



Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref  
All Assembly Members

12 December 2012

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to inform you that I have today laid the amended Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2012. These Regulations and their Explanatory Memoranda are available on the Documents Laid page of the National Assembly for Wales' website at <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm>.

The amendments that have been made to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2012 from those that were laid on 5 December 2012 are set out below:-

- 1(3) These Regulations apply in relation to the financial year beginning on 1 April 2013.
- 1(4) On or before 1 January 2014 the Welsh Ministers must publish draft regulations under section 13A(4) of the 1992 Act in respect of the financial year beginning 1 April 2014 and subsequent financial years.

The practical effect of the sunset clause in regulation 1(3), and the duty to publish a new set of draft regulations by 1 January 2014 in regulation 1(4), is to ensure that Welsh Ministers will bring forward subsequent regulations in good time, to enable full scrutiny of future schemes to take place in good time for their introduction.

The Explanatory Note to the Prescribed Requirements Regulations and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum have also been revised to reflect these changes.

I have also re-laid the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales Regulations) Regulations 2012. No amendments have been made to these Regulations as none are required. The effect of paragraph 6(1)(e) of Schedule 1B to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 is that any default scheme prescribed in regulations will only apply in the event that a local authority fails to comply with any duty set out in regulations requiring authorities to introduce council tax reduction schemes. The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2012 therefore have practical effect only during the period of the applicability of the Prescribed Requirements regulations which imposes the duty to have a scheme, which by virtue of regulation 1(3) of those regulations is the financial year 2013-14.

The Explanatory Note to the Default Scheme regulations has been updated to clarify this point and it is detailed further in the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

**Jane Hutt AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty  
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

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