

**Explanatory Memorandum to  
The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment)  
Regulations 2012**

This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Local Government Finance and Public Service Performance Division, and is laid before the National Assembly for Wales in conjunction with the above subordinate legislation and in accordance with Standing Order 27.1.

**Minister's Declaration**

In my view, this Explanatory Memorandum gives a fair and reasonable view of the expected impact of The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

*Carl Sargeant*

**Minister for Local Government and Communities**

4 December 2012

## **1. Description**

### **The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment)**

**Regulations 2011** amend The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/3238) (“the 1992 Regulations”). The 1992 Regulations prescribe the rules for calculating non domestic rating contributions paid by local authorities. Amendments are made annually to certain elements to ensure that the basis for authorities’ contributions remains accurate. Amendments to the 1992 Regulations are now required to enable local authorities to calculate correctly their non-domestic rating contributions for 2013-14. The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 amend the 1992 Regulations by substituting a new Schedule 4 (Adult Population Figures).

## **2. Matters of special interest to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee**

The Local Government Finance Act 1988 (paragraph 4(6) of schedule 8) requires that for The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 to be effective for the next financial year they must come into force no later than 31 December 2012.

## **3. Legislative background**

3.1 The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 are made under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (sections 60, 140(4) and 143(1) and paragraphs 4 and 6 of Schedule 8).

3.2 The functions of the Secretary of State under those provisions were transferred, so far as exercisable in relation to Wales, to the National Assembly for Wales by The National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 (SI 1999/672) and are now vested in the Welsh Ministers by virtue of section 162 of, and paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to, the Government of Wales Act 2006.

3.3 The Regulations are subject to the negative resolution procedure.

## **4. Purpose & intended effect of the legislation**

4.1 Local authorities (county and county borough councils) are required to pay non-domestic rating contributions to the Welsh Ministers in respect of the rates they collect from businesses in their area (authorities do not retain the non-domestic rating that they collect). Rather, rates are paid into the national non-domestic rating pool from which they are redistributed to local authorities on the basis of adult population. Payments by local authorities to the pool are made on the basis of estimates completed before the start of the financial year. Local authorities submit audited returns after the end of the financial year based on which they receive payments from the Welsh Ministers or make additional payments to the pool as appropriate.

4.2 The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 update the adult population figures for each council. These

are used to set a threshold for local authorities to recalculate, where necessary, their provisional contributions to the pool.

4.3 If these changes are not made, the estimates made by local authorities for their contributions to the rating pool will be inaccurate as they will be based on the previous years' population figures which are now out of date.

## **5. Consultation**

These amendments are only of interest to local authorities, and have no effect on ratepayers. They are technical in nature, are made annually and have no policy implications. In light of the above, no consultation exercise has been undertaken with any of the similar Regulations in previous years and, likewise, it is considered that these proposed Regulations can proceed without consultation.

## **6. Regulatory Impact Assessment**

These are routine amendments that are made annually to update the rules that local authorities (county and county borough councils) must apply in calculating their contributions to the non-domestic rating pool. They are technical in nature, only of interest to local authorities, have no effect on ratepayers, and no policy implications, so as with previous years a regulatory impact assessment has not been prepared.