Parliamentary Bureau – Approval of Scottish Statutory Instruments

Affirmative Instruments

National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft)

1. Under Rule 10.6.5, the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

2. To set out a capped level of funding for the Older and Disabled Persons Scheme for the coming financial year. The capped level refers to the limit set on the total amount bus operators can be paid for taking part in the Older and Disabled Persons Scheme. It also sets out the reimbursement rate for both the Older and Disabled Persons Scheme and the Young Persons Scheme for the coming financial year. The reimbursement rate is the proportion of the full adult fare bus operators are paid for each concessionary traveller using their services.

Consideration by committee

3. At its meeting on 5 March 2024, following debate, the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee agreed to recommend that the Regulations be approved. The Committee report was published on 12 March 2024.

Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft)

4. Under Rule 10.6.5, the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security (Up-rating) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

5. To fulfil the duty on the Scottish Ministers under section 86B of the 2018 Act to bring forward legislation to increase the amount of Scottish Child Payment, Child Disability Payment, Adult Disability Payment, Funeral Support Payment, Carer Support Payment and Young Carer Grant to an amount which is at least as high as if the existing amount was adjusted in line with price inflation. Following Ministers having complied with their duties under section 86A of the 2018 Act to consider the effects of inflation on certain existing forms of assistance, these Regulations give effect to the Ministers' intentions to up-rate other benefits which

are not subject to the mandatory up- rating requirements in section 86B. Accordingly, increases of 6.7% are also made to Best Start Grants, Best Start Foods, Child Winter Heating Payment and Winter Heating Payment. Finally, the Regulations also increase the earnings limits for Carer's Allowance and Carer Support Payment which are not subject to the reporting or up-rating duties in sections 86A and 86B of the 2018 Act.

Consideration by committee

 At its meeting on 22 February 2024 the Social Justice and Social Security Committee agreed to recommend that the Regulations be approved. The Committee report was published on 14 March 2024.

Social Security Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft)

7. Under Rule 10.6.5, the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security Up-rating (Scotland) Order 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

8. To fulfil the statutory duty on the Scottish Ministers under sections 150 and 150A of the 1992 Act to review the rates of social security benefits that they are responsible for and provides for the up-rating of certain benefits. Various weekly rates of payment of Attendance Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Industrial Death Benefit, Personal Independence Payment and Severe Disablement Allowance will increase. The Order will also make an increase to the Adult Dependency Increase as an additional weekly payment payable to some recipients of Severe Disablement Allowance. Other associated benefits of the Severe Disablement Allowance and Industrial Injuries Scheme benefits will also increase.

Consideration by committee

 At its meeting on 22 February 2024 the Social Justice and Social Security Committee agreed to recommend that the Regulations be approved. The Committee report was published on 14 March 2024.

Budget (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft)

10. Under Rule 10.6.5, the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

George Adam on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Budget (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2024 (SSI 2024/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

11. To make in-year changes to The Budget (Scotland) Act 2023, which authorised the Scotlish Government's spending plans for the current financial year.

Consideration by committee

12. At its meeting on 5 March 2024 the Finance and Public Administration Committee agreed to recommend that the Regulations be approved. The Committee report was published on 14 March 2024.

Decision

- 13. Business Managers are invited to note that the above motions will be lodged.
- 14. Business Managers should reserve their position if their party intends to speak against or oppose the motions.

Parliamentary Business Team March 2024