



**Child Support
(Miscellaneous Amendments)
Regulations 2011**

Consultation on draft regulations

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Part One - Consultation arrangements

Who is this consultation aimed at?

1.1 The consultation is primarily aimed at parents who live apart, representative organisations for parents who live apart or their children, representatives of the legal profession and members of the general public with an interest in child maintenance issues. A list of our stakeholders to be consulted is at **Annex A**.

Subject of consultation

1.2 This consultation concerns the provisions that we propose to include in the Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments No 2) Regulations 2011 ("the Regulations"), which implement a number of minor and technical amendments to existing regulations governing how the Child Support Agency ("the Agency"), on behalf of the Commission carries out its statutory functions.

1.3 It is proposed that the Regulations will come into effect before the end of 2011. They will apply to both the 1993 and the 2003 child support schemes. The Regulations will be made by Ministers of the Department for Work and Pensions. Because of the technical nature of the changes, we are consulting on the policy issues rather than the draft regulations, but we will make these available on request.

1.4 The Regulations will:

- amend 2003 scheme legislation to allow foreign earnings of an employed or self-employed non-resident parent who is habitually resident in the United Kingdom, but works overseas, to be taken into account within the maintenance calculation where the income has been declared to HMRC;
- amend existing secondary legislation to provide that where the Commission is considering taking collection/enforcement action against the non-resident parent, it will provide an arrears notice which will include the amount of all outstanding arrears due and not paid. Following any notice being served, the non-resident parent or their representative may request itemisation of payments due and not paid. Any such request must be made within 14 days following the day of receipt of the initial arrears notice;
- provide that transmission of payments of child support maintenance made by the Commission to the parent with care will be by credit transfer to a bank account or post office card account nominated by the parent with care. The Commission will use its discretion in providing payments by other means where the parent with care does not have a bank account into which child maintenance payments can be transferred;
- provide the Commission with a power to estimate non-resident parents' income where it is not possible to collect appropriate evidence of their net weekly earnings. If the non-resident parent's employment and location are known, the income will be estimated by using the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) database and assuming that they earn the average wage for a given job and area;

1.10 When responding, please tell us whether you are doing so as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents, and where applicable, how the views of members were assembled. We will acknowledge your response.

Queries about the content of this document

1.11 Any queries about the subject matter of this consultation should be made to:

Name: *Mercy Adebisi*

Address: *Policy and Legislation team
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
PO Box 61791
London SW1P 9NT*

Email: *mercy.adebisi1@childmaintenance.gsi.gov.uk*

Gathering additional views in this consultation

1.12 We want to ensure that we get views from as broad a range of people as possible about these proposals. We have sent this consultation document to a number of people and organisations who have an interest in child maintenance. Please do share this document with, or tell us about, anyone you think will want to be involved in this consultation.

Freedom of information

1.13 The information you send us may need to be passed to colleagues within the Commission and published in a summary of responses received.

1.14 All information contained in your response, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. By providing personal information for the purposes of the public consultation exercise, it is understood that you consent to its disclosure and publication. If this is not the case, you should limit any personal information which is provided, or remove it completely. If you want the information in your response to the consultation to be kept confidential, you should explain why as part of your response, although we cannot guarantee to do this. We cannot guarantee confidentiality of electronic responses even if your IT system claims it automatically.

1.15 If you want to find out more about the general principles of freedom of information and how it is applied within the Commission, please contact:

Freedom of Information Focal Point
The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
PO Box 61791
London, SW1P 9NT

Email: *foi.focalpoint@childmaintenance.gsi.gov.uk*

1.16 Please note that the Freedom of Information Focal Point can only advise on freedom of information issues, and not the content of this consultation document.

1.17 More information about the Freedom of Information Act can be found on the website of the Ministry of Justice www.justice.gov.uk

Feedback on this consultation

1.18 We value your feedback on how well we consult. If you have any comments on the process of this consultation (as opposed to the issues raised) please contact our Consultation Coordinator:

Name: *Robin Van den Hende*
Stakeholder Groups Manager

Address: *Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission*
Stockley House
PO Box 61791
London SW1P 9NT

Email: Robin.Van-den-Hende@childmaintenance.gsi.gov.uk

1.19 In particular, please tell us if you feel that the consultation does not satisfy the consultation criteria in the Government Code of Practice on Consultation or if you wish to make any suggestions as to how the process of consultation could be improved further.

