

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU: APPROVAL OF SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

AFFIRMATIVE INSTRUMENT

[Winter Heating Assistance \(Low Income\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(SSI 2022/Draft\)](#)

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 Winter Heating Assistance (Low Income) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2022/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

2. This instrument sets out the rules and eligibility criteria for Winter Heating Payment (WHP), a form of assistance that provides an annual payment each winter to people in receipt of certain low income benefits and premiums in relation to age and disability who may need additional help with heating costs during the winter months. This new form of social security assistance will replace Cold Weather Payments (CWP) in Scotland.

Consideration by committee

3. At its meeting on 15 December 2022 the Social Justice and Social Security Committee agreed to recommend that the regulations be approved (by division For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 4, after debate). The [Committee report](#) was published on 22 December 2022.

[Bankruptcy and Debt Arrangement Scheme \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2023 \(SSI 2022/Draft\)](#)

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 Bankruptcy and Debt Arrangement Scheme (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (SSI 2022/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

5. To extend the application criteria for a payment break in the Debt Arrangement Scheme where there is a reduction in disposable income which may be caused by an increase in living costs. It removes the minimum debt threshold for entry to a Minimal Asset Process (MAP) bankruptcy and extends the criteria for waiving bankruptcy application fees including the removal of all application fees for MAP bankruptcy. The instrument increases the deposit that must be paid by creditors where AiB is nominated as trustee in bankruptcy following a court petition.

Consideration by committee

6. At its meeting on 21 December 2022, the Economy and Fair Work Committee agreed to recommend that the regulations be approved. The Committee report was published on 21 December 2022.

Decision

7. **Business Managers are invited note that the above motions will be lodged.**

8. **Business Managers should reserve their position if their party intends to speak against or oppose the motions.**

**Parliamentary Business Team
January 2023**