

## POLICY NOTE

### THE WELFARE REFORM (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

#### SSI 2013/65

1. The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2 and 3 of the Welfare Reform (Further Provision) (Scotland) Act 2012<sup>(1)</sup>. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

#### Policy Objectives

2. The main purpose of this instrument is to make consequential amendments to cover the transition from Disability Living Allowance to the new Personal Independence Payment (PIP) so as to allow disability related passported benefits to be claimed in Scotland following the introduction of PIP. There are some other consequential amendments made which do not relate to passported benefits.

#### Commencement date

3. The date of commencement of these regulations is 8 April 2013.

#### Consultation

4. The Scottish Government ran a formal consultation exercise on its approach to passported benefits which closed in September 2012. We also held informal consultation events with a range of stakeholders. The primary focus of stakeholders from this consultation activity was the need to protect entitlement to passported benefits as far as possible.

#### Impact Assessments

5. Given the diverse nature of the changes proposed in these regulations, it is problematic to assess overall impacts. Impact assessments for the individual policy areas affected will be published on the Scottish Government website where appropriate.

#### Financial Effects

6. Given the diverse nature of the changes proposed in these regulations, it is problematic to assess overall financial effects. Some of the changes are consequential and are not anticipated to have significant financial effects.

7. The primary areas where financial impacts may be a consideration are in relation to the National Concessionary Travel Scheme and the Blue Badge Scheme. Information on them is as follows.

#### National Concessionary Travel Scheme

8. A Business Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been undertaken for this policy change. Any impacts on business are expected to be small and after the period of the recently concluded agreement on concessionary travel reimbursement terms, which is limited to 2013/14 and 2014/15.

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 asp 10

9. These changes may lead to a small increase in the number of companion cards issued. However, it should be noted that not everyone eligible for a companion card applies for one, and not every card holder uses it. Because the changes are being introduced gradually over a period of four years and the majority of reassessments for PIP will not take place until 2015, it is likely that a clear picture of who is affected will not emerge for some time. The impact of these changes will be taken into account in any discussions with the bus industry on future financial arrangements.

### Blue Badge Scheme

#### IT Systems

11. Blue Badge GB online form to be updated and the BBIS database to be updated to record the new eligibility criteria for PIP. Updates required to be carried out by Northgate Public Services. Approximately £32,000 in 2013-14.

12. Local Authorities will have to amend their databases to include additional field. SOCITM have confirmed that they will require a small amount of funding per local authority. Approximately £1,000 per authority in 2013-2014.

#### Learning and Development

13. Scottish Government to host a workshop for representatives of all 32 local authorities. Update Blue Badge application form, associated guidance, websites and information literature. Up to £10,000.

Scottish Government – Housing, Regeneration and Welfare Directorate

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