

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (TRAVELLING EXPENSES AND REMISSION OF CHARGES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2009 (SSI 2009/124)

1. The above Regulations are being made in exercise of the powers conferred on Scottish Ministers by sections 75A, 105(7) and 108(1) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

2. The purpose of these Regulations is to amend the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2003 (“the principal Regulations”) to ensure that parity of treatment is maintained for people who claim help with health costs under the terms of the NHS Low Income Scheme (LIS) and to increase the income level cut off for passporting to help with health costs.
3. These amendments will make provisions for:-
 - an increase in the LIS capital limits, from £13,500 to £14,000 and £22,250 to £23,000, above which help with health costs is not available for certain people permanently residing in care homes;
 - a change in the level of Tax Credit from £15,050 to £15,276;

Financial Effects

4. The financial effect of these amendments is likely to be minimal. Families and individuals who benefit from the adjustments will receive more help with health costs and the effect will be a reduction in charge income, spread across Health Boards. The number of families/individuals who will benefit from these changes is very difficult to predict, as it depends on the financial circumstances declared by individual claimants.

Consultation

5. There has been no consultation by the Scottish Government in respect of these Regulations. This is normal practice when regulations are introduced to take account of changes to the benefit regime. Information relating to the NHS Low Income Scheme and Tax Credit Exemption can be found in leaflet HCS2 – A Quick Guide to Help with Health Costs. Further information can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/healthcosts