POLICY NOTE

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (VARIATION OF LIMIT OF CANDIDATES' LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION EXPENSES) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2016

SSI 2016/263

1. The above instrument was made by Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by section 76A(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

2. The purpose of the instrument is to update section 76(2)(b)(ii) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to reflect inflation since the May 2012 elections.

3. It updates the maximum amount of a candidate's election expenses at a local government election in Scotland from £705, together with an additional 6p for every entry in the register of electors, to £740 together with an additional 6p for every entry in the register of electors.

Consultation

4. The following bodies and stakeholders have been consulted during the preparation of the instrument:

Electoral Management Board for Scotland
Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators
Association of Electoral Administrators
Electoral Registration Committee of the Scottish Assessors Association
Scottish Parliament Political Parties Panel
Scotland Electoral Reform Society
Inclusion Scotland
1in5
Disability Agenda Scotland
Cosla
Scottish Local Government Partnership
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)
Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators (SOLAR)
Scottish Disability Equality Forum
Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland
The Electoral Commission

Responses

5. The following organisations submitted responses

Scottish Labour Party
Electoral Registration Committee of the Scottish Assessors Association
Society of Local Authority Lawyers and Administrators (SOLAR)
The Electoral Commission
Councillor Andrew Burns on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council
Scott Martin, Solicitor, SNP

Impact Assessments

6. A Business Regularity Impact Assessment is deemed not be required in this instance as policy changes will not lead to costs or savings for business, third or public sector organisations, regulators or consumers. There is no additional cost on the public sector as the Scottish Government would continue to meet the costs of associated activity whether or not it was in the legislation and there is no transfer of costs or benefits from one group to another.

7. The Order has no impact on the equality, environment, privacy or children's rights and therefore no impact assessments are required for those areas.

Financial Effects

8. Local authorities are responsible for meeting the cost of local government elections from within their overall budget.

9. The instrument has no financial effects on business.

Scottish Government
Strategy and Constitution Directorate

September 2016