

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE CROFTING COUNTIES AGRICULTURAL GRANTS (SCOTLAND) SCHEME 2006 SSI/2006/24

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 42(1)(2) and (3) and 46(4) of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

Policy objectives

The purpose of the instrument is to create a legal framework for determining eligibility and payment rates. It is a consolidation of the provisions in the statutory instruments which currently govern the operation of the Crofting Counties Agricultural Grants Scheme (CCAGS). The purpose of CCAGS is to assist the improvement of crofting agriculture, as part of the general policy of compensating crofters for disadvantages of climate, scale, terrain and remoteness and to preserve an agricultural base in the Highlands and Islands. Crofters, crofting groups and others of a similar status are eligible. The instrument also introduces changes to the existing provisions to set new grant rates, to increase the maximum amounts of expenditure which can be assisted, to simplify the assessment of the expenditure limits, to make and to bring the scheme rules into line with the requirements of state aid compliance. Rates are consistent with the Rural Development Plan and greater use will be made of standard costs in line with other SE agricultural grant schemes.

Consultation

The following bodies have been consulted on a draft of the instrument (Consultation on proposals and draft regulations for a revised Crofting Counties Agricultural Grant Scheme (CCAGS) issued 1 February 2005 SPICE bib number 35085).

All Scottish MSPs

All Scottish MPs

All Scottish Lords

All Scottish MEPs

Political Parties

Scottish Parliament

Local Authorities

NFU Scotland

Scottish Rural Property and Business Association

RICS Scotland

Scottish Estates Business Group

SCVO

COSLA

Equal Opportunities Commission

Commission for Racial Equality

Disability Rights Campaign

Legal Deposit Libraries

NDPBs

All crofters, landowners, advisers, land agents property consultants and other interested parties who responded to recent consultations on other crofting matters.

Others on request.

There were responses from 22 organisations and 27 individuals.

Financial Effects

The instrument utilises the funding which the Scottish Executive has allocated to CCAGS. The budget for the grant scheme remains the same. The grant rates and maximum grant payable have changed.

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
18 January 2006