EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

1. These Regulations amend the Sheep Annual Premium Regulations 1992 (S.I.1992/2677, as amended by S.I. 1994/2741).

2. Like those 1992 Regulations, these Regulations extend to Great Britain only.

3. The definition of "the Commission Regulation" found in regulation 2(1) is altered to reflect amendments made to that Community instrument, one of which extends the period allowed for making late claims, albeit with penalties being applied.

4. A revised paragraph (2) of regulation 3 is substituted for the existing paragraph so numbered in that regulation, with the effect that a producer making an application for sheep annual premium in respect of a particular marketing year, as defined by Article 3(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3013/89 (OJ No. L289, 7.10.89, p.1), shall deliver his application on or after 4th December in the preceding marketing year but not later than 4th February in the marketing year concerned. The change in application period effected by new regulation 3(2) conforms with Article 1(2) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 2700/93 (OJ No. L245, 1.10.93, p.99).

5. Article 5 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3013/89 continues to provide the legal base for the making of sheep annual premium payments.

6. No compliance cost assessment has been prepared.