

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

REPORT BY THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE On The National Assistance (Assessment of Resources and Sums for Personal Requirements) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006

The Committee considered the above Regulations at its meeting on 8 March 2006. It was considered in accordance with the protocol for dealing with secondary legislation agreed by the Committee on 11 June 2003, whereby Members notify in advance any queries or amendments they wish to make to the Order.

Members did not propose any amendments.

One point of clarification had been raised by Jenny Randerson AM:

“Has the Minister made a calculation of the costs of raising the Capital Limits and the Personal Expenses Allowance further than currently proposed and if so will he make that calculation available?”

The Minister advised that every additional £1,000 increase to the upper capital limit would cost local authorities £0.5million. At the lower level the same uplift would cost £0.2million.

He said that every 10p increase in the Personal Expenses Allowance would cost local authorities £100,000.

These costs would be reflected in the uplift to the local authorities' standard spending assessment

In response to a question from Helen Mary Jones the Minister said that anecdotal evidence indicated that the number of homes that were sold each year to pay for personal care was not known. He pointed out that selling the home was not the only option, another would be to raise a charge against the property.

The Committee was content with the regulations as drafted.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM
Chair