2014 No. 3126

HOUSING

The Rent Officers (Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Functions) (Local Housing Allowance Amendments) Order 2014

Made - - - -	*24th November 2014*
Laid before Parliament	*1st December 2014*
Coming into force -	*8th January 2015*

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by section 122(1) and (6) of the Housing Act 1996**(a)**.

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Functions) (Local Housing Allowance Amendments) Order 2014 and comes into force on 8th January 2015.

[Article 2 amends Article 4B and Schedule 3B of S.I. 1997/1984.]

[Article 3 amends Article 4B and Schedule 3B of S.I. 1997/1995.]

[Article 4 amends Articles 2, 4 and Schedule 1 of S.I. 2013/382.]

[Schedule 1 amends paragraph 6 of Schedule 3B to S.I. 1997/1984.]

[Schedule 2 amends paragraph 6 of Schedule 3B to S.I. 1997/1995.]

[Schedule 3 amends paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to S.I. 2013/382.]

(a) 1996 c. 52. Section 122(1) was amended by paragraph 36 of Schedule 2 to the Welfare Reform Act 2012 (c. 5).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order amends the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997/1984), the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) (Scotland) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997/1995) and the Rent Officers (Universal Credit Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/382) to make changes to how and when the local housing allowance is determined.

Article 2 amends the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) Order 1997 to provide that Rent Officers must carry out the local housing allowance determinations on the last working day of January. It also inserts the new local housing allowance cap rates and the new targeted affordability funding rates into that Order.

Article 3 makes similar amendments to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions) (Scotland) Order 1997.

Article 4 makes similar amendments to the Rent Officers (Universal Credit Functions) Order 2013 and also amends this to change the day the new local housing allowance rate will take effect. Instead of taking effect on the next 7th April following the date the determination was made, it will take effect: on the next 6th April following the date of the determination; or, in the case of existing claimants, either the next 6th April following the day on which the determination is made where that is the first day of a claimant's assessment period; or where that is not the case the first day of the claimant's next assessment period following the 6th April.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as it has no impact on the private sector or civil society organisations.