EXECUTIVE NOTE

The Valuation Appeal (Electronic Communications) (Scotland) Regulations 2007
SSI/2007/124

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 8 and 9 of the Electronic Communications Act 2000 and with the consent of the Secretary of State and all other enabling powers in accordance with section 9(7)(c) of that Act. The instrument is subject to the affirmative / negative resolution procedure.

Background

In March 2000, Donald Dewar announced tighter targets for the delivery of all government services on-line. The target date for on-line delivery of Government services in Scotland was brought forward from 2008 to 2005. The Prime Minister made a similar announcement on the same day.

This instrument contributes to the Scottish Executive's commitment for on-line delivery of Government services in Scotland. It will also bring Scotland into line with the position that already exists in England and Wales.

Policy Objective

The purpose of this instrument is to allow for non domestic rates to be submitted and withdrawn from a Valuation Appeal Committee electronically. In doing so, the electronic appeals process will have the same legal status as a hard copy and after the initial receipt will revert to usual appeals practice.

Consultation

A consultation on the Order took place from 24 November 2006 to 2 February 2007. 23 responses were received of which one was of a technical nature and four were substantive in support of the proposal. The Order was adjusted to take account of the technical comments.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Scottish Executive.

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February 2007