

Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee
Statutory Instruments with Clear Reports
17 March 2014

CLA367 – The Food with Added Phytosterols or Phytosterols (Labelling) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

Procedure: Negative

These Regulations amend the Food with Added Phytosterols or Phytosterols (Labelling) (Wales) Regulations 2005. The amendments implement in Wales EU Regulations on labelling of food ingredients with added phytosterols, phytosterols and/or phytosterol esters. The amendments will continue to ensure that foods with added phytosterols or stanols are consistently labelled allowing consumers who wish to lower or maintain their blood cholesterol are fully informed about the appropriate use of these products.

CLA368 – The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2014

Procedure: Affirmative

These Regulations amend the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Detection of Fraud and Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2013 ('the 2013 Regulations'), the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (Wales) Regulations 2013.

The 2013 Regulations are amended so that the offences created and the powers to require information and impose penalties relate to schemes made under the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 or which apply in default on 1 April 2014 in accordance with paragraph 6 (1)(e) of Schedule 1B to the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

CLA369 – The National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2014

Procedure: Negative

These Regulations amend the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997 by uprating, with effect from 1 April 2014, the value of vouchers issued towards the cost of the supply and replacement of glasses and contact lenses, to increase the additional values for vouchers for prisms, tints, photochromic lenses and special categories of appliances and to increase the value of vouchers issued towards the cost of the repair and replacement of optical appliances.

CLA370 – The National Health Service (Welfare Reform Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2014

Procedure: Negative

These Regulations amend:–

- (1) the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) Regulations 1986;
- (2) the National Health Service (Optical Charges and Payments) Regulations 1997; and
- (3) the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2007.

The effect of these amendments is to allow for Universal Credit (UC) to be accepted as a qualifying benefit for the purposes of full or part remission from NHS charges and passport all UC claimants for the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

This allows for those in receipt of Universal Credit to qualify for free NHS dental treatment, a free NHS sight test and help towards the cost of glasses and help with travel costs and to submit a claim under the NHS Low Income Scheme for help with health costs.

CLA371 – The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2014

Procedure: Negative

These Regulations amend the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (“the 1990 Regulations”) made under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (“the 1989 Act”).

Section 15 of the 1989 Act sets out the rules of political balance that apply to committees and sub-committees of a local authority. Regulation 16A of the 1990 Regulations provides for an exception to the duty under section 15 to allocate to particular political groups seats on certain committees and sub-committees of a local authority established exclusively to discharge functions or advise in respect of part of the area of the authority (“area committees”).

These Regulations are made under Schedule 1 to the 1989 Act and insert for Wales new regulation 16AA into the 1990 Regulations which sets out the conditions to be satisfied in Wales for the exception for area committees to apply.

CLA372 – The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

Procedure: Negative

Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 introduced a legal framework within which local government may undertake capital expenditure. The Welsh Ministers may regulate that activity by regulations. Such provision was made by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/3239) (“the 2003 Regulations”) which have since been amended.

Regulation 3 amends regulation 18 of the 2003 Regulations to permit local authorities to use capital receipts received on or after 1 April 2013 to make back payments in respect of equal pay.

Regulation 4 of these Regulations inserts a new regulation 24A into the 2003 Regulations, which will cease to have effect on 1 April 2018. The new regulation 24A provides that a local authority need not charge to a revenue account an amount in respect of a payment to be made to an officer or employee for work done in the past for which the officer or employee received unequal pay until the authority has to pay that amount to the officer or employee. It also provides that where a liability is identified on or before 1 April 2018, the benefit of regulation 24A will apply until 1 April 2023.

CLA373 – The Rent Book (Forms of Notice) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2014

Procedure: Negative

These Regulations amend the Rent Book (Forms of Notice) Regulations 1982. The amendments are made in consequence of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and substitute references to universal credit for references rent allowance and rate rebate schemes.