

STAJAC meeting 24 June 2015 – paper 10.3

Consultation on Regulations and Statutory Guidance under the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Act 2015

1. Scottish Government are currently consulting on Regulations and Statutory Guidance for the Scottish welfare fund. The consultation closes on **21 August 2015**. A link to the full consultation document can be found here:

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/welfare-funds/regulations-and-statutory-guidance-under-the-welf>

2. The vast majority of questions in the consultation are concerned with the detail of the operation of the Fund itself (eg methods for assessing eligibility; methods of payment; excluded items) – matters that are outwith the remit and the expertise of the Committee, and on which it would therefore not be appropriate to comment.

3. However, there are some areas where the Committee may want to comment:

On policy issues/matters in the **draft Statutory Guidance**:

- Question 9 – timescales in the draft statutory guidance for the processing of Crisis Grants
- Question 16 – any equalities impacts from draft regulations and draft statutory guidance (insofar as we are able to comment)

Comments are also requested on the **draft regulations** themselves through two generic questions:

- Q17 – Do you think that the regulations will have the effects set out in the consultation paper
- Q18 – If not, please tell us about any gaps or unintended consequences.

We may therefore want to carefully scrutinise the parts of the regulations dealing with *Decisions on funds applications (14)*; *Reviews (15)*; and *Content of decisions (16)* in particular.

4. One or two members of the Committee are invited to draft a response, which initially can be circulated for comment, for agreement at our next meeting on 12 August, and submission to Scottish Government by 21 August.