1.20 If you have any requirements that we need to meet to enable you to comment, please let us know.

1.21 We will publish the Commission's response to this consultation on our website before the end of the year. We will consider all responses when finalising the Regulations. We will indicate what actions we intend to take and also give reasons where comments have not been taken into account, in the consultation response summary.

Part Two - Policy background and proposed changes to regulations

Introduction

2.1 The Commission is responsible for child maintenance policy. Its operational arm in executing this in respect of providing a statutory maintenance service is the Child Support Agency (“the Agency”). Under the Child Support Act 1991 and the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 the Commission is required to ensure that parents meet their obligations to maintain their children even when they cannot live together, by:

- promoting the financial responsibility that parents have for their children;
- providing information and support on the different child maintenance options available; and
- providing an efficient statutory child maintenance system.

2.2 The Government recently consulted on its plans for the reform of child maintenance in the Green Paper *Strengthening families, promoting parental responsibility: the future of child maintenance*. Consultation on those proposals has now closed. The proposals contained in this consultation relate only to the 1993 and 2003 child maintenance schemes.

2.3 In order to improve the efficiency of the current child support schemes administered by the Agency it has become necessary to amend existing secondary legislation governing child support to implement some minor and technical changes. A summary of the proposals are outlined below.

Foreign earnings

The current situation

2.4 The Commission has jurisdiction, i.e. legal authority, to make a maintenance calculation and collect child support maintenance only when the parent with care, the non-resident parent and the qualifying child are all habitually resident in the United Kingdom (UK). Habitual residence is a legal concept which means more than simply ‘where you live’. A person can habitually reside in more than one country or in none. Habitual residence can continue during an absence from UK. Additionally there are specific categories of non-resident parent that although they are not habitually resident in the UK are employed by the UK government or an organisation closely connected with the UK¹ and accordingly can be required to pay child support if a valid application is made to the statutory child maintenance scheme naming them as the non-resident parent. Child support legislation operates effectively to deem a non-resident parent habitually resident in the UK if the person’s employment relationship with the UK falls into one of the specified categories (see section 44(2A) of the Child Support Act 1991 and

¹ Section 44 (2A) of the Child Support Act 1991

Regulation 7A of the Child Support (Maintenance Arrangements and Jurisdiction) Regulations 1992). These are where the non-resident parent:

- is working abroad in the service of the crown, for example is a civil servant or works within Her Majesty's diplomatic service or within Her Majesty's overseas civil service;
- is a member of the Armed Forces;
- works abroad for a UK based company, for example it employs people to work outside the UK but makes payments via a UK payroll; and the company is registered under the companies act 1985 (England, Wales and Scotland) or the companies (Northern Ireland) order 1986 ; and
- works abroad on secondment for a prescribed body, for example from an NHS trust, regional health authority, primary care trust or local authority.

2.5 In a 2003 scheme case where the non-resident parent is habitually resident in the UK but works for an employer based overseas (other than in the circumstances described above), the Commission has jurisdiction to make a maintenance calculation for the qualifying child, but it **cannot** take the earnings of the non-resident parent into account. **This is because he/she does not meet the definition in secondary legislation of an 'employed earner' (in particular the requirement that they be 'gainfully employed' in Great Britain or Northern Ireland).** Additionally, 2003 scheme legislation does not allow the Commission to use income not subject to UK tax in order to put a calculation in place. The maintenance liability of the non-resident parent in this case would therefore be calculated as nil. For example, where a non-resident parent owns a house and lives in London, but works for a company based in Singapore and the non-resident parent is not paying UK tax on his/her Singapore earnings, although the Commission has jurisdiction to make a maintenance calculation, it can only assess the non-resident parent's maintenance liability as nil.

2.6 Similarly it is not possible for the earnings of self-employed non-resident parents that are habitually resident in the UK but undertake work abroad to be taken into account in the child maintenance calculation if UK income tax is not paid on those earnings, because the non-resident parent would not meet the current legislative definition of a "self-employed earner" for their income to be taken into account for child maintenance purposes under the current scheme regulations.

Why amendments are needed

2.7 The situation described at paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 prevents any money flowing from the non-resident parent to the parent with care, leaving the qualifying child disadvantaged. This anomaly only relates to the 2003 scheme legislation. The requirement that non-resident parents be 'gainfully employed' means that they fall outside the statutory system if they earn money outside of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In the future, as we move towards the use of HMRC gross income data, the Commission will be able to use any income that is subject to UK tax, wherever earned as long as HMRC have a record of the income.

