

Statutory Instruments with Clear Reports

21 September 2020

SL(5)606 – The Healthy Start Scheme (Description of Healthy Start Food) (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2020

Procedure: Negative

The Healthy Start scheme provides vouchers to pregnant women under 18 years old or who receive certain qualifying benefits, and families with a child under four years old who receive certain qualifying benefits to help buy some basic foods such as fruit, vegetables, milk and infant formula. Those that qualify can also receive free vitamins.

The scheme is not devolved in Wales, although the Welsh Ministers have powers to exercise certain functions, such as prescribing Healthy Start foods. These Regulations are intended to ensure parity in the delivery of the scheme in England and Wales.

These Regulations amend the Healthy Start Scheme (Description of Healthy Start Food) (Wales) Regulations 2006 by:

- removing the restriction that vitamins on the scheme may only be provided in a tablet or drop form; and
- expanding the definition of “Healthy Start foods” to include canned fruit and vegetables and pulses.

These Regulations also amend the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Wales) Regulations 2004 by removing the contractual requirement placed on General Medical Practitioners to provide evidence of pregnancy to an individual when the individual is applying for the Healthy Start scheme (the requirement is unnecessary as a certificate evidencing pregnancy signed by a healthcare professional is no longer required as part of an individual’s application to the scheme).

Parent Act: National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006

Date Made: 07 September 2020

Date Laid: 08 September 2020

Coming into force date: 01 October 2020

