

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

9th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Tuesday 1 March 2022

Subordinate legislation

Note by the clerk

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Committee to consider the following negative instrument:
 - [Personal Injuries \(NHS Charges\) \(Amounts\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2022](#)

Procedure for negative instruments

2. Negative instruments are instruments that are “subject to annulment” by resolution of the Parliament for a period of 40 days after they are laid. This means they become law unless they are annulled by the Parliament. All negative instruments are considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee (on various technical grounds) and by the relevant lead committee (on policy grounds).
3. Under Rule 10.4, any member (whether or not a member of the lead committee) may, within the 40-day period, lodge a motion for consideration by the lead committee recommending annulment of the instrument.
4. If the motion is agreed to by the lead committee, the Parliamentary Bureau must then lodge a motion to annul the instrument to be considered by the Parliament as a whole. If that motion is also agreed to, the Scottish Ministers must revoke the instrument.
5. If the Parliament resolves to annul an SSI then what has been done under authority of the instrument remains valid but it can have no further legal effect. Following a resolution to annul an SSI the Scottish Ministers (or other responsible authority) must revoke the SSI (make another SSI which removes the original SSI from the statute book.) Ministers are not prevented from making another instrument in the same terms and seeking to persuade the Parliament that the second instrument should not be annulled.

6. Each negative instrument appears on the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's agenda at the first opportunity after the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee has reported on it. This means that, if questions are asked or concerns raised, consideration of the instrument can usually be continued to a later meeting to allow the Committee to gather more information or to invite a Minister to give evidence on the instrument. Members should however note that, for scheduling reasons, it is not *always* possible to continue an instrument to the following week. For this reason, if any Member has significant concerns about a negative instrument, they are encouraged to make this known to the clerks in advance of the meeting.
7. In many cases, the Committee may be content simply to note the instrument and agree to make no recommendations on it.

Guidance on subordinate legislation

8. Further guidance on subordinate legislation is available on the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee's web page at:
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/delegated-powers-committee.aspx>

Recommendation

9. The Committee is invited to consider any issues which it wishes to raise on this instrument.

Clerks to the Committee

24 February 2022

SSI 2022/45

Title of Instrument: Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (Amounts) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022

Type of Instrument: Negative

Laid Date: 9 February 2022

Meeting Date: 1 March 2022

Minister to attend meeting: No

Motion for annulment lodged: No

Drawn to the Parliament's attention by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee? No.

10. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on [22 February 2022](#), and made no recommendations in relation to this instrument.

11.

Reporting deadline: 31 January 2022

Purpose

12. These regulations amend the Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (Amounts) (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The purpose of the instrument is to increase the charges ("NHS charges") recovered from persons who pay compensation ("compensators") in cases where an injured person receives National Health Service hospital treatment or ambulance services. The increase in charges relates to an uplift for Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) annual inflation

13. A copy of the Scottish Government's Policy Note is included in **Annexe A**.

POLICY NOTE

ANNEXE A

**THE PERSONAL INJURIES (NHS CHARGES) (AMOUNTS) (SCOTLAND)
AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2022**
SSI 2022/45

1. The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 153(2) and (5) and 195(1) and (2) of the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

These regulations amend the Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (Amounts) (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The purpose of the instrument is to increase the charges (“NHS charges”) recovered from persons who pay compensation (“compensators”) in cases where an injured person receives National Health Service hospital treatment or ambulance services. The increase in charges relates to an uplift for Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) annual inflation.

Policy Objectives

2. The NHS charges are revised annually to take account of Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) pay and price inflation. The latest estimate for HCHS inflation is 2.89%.
3. The new NHS charges will apply in cases where compensation has been made in respect of incidents occurring on or after 1st April 2022. The NHS charges will be increased as follows:

	Rate	
	Current	From 1 April 2022
Where the injured person was provided with NHS ambulance services for the purpose of taking him/her to a hospital for NHS treatment (for each journey)	£225	£231
Where the injured person received NHS treatment at a hospital in respect of his/her injury but was not admitted to hospital (flat rate)	£744	£766
Where the injured person received NHS treatment at a hospital in respect of his/her injury and was admitted to hospital (daily rate)	£915	£941
The cap (being the maximum amount that will be claimed from a compensator) in any one case.	£54,682	£56,260

4. The Scheme is administered on behalf of Scottish Ministers by the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in accordance with an agency arrangement under section 93 of the Scotland Act 1998.

