

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES****LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT****The Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Forms and Particulars) and (Welsh Forms and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000****Background**

These Regulations follow on directly from the Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 considered by the Committee on 11 April 2000. They are also closely related to the Relocation Grants (Forms of Application) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000.

Members will recall that the Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 themselves followed on from changes made to the benefit system and were concerned with the impact of these changes upon the means test for housing renewal grants.

The forms to be used by owner/occupiers when applying for grants were set out in English in the Schedule to the Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Forms and Particulars) Regulations 1996 and in Welsh in the Schedule to the Housing Renewal Grants (Welsh Forms and Particulars) Regulations 1998.

These Regulations make amendments to the forms of application which are a consequence of the amendments made by the Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000.

**Standing Order 11.5**

No points have been identified as matters in respect of which the Committee needs to invite the Assembly to pay special attention.

**General Observations****Title**

As these regulations amend two sets of existing regulations the title is very long as it refers to "Prescribed Forms and Particulars" and "Welsh Forms and Particulars". This is however to be contrasted with The Relocation Grants (Forms of Application)(Amendment)(Wales) Regulations 2000, which also amends two sets of existing regulations, where the title has been simplified by referring simply to "Forms of Application". Something similar could have been done in this case.

### **Explanatory Note**

As the Regulations relate to changes to the benefits system, it would have been helpful had the Explanatory Note contained a brief summary of what those changes are.

### **Schedule – paragraph 5**

There is some scope for ambiguity in the question "are you...receiving the national minimum wage...?", as it could be interpreted as meaning receipt of exactly the national minimum wage, which could in turn invite the answer "No" from applicants receiving more than the minimum wage. The question "are you receiving *less than* the minimum wage?" would remove this potential ambiguity.

There are also some minor typographical errors.

There should be a "y" before "Rheoliadau" in paragraph 3 as the intention is to denote specific Regulations. In addition at the end of paragraph 3, the inverted commas are the wrong way around in the English text.

After paragraph 12, the numbering sequence in the Welsh text of the Schedule is not correct as it goes as follows –

11, 12, 12, 13, 14, 16.

At the end of paragraph 12 (Welsh text) /13 (English text) the inverted commas have been omitted.

All of these matters are straightforward and can be rectified in the final printed version.

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