

## 1983 No. 24

## AGRICULTURE

## Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1983

Made . . . . . 25th February 1983

Coming into operation . . . . . 25th March 1983

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 1(1) and (4) and 2(1) of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) and now vested in it(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel(c) hereby makes the following Scheme:

*Citation and commencement*

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1983 and shall come into operation on 25th March 1983.

*Interpretation*

2. In this Scheme—

“the Department” means the Department of Agriculture;

“the Company” means Seed Potato Promotions (Northern Ireland) Limited.

*Payments to the Company*

3. For the purpose of assisting the agricultural industry in Northern Ireland by improving the quality, production and marketing of seed potatoes and for the benefit of farmers engaged in the production of seed potatoes the Department may, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme, make payments to the Company amounting to the whole or part of expenditure incurred or to be incurred by it for the purposes of increasing efficiency in the growing, handling, storage, transporting or marketing of seed potatoes which purposes are further explained in Article 4.

*Purpose of payments*

4.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of Article 3 the purposes therein referred to may relate to—

- (a) the growing and production and encouragement of the growing and production of stocks of seed potatoes which have a high degree of freedom from disease;
- (b) increasing publicity relating to the seed potato industry;
- (c) conducting or assisting in conducting research and development work and work of an experimental nature in connection with the breeding, growing, handling, storage, transport or marketing of seed potatoes;
- (d) surveying and developing markets for seed potatoes; and

(a) 1954 c. 31 (N.I.) as amended by 1957 c. 3 (N.I.) s. 1

(b) See 1973 c. 36 s. 40 and Sch. 5 para. 7(1) and 1974 c. 28 s. 1 and Sch. 1 para. 2(1) and (2)

(c) Formerly Ministry of Finance; see Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 (c. 36) Sch. 5 para. 8(1) and S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Art. 3

(e) the acquisition of undertakings or shares in undertakings or the making available of loan capital to undertakings involved in the seed potato industry.

(2) The expending by the Company of money paid to it under Article 3 for the purpose specified in paragraph 1(e) shall be subject to the prior approval in writing of the Department.

#### *Amount of payments*

5.—(1) The amount of payments made to the Company under Article 3 up to 31st March 1983 when aggregated with the payments made under Article 5(1) of the Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982(a) shall not exceed £133,000.

(2) The aggregate amount of payments to the Company under Article 3 in the period 1st April 1983 until 31st March 1984 shall not exceed £138,000.

(3) No payments to the Company shall be made under Article 3 after 31st March 1984.

#### *Recovery of payments*

6. If the Company expends money paid to it under Article 3 other than in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme it shall repay such amount to the Department and if the Company fails to make repayment the said amount shall be recoverable by the Department from the Company as a civil debt.

#### *Furnishing of information*

7. The Company shall furnish to the Department at any reasonable time any information or documents, including:

- (a) minutes of any meetings of the Board of Directors of the Company;
- (b) the Company's Annual Report;
- (c) reports of any projects or visits undertaken by the Company; and
- (d) a detailed quarterly account indicating the use of the monies paid to it under this Scheme.

#### *Retention of documents*

8. The Company shall obtain and retain vouchers, receipts or other documents evidencing all expending of monies paid to it under Article 3 and such vouchers, receipts or documents shall be made available for examination at any reasonable time by the Department or the Comptroller and Auditor General.

#### *Revocation and savings*

9.—(1) The Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982 is hereby revoked.

(2) The revocation of the Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982 shall not affect the rights of the Department or the rights of the Comptroller and Auditor General or the obligations of the Company under Articles 6, 7 and 8 of that Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 25th February 1983.

(L.S.)

*R. E. Aiken*

Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel for Northern Ireland on 25th February 1983.

(L.S.)

J. M. Dowdall

Assistant Secretary

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Scheme.)*

This Scheme replaces the Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982 and provides for payments to be made by