Consultation

5. It was not necessary to consult specifically on this instrument. For more than 70 years, hospitals have been able to recover the costs of treating the victims of road traffic accidents where the injured person has made a successful claim for personal injury compensation. The arrangements for this were streamlined and modernised through the provisions of the Road Traffic (NHS Charges) Act 1999 (RTA). The Scheme introduced in January 2007 to replace the RTA Scheme has been the subject of a number of consultation exercises.

6. The Law Commission for England and Wales consulted in 1996 on whether the recovery of NHS costs should take place not just following road traffic accidents but in all cases where people claim and receive personal injury compensation. More than three quarters of the people who responded to the consultation agreed with the Commission's view that the NHS should be able to recover its costs from the liable party and that the NHS, and therefore the taxpayer should not have to pay for the treatment of such patients. Rather, those causing injury to others should pay the full cost of their actions, including the costs of NHS treatment.

7. The then Scottish Executive Health Department and the Department of Health undertook parallel consultation exercises on how such an expanded Scheme might operate in the autumn of 2002. The responses in the main supported the Scheme and proposals for its administration. There were some concerns, however, about whether the Employers' Liability Compulsory Insurance (ELCI) market was sufficiently robust to cope with the expansion.

8. Following on from the consultation the necessary legislative framework was put in place as Part 3 of the 2003 Act. However, in response to the concerns expressed, Scottish and UK Ministers committed to not implementing the expanded Scheme until a study of the ELCI market, carried out by DWP during 2003, was published. The study's final report, issued in December 2003, recommended that implementation of the NHS Cost Recovery Scheme should be postponed for a year, and this recommendation was accepted.

9. A further consultation was undertaken at the end of 2004 covering in detail the draft Regulations that would govern the Scheme. There are three sets of principal regulations:

- The Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (Amounts) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, which these regulations amend;
- The Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (General) (Scotland) Regulations 2006;
- The Personal Injuries (NHS Charges) (Reviews and Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

10. The consultation included seeking agreement to continue the practice established under the old RTA Scheme of automatically uprating the level of charges each year in line with HCHS inflation. The proposal was agreed by the majority of respondents.

11. The consultation raised further concerns about the planned timing for introducing the Scheme as the ELCI market was still considered fragile. After further discussions with DWP, Scottish and UK Ministers agreed to one further postponement of implementation of the Scheme from April 2005 to January 2007.

12. The following bodies were consulted in both the 2002 and 2004 consultations:

NHS Boards (and NHS Trusts)

Scottish NHS Confederation

The Law Society of Scotland

The Scottish Law Agents Society

The Faculty of Actuaries

Motor Insurers Bureau

Scotland Patients Association

Scottish Association of Health Councils

The Faculty of Advocates

The Scottish Consumer Council

Association of British Insurers

Various Insurance Bodies

Impact Assessments

13. A full Impact Assessment (IA) has not been prepared for this instrument, as the impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is negligible. There is no expansion or reduction in the level of regulatory activity as a consequence of this instrument. The scheme is already in place, there is no change in policy and the uplift to the tariff (being based on HCHS inflation) was agreed with the insurance industry as part of the consultation process in 2006. This process for uprating the tariff of charges is a longstanding annual event that simply maintains the real-terms values of the funds recovered by the NHS.

14. The bulk of the NHS charges are covered by insurance, and will be paid by insurers in addition to the personal compensation payment which the injured person will have secured. It is possible that insurers will choose to pass the increased costs on to their customers through insurance premiums.

15. Any impact on premiums due to this uplift is likely to be negligible. The £5.64m additional income for the NHS can be broken down as £3.84m for road traffic accidents and £1.8m for non-road traffic accidents (using rounded figures).

16. If we assume the £3.84m for road traffic accidents is spread evenly among all holders of compulsory motor insurance, then the average cost per policy could rise by 0.04% or around 19p per policy. These figures are calculated using 2020 estimates for

net motor premiums of £8.87bn and estimated average annual expenditure per household buying motor insurance in 2021/22 of £840 based on information provided by the Association of British Insurers.

17. The remaining £1.8m is likely to be a cost pressure on public liability and employer insurance. If this cost was transferred to the population, for e.g. by lower wages to cover the increase in employer insurance contributions, and increased tax to cover the public liability insurance, it would cost around 6p per person.

Financial Effects

18. No Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) is necessary as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business. Furthermore, it should be noted that the liability for charges rests with the compensator, and not with the person who has been compensated.

19. The 2003 Act provides for a parallel Scheme to be operated in England and Wales by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and identical changes to the flat/daily rate and the cap have been made in England and Wales by the Department of Health and Social Care. The England and Wales Scheme is also administered by the Compensation Recovery Unit.

**Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorate
January 2022**