Specific amendments to Regulations

2.8 We propose to amend the Child Support (Maintenance Calculations and Special Cases) Regulations 2000 to include a new measure that would allow the Commission to take into account the UK taxable earnings of all non-resident parents that are habitually resident in the UK, even if they are paid abroad. This will reduce the number of cases where the Commission is required to make a nil assessment.

Arrears notices

The current situation

2.9 The Child Support (Management of Payments and Arrears) Regulations 2009 (“the MPA Regulations”) set out the legal requirement for the Agency to issue an “arrears notice” where it is considering taking action against a non-resident parent who has missed one or more payments of child support maintenance.

2.10 Regulation 3(3) of the same regulations further sets out a list of information that the arrears notice must legally contain, this being;

- an itemised list of the payments of child support maintenance due and not received;
- an explanation in general terms, that the Commission will retain any sums collected against the benefit paid in lieu of missed maintenance payments; and
- a request for payment of all outstanding arrears from the non-resident parent.

Why amendments are needed

2.11 It has not been the normal practice of the Agency to provide a full itemised list of payments of child support maintenance due and not received when issuing an arrears notice and the current computer systems will not do so without incurring considerable effort and expense.

2.12 With the planned introduction of a new child support statutory scheme and computer system in the future, it is no longer financially viable for the Commission to undertake the expensive technical upgrade to its current computer systems that would be needed in order to make the Agency’s electronic arrears notices compatible with the legal requirement to provide an itemised list of payments both due and missed.

2.13 The Commission plans instead to make a minor amendment to the regulations in question. The amendment will change the regulations to provide that where the Agency is considering taking collection and/or enforcement action, it will provide an arrears notice; but only upon receipt of a request from either the non-resident parent or their representative, will the Commission be legally required to provide an itemisation of payments due and not paid.

Specific amendments to regulations

2.14 We propose to amend Regulation 3(3)(a) of the MPA Regulations, which will allow the Commission to issue a notification detailing the amounts it intends to collect/enforce at the time the notification is generated.

2.15 These proposed amendments will also limit the legal requirement for the Commission, where it is considering collection or enforcement action against the non-resident parent, to issue fully itemised arrears notification only in those cases where it has been specifically requested. For the request to be legally binding it should be made within 14 days of the arrears notification. This is intended to prevent non-resident parents from attempting to delay the Agency's collection action by requesting an itemised payments list.

2.16 The legislative amendments detailed above will allow the Commission to fulfil its legal obligation in respect of issuing the correct arrears notifications to non-resident parents, whilst at the same time limiting the possibility of this legal obligation being used by non-resident parents to try to delay the Agency in collecting the child support maintenance arrears they owe.

Transmission of payments

The current situation

2.17 Currently, the Commission has a proportion of parents with care receiving their child maintenance payments via giro cheque (i.e. cheque which can be cashed either at a bank or at the post office) and other non-direct payment methods as allowed by the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992.

2.18 Regulation 5(1) of the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 sets out the legal requirements for the Commission which it must follow when determining the method of payment for the PWC. These payment methods are listed as:

- by a transfer of credit to an account nominated by the person entitled to receive the payments;
- by cheque, giro cheque or other payable order; or
- in cash.

2.19 At present there is no way of requiring that parents with care are paid in a certain way, which makes the transmission of payments inefficient and costly.

Why amendments are needed

2.20 The Commission is keen to improve the efficiency of its payments system by introducing a default process of paying parents with care by direct credit transfer to an account with a bank or building society and using its discretion to make payments through other methods where it is not possible for the parent with care to open such an account.

2.21 This broadly mirrors the payment options available for child benefit payments and will achieve time and resource savings. There are several benefits for parents with care of receiving child maintenance payments by direct credit into their bank or building society account:

- it is quick to set up and means parents with care do not have to worry about receiving payments on time;
- it is safe, secure and confidential; and
- parents with care can check that their child maintenance payments have been made on their bank or building society account statement or online via the Internet.

Specific amendments to regulations

2.22 We are proposing to amend Regulation 5(1). Specifically, we are proposing to limit the above list of payment options to direct credit transfer to a bank or building society account, but to make clear in the new regulations that the Commission may allow for payments by other methods where it appears to the Commission to be necessary to do so in the circumstances of the particular case.

