



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Social Security (COVID-19—Childcare Assistance) Amendment Regulations 2020

Portfolio                      Social Development

On 24 August 2020, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that the Ministry of Social Development has no legal authority to pay Childcare Assistance when childcare services are not available;
- 2        **noted** that the Ministry of Social Development suspended Childcare Assistance payments during the Alert Level 4 lockdown from 6 April 2020;
- 3        **noted** that due to the administrative difficulties of suspending Childcare Assistance and in order to maintain funding levels for childcare services throughout the COVID-19 Alert Levels, it is proposed that the Social Security Regulations 2018 be amended to allow Childcare Assistance to continue to be paid throughout the COVID-19 Alert Levels;
- 4        **noted** that the Ministry of Social Development will monitor the situation and review it as necessary, to make sure the continued payment of Childcare Assistance remains fit for purpose, and will report to the Minister for Social Development by December 2020;
- 5        **agreed** to minimise disruption to the Ministry of Social Development services and maintain funding levels for childcare services throughout the COVID-19 Alert Levels by continuing to pay Childcare Assistance;
- 6        **s 9(2)(f)(iv)**  
[REDACTED]
- 7        **agree** to amend the Social Security Regulations 2018 to allow Childcare Assistance to continue to be paid throughout the COVID-19 Alert Levels;
- 8        **noted** that the Social Security (COVID-19—Childcare Assistance) Amendment Regulations 2020 give effect to the decisions in paragraphs 5 and 7;
- 9        **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Social Security (COVID-19—Childcare Assistance) Amendment Regulations 2020 [PCO 23134/4.0];
- 10       **agreed** to a waiver of the 28-day rule:
  - 10.1    so that the Amendment Regulations can come into force on 25 August 2020;

10.2 on the grounds that the changes being made by the Amendment Regulations will only confer benefits to the public;

11 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

12 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

13 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

14 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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