

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE SEED POTATOES (FEES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2006 SSI/2006/264

Introduction

1. The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 16(1) and (1A)(e) of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964. As required by section 16(1) of the 1964 Act a consultation exercise was undertaken. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objective

2. This instrument makes an amendment to fees set out in the Schedule to the Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (“the 2005 Fees Regulations”). Fees are charged by the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA) for carrying out official examinations of seed potatoes and related services. Those services include crop inspections, scientific testing of crop samples, tuber inspections and the provision of official labels in respect of classes of seed potatoes.

3. This instrument amends the 2005 Fees Regulations by increasing the three fees for the provision and maintenance of nuclear stock. The increases are for: - a) the initiation of new nuclear stock (increased from £152 to £159 for 6 microplants), b) the provision of in vitro maintained nuclear stock (increased from £44 to £46 for 6 microplants) and c) the fee for the in vitro maintenance of nuclear stock (increased from £62 to £65 annual fee per variety).

4. In terms of section 16(1) of the 1964 Act a short consultation exercise was undertaken on the proposal to introduce these Regulations. One response was received from the Scottish Potato Trade Association (SPTA) who were content with the increases proposed.

Timing

5. The Regulations will come into force on 12 June 2006.

Financial effects

6. The increases are below the rate of inflation and maintaining the plant health security of the initial material is accepted as being to the benefit of all in the seed potato industry. These are also the only increases being made to the seed potatoes fees and as such the financial effect of these Regulations on the seed potato industry will be minimal. In the circumstances no Regulatory Impact Assessment is required.