Estimating non-resident parents' income where no evidence is available

The current situation

2.23 The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is compiled by the Office for National Statistics and provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours paid for employees within industries, occupations and regions. CSA caseworkers currently have access to this information, which can be used as a tool to estimate a non-resident parent's earnings if his occupation and location are known in cases where he is unable or unwilling to provide evidence of his income.

Why amendments are needed

2.24 Use of this database in appropriate cases can improve performance in processing CSA cases. Whilst either party can appeal or provide further evidence if the calculation is inaccurate, estimating income enables caseworkers to get money flowing to children more efficiently without imposing default maintenance decisions, which will require adjustment at a later date if and when more accurate income evidence is provided.

Specific amendments to regulations

2.25 The Schedule to the Child Support (Maintenance Calculations and Special Cases) Regulations 2000 sets out how caseworkers should calculate a non-resident parent's net weekly income. It does not currently explicitly provide for the estimation of income in cases where no income information is available. We propose to amend the Schedule so that where no evidence is available (or the available evidence is unreliable) the Commission may assume that a non-resident parent's income is the average for his occupation in the area where he lives.

Appeals against Deduction Orders and Orders Preventing Avoidance

The current situation

2.26 The Child Support Act 1991 and associated secondary legislation extend to Great Britain only. Equivalent legislation exists in Northern Ireland and reciprocal arrangements are in place to manage cases between the two jurisdictions. Where the parent with care and non-resident parent reside in different territories, case ownership is determined by the jurisdiction in which the parent with care resides. This means that where the non-resident parent resides in a different territory, any enforcement actions are taken in accordance with the legislative provisions of the jurisdiction in which the parent with care resides.

2.27 This has no negative impact in relation to most enforcement actions, for example, Deduction from Earnings and Liability Orders. Legislation prescribes that where these orders are made in one territory, they take effect in the territory where the non-resident parent works or resides as if they had been made in that territory. For example, a Deduction from Earning Order made in Northern Ireland would take effect against a non-resident parent living in Great Britain as if it had been made in Great Britain. The non-resident parent would be able to make any appeal against these orders in the territory where they reside, rather than in the territory where the order was made.

Why amendments are needed

2.28 It has recently come to light that there are no equivalent provisions for Deduction Orders, Freezing Orders and Setting Aside Dispositions. This means that in cross jurisdiction cases involving these types of orders, a non-resident parent would only be able to bring an appeal or make representations to a court in the jurisdiction where the parent with care resides. The non-resident parent would also need to travel to that territory if they wished to attend any associated hearings. We believe this position is unfair and should be remedied as soon as possible.

Specific amendments to regulations

2.29 We propose to amend the Child Support (Northern Ireland Reciprocal Arrangement) Regulations 1993 to ensure that in all cross jurisdiction cases, a non-resident parent will have a right of appeal to a court in the territory where they live.

When a child ceases to be a ‘child of the family’ under the 1993 scheme

The current situation

2.30 The 1993 scheme rules make a provision for any ‘child of the family’, who lives in the absent parent’s household (this terminology is still used in the relevant legislation) but is not the biological or adoptive child of the absent parent (in most cases this will be the child of a partner). These children are taken into account when assessing the parent’s protected income within the 1993 scheme formula. At the moment, when they no longer qualify as children within the meaning of the assessment rules we can only adjust the

maintenance assessment using the date when we are notified (even if that is some time after the change occurred).

Why amendments are needed

2.31 A "child of the family" is (usually) a child of a non-resident parent's partner, within an old scheme maintenance assessment. We intend to align the treatment of this child role to the treatment of a Qualifying Child or Relevant Child within an old scheme assessment, as well as having the additional effect of aligning the treatment of step-children across the two child maintenance schemes.

Specific amendment to regulations

2.32 We intend to amend the effective date of these changes of circumstance so that they take effect from the first day of the maintenance period when they occurred. This will ensure that assessments are accurate and that non-resident parents' protected income levels will not be higher than they should be because of a failure to inform us that such a change occurred and is in line with other similar changes of circumstance.

Parliamentary procedure

2.34 The draft 2011 Regulations are subject to the negative parliamentary procedure – this means they are not subject to debate.

Part Three - Equalities Impact Assessment (Initial Screening)

The Child Support (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2011

1. The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has carried out an equality impact assessment on the proposal to make minor and technical amendments to child maintenance legislation to meet the requirements of the public sector equality duty with regard to the following protected characteristics:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Gender reassignment;
- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sex and sexual orientation.

