

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **Updating Council Tax Secondary Legislation - The Council Tax (Discounts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007 SSI/2007/213**

The above instrument makes minor changes to secondary legislation, updating certain financial limits relating to council tax exemptions. The instrument is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **Background**

Under existing legislation certain carers earning up to £36 per week are disregarded for council tax purposes. This is a little used provision that only concerns those providing care through a connection with the Crown, a charity or a local authority. This earnings cap has remained the same since 1998 and we therefore propose to raise this level in line with inflation, to £44 from the 1 April 2007. The comparable threshold in England is also being raised to £44.

#### **Policy Objective**

The purpose of this instrument is to disregard carers earning less than £44 from council tax. This is to raise the existing cap in line with inflation, and to ensure harmonization of treatment of Scottish carers with carers in England.

#### **Consultation**

Given the limited scope of The Council Tax (Discounts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2007, a one-month consultation was conducted with all Scottish Local Authorities, and CoSLA in November 2006. All of the responses were supportive to the updating of the legislation.

#### **Financial Effects**

This Order may mean some very marginal loss of revenue for local authorities. We anticipate that the effect will be a slight increase in income for some carers that will fall below the new threshold and therefore be exempt from council tax.

Scottish Executive Finance & Central Services Department  
6 March 2007