

POLICY NOTE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (OPTICAL CHARGES AND PAYMENTS) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2016

SSI 2016/127

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 70(1), 73(a), 74(a), 105(7), 108(1) of and paragraphs 2 and 2A of Schedule 11 to the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Policy Objectives

The purpose of this instrument is to amend the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Scotland) Regulations 1998 (“the 1998 Regulations”) to increase optical voucher values and supplements.

Annual Uprating of Optical Vouchers in the 1998 Regulations

Optical vouchers provide help towards the purchase of new, or repair or replacement of existing glasses or contact lenses for certain categories of people, including children under 16, those aged 16 to 19 in full-time education and those who require complex lenses. For adults, other than assistance for complex appliances, help is income related with those in receipt of certain benefits being automatically entitled to a voucher while others on low incomes may be entitled to help under the NHS Low Income Scheme.

Voucher values are normally increased on 1st April each year. The voucher values and supplements are increased by 1%.

Consultation

No consultation has taken place in regards to the increase in optical vouchers. This is an annual increase so consultation is not considered to be required.

Impact Assessments

An equality impact assessment has not been completed. There are no equality impact issues.

Financial Effects

The Minister for Public Health confirms that no Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) is necessary as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

Scottish Government
Population Health Improvement Directorate
February 2016