2. This process helps to ensure:

- Our strategies, policies and services are free from discrimination;
- Due regard is given to equality in decision making and subsequent processes; and
- Opportunities for promoting equality are identified.

Minor and Technical Amendments

3. The proposed regulations are to improve the administration of child maintenance and are concerned with a single broad area of child maintenance policy:

- Minor and technical amendments.

Foreign Earnings: Amendments to the Child Support (Maintenance Calculations and Special Cases) Regulations 2000 ("the MCSC Regulations")

4. The Commission has jurisdiction to make a maintenance calculation and collect child maintenance where the non-resident parent, parent with care and the qualifying child are habitually resident in UK. Additionally there are specific categories of non-resident parents that may be considered habitually resident in UK in accordance with section 44 (2A) Child Support Act 1991.

5. However, despite the Commission having jurisdiction the current MCSC Regulations do not allow a maintenance calculation to be undertaken, other than a nil assessment, in certain circumstances.

6. A non-resident parent who works abroad but is habitually resident in the UK may not meet the definition within the MCSC Regulations of either an

“employed earner” or “self-employed earner” which would then not allow their earnings to be taken into account in the maintenance calculation.

7. The MCSC Regulations are being amended to ensure that the earnings of all non-resident parents where the Commission has jurisdiction may be taken into account within the maintenance calculation, where such information is held by HMRC.

Arrears Notices: Amendments to the Child Support (Management of Payments and Arrears) Regulations 2009 (“the MPA Regulations”)

8. These Regulations set out the legal requirements for the Commission to issue an “arrears notice” to non-resident parents where it is arranging for collection of child support maintenance, and the non-resident parent has failed to make one or more payments of maintenance due.
9. The Regulations detail the list of information that the arrears notice must contain. This includes an itemised list of the payments of child support maintenance due and not received. It has recently been discovered that the existing content of the arrears notices used by the Commission does not comply fully with the regulatory requirement to itemise payments.
10. As the arrears notices are currently automatically generated by the Commission’s computer systems, amendments to the notices to comply with the regulatory requirement to itemise payments could only be undertaken at significant cost to the tax payer.
11. The Commission is keen to amend regulations so that when considering taking collection and / or enforcement action, it will provide an arrears notice but only on receipt of a request from the non-resident parent or their representative within 14 days, will it be obliged to provide itemisation of payments due and not paid.
12. Amendments are therefore being made to Regulation 3(1), 3(2) and 3(3) of the MPA Regulations for this purpose.

Transmission of Payments: Amendments to the Child Support (Collection and Enforcement) Regulations 1992 (“the C&E Regulations”)

13. The Commission currently has a proportion of parents with care receiving child maintenance payments via giro cheque (a cheque which must be cashed at a bank or post office) and other non-direct payment methods. The Commission has no way of requiring parents with care to be paid by particular means which allows for more efficient and less costly transmission of payments.
14. The Commission is keen for payments to be made to the parents with care through direct credit transfer to a bank or building society account, using its discretion to make payments through other methods to those parents for whom it is not possible or appropriate to open such an account.
15. These provisions will broadly mirror the arrangements for payments of child benefit and will also result in time and resource savings. Parents with

care will also benefit from the new system which will; reduce concerns of parents with care for receiving payments on time as these methods are quick to set up, ensure safe, secure and confidential payments and allow parents with care to make full use of internet banking facilities.

16. Amendments are being made to Regulation 5(1) of the C&E Regulations for this purpose.

Estimation of income: Amendments to the Child Support (Maintenance Calculations and Special Cases) Regulations 2000 ("the MCSC Regulations")

17. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is compiled by the Office for National Statistics and provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours paid for employees within industries, occupations and regions.

18. Use of this database in appropriate cases can improve performance in processing CSA cases. Whilst either party can appeal or provide further evidence if the calculation is inaccurate, estimating income enables caseworkers to get money flowing to children more efficiently without imposing default maintenance decisions, which will require adjustment at a later date if and when more accurate income evidence is provided.

