EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE

WELFARE FOOD (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS

2005 No. 688

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

This memorandum contains information for the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

2. Description

2.1 These Regulations further amend the Welfare Food Regulations 1996 ("the principal Regulations").

2.2 Regulation 2 raises the income level that determines whether a person receiving child tax credit but not working tax credit and who meets other conditions is entitled to dried milk and milk and vitamins from £13,480 to £13,910.

2.3 Regulation 2(b) further amends regulation 7 to raise the maximum income level that determines whether a person entitled to working tax credit and child tax credit, or to child tax credit based on an income of more than £13,480 but not to working tax credit, and who meets other conditions, is entitled to purchase dried milk at a reduced price to £15,050.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None

4. Legislative Background

4.1 The principal Regulations are updated annually to reflect changes in the levels of income that entitle people in receipt of tax credits to receive free dried milk, milk and vitamins through the Welfare Food Scheme.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to Great Britain.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 These Regulations do not give rise to any human rights issues.

7. Policy background

7.1 The principal Regulations (as amended) provide for the provision of free milk, dried milk and vitamins to pregnant women and children under five in families in receipt of income support, income-based job seekers allowance and child tax credit (below a certain level). About 750,000 beneficiaries qualify for milk tokens under the Welfare Food Scheme. In addition certain other families are entitled to purchase dried milk at a reduced price.

7.2 The Inland Revenue annually uprate the income levels at which beneficiaries qualify for tax credits and the principal Regulations are also amended annually to reflect the new income levels.

7.3 In addition certain other families are entitled to purchase dried milk at a reduced price.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

8.2 The impact on the public sector is minimal as the changes will not increase the number of people entitled to benefits under the Welfare Food Scheme.

9. Contact

9.1 Alison Tickner at the Department of Health Tel: 020 7972 1359 or e -mail: alison.tickner@dh.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.