

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **DRAFT: The Non-Domestic Rating (Electronic Communications) (Scotland) Order 2006**

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred on Scottish Ministers by sections 8 and 9 of the Electronic Communications Act 2000 and with the consent of the Secretary of State in accordance with section 9(7)(c) of that Act. The instrument is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure and will require to be laid before the Local Government and Transport Committee for debate.

#### **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.

The purpose of this instrument is to allow local authorities to issue electronic bills for non-domestic rates without the requirement to issue paper ones as well.

#### **Consultation**

A short 4 week consultation on the Order took place from 19 August 2005 to 9 September 2005. Three responses were received of which there was only one substantive comment of a technical nature.

#### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications for the Scottish Executive. There will, however, be initial set up costs for local authorities in terms of software changes which require to be made in relation to the billing process. These costs can be expected to be offset against the efficiency savings that will accrue from a more streamlined billing process.

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