19. Amendments are being made to the Schedule of the MCSC regulations for this purpose.

Appeals against deduction orders and orders preventing avoidance: Amendments to the Child Support (Northern Ireland Reciprocal Arrangement) Regulations 1993

20. The Child Support Act 1991 and associated secondary legislation extend to Great Britain only. Equivalent legislation exists in Northern Ireland and reciprocal arrangements are in place to manage cases between the two jurisdictions. Where the parent with care and non-resident parent reside in different territories, case ownership is determined by the jurisdiction in which the parent with care resides. This means that where the non-resident parent resides in a different territory, any enforcement actions are taken in accordance with the legislative provisions of the jurisdiction in which the parent with care resides.

21. This has no negative impact in relation to most enforcement actions, for example, Deduction from Earnings and Liability Orders. Legislation prescribes that where these orders are made in one territory, they take effect in the territory where the non-resident parent works or resides as if they had been made in that territory. The non-resident parent would be able to make any appeal against these orders in the territory where they reside, rather than in the territory where the order was made. There are no equivalent provisions for Deduction Orders, Freezing Orders and Setting Aside Dispositions.

22. The Child Support (Northern Ireland Reciprocal Arrangement) Regulations 1993 will be amended to ensure that in all cross jurisdiction cases, a non-

resident parent will have a right of appeal to a court in the territory where they live.

Child of the family: Amendment of the Child Support (Maintenance Assessment and Special Cases) Regulations 1992

23. The 1993 scheme rules make a provision for any 'child of the family', who lives in the absent parent's household but is not the biological or adoptive child of the absent parent. These children are taken into account when assessing the parent's protected income within the 1993 scheme formula. At the moment, when they no longer qualify as children within the meaning of the assessment rules we can only adjust the maintenance assessment using the date when we are notified (even if that is some time after the change occurred). We intend to amend the effective date of these changes of circumstance so that they take effect from the first day of the maintenance period when they occurred.

24. Regulation 11 of the MASC regulations will be amended for this purpose.

Number of people affected

25. The current Child Support Agency caseload is 1,152,200 (at December 2010). Non-resident parents – to whom the arrears notices and foreign earnings provisions of the amended regulations mainly relate – are in the majority men (95%). Parents with care – to whom the transmission of payments provisions of the amended regulations mainly relate – are in the majority women (95%). These figures are available to the Agency via existing management information.

26. The total number of cases in which these proposals may actually be applied is likely to be significantly smaller than the overall caseload.

27. We cannot quantify the number of cases where these technical amendments to regulations would have an effect, but they will only apply in specific instances and are being introduced to improve the administration of the child maintenance system.

28. We do not have any information to suggest that people with protected characteristics will be disproportionately affected by these technical amendments.

Impact and conclusion

29. These proposals are comprised of amendments to secondary legislation. There is no evidence to suggest a disproportionate impact on groups with protected characteristics. The amendments by the proposed regulations will be applicable in all cases, regardless of gender. However the demographic composition of the current Child Support Agency caseload indicates a potentially higher impact on males for some of the provisions (as detailed in paragraph 16) as the majority of non-resident parents are men, and other provisions will have a higher impact on women (as detailed in paragraph 16) as the majority of parents with care are women. These impacts are not based on the gender of the client but upon the role which

that individual plays within the child maintenance case. Accordingly the higher impact on one gender or the other, depending on the particular provision being amended, is understandable given the Commission's statutory duty to consider the welfare of the child or children involved in a particular case.

Part Four – Consultation questions

It would be helpful to have your comments on the proposed amendment regulations. Your views are sought on the listed questions below:

Question 1:

Are the proposed amendment regulations welcome? Are there alternative approaches that you would propose?

Question 2:

Do you expect different impacts for different groups from the proposed amendments? If so, please provide details.

Question 3:

Were the issues / proposals clearly set out and easy to understand?

Part Five – Annex A

List of Stakeholders

- 4 Children
- Action for Children
- Association of Directors of Children's Services
- Barnardo's
- Centre for Separated Families
- Centre for Social Justice
- Child Poverty Action Group
- Children's Workforce Development Council
- Citizens Advice
- CIVITAS (Institute for the Study of Civil Society)
- Demos
- Families Need Fathers
- Fatherhood Institute
- Fyfe Ireland Solicitors
- Gingerbread England and Wales
- Institute of Payroll Practitioners
- Kids in the Middle Campaign
- NACSA
- National Academy of Parenting Practitioners
- National Families Mediation
- One Plus One
- NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)
- Parenting UK

- Payroll Alliance
- Policy Exchange
- Relate
- Resolution
- Save the Children Fund
- Save the Children UK
- ScoopAid
- The Children's Society
- Together for Children