EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (VARIATION OF LIMITS OF CANDIDATES' LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION EXPENSES) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2012

SSI 2012/16

The above instrument, has been made by Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 76A(1)(a) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and all other powers enabling them to do so.

Policy Objectives

This Order increases the maximum limits applicable to candidates' election expenses at local government elections in Scotland.

The increase will apply in relation to the local government elections to be held on 3 May 2012, and subsequent elections.

These amounts were last increased by the Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Local Government Election Expenses) (Scotland) Order 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/102).

Following representations from the Scottish Political Parties Panel, the Scottish Government has decided to increase the limits applicable to candidates' election expenses in line with inflation, reflecting the changes in the value of money since the 2005 Order was made.

The maximum amount of a candidate's election expenses is made up of a fixed amount (expressed in pounds) plus a sum expressed in pence for each entry in the register of electors.

Consultation

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

The Electoral Commission (Scotland)
Scottish Political Parties Panel

Impact Assessments

A Business and Regulatory 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 and there is no transfer of costs or benefits from one group to another. The change simply enables candidates to spend more at elections, if they wish to do so.

Financial Effects

Political Parties and Candidates are responsible for meeting the costs of election expenses.

The instrument has no financial effects on business.

Scottish Government Directorate for International and Constitution
January 2012