 16, and needed for the purposes of that election.

Consultation

5. The Electoral Management Board for Scotland and the Electoral Registration Committee of the Scottish Assessors Association were consulted during the preparation of these draft Regulations. Neither of these bodies had any substantive comments.

Impact Assessments

6. These Regulations have no impact on the environment, equality, privacy or children's rights and therefore no Impact Assessments are required for those areas.

Business Regularity Impact Assessment (BRIA)

7. The Scottish Government do not consider that that a BRIA is necessary as the policy changes will not lead to any new costs or savings for business, third or public sector organisations, regulators or consumers. There is no new additional cost on the public sector as the Scottish Government will meet the costs of associated activity and there is no transfer of costs or benefits from one group to another.

Scottish Government
Directorate for Strategy and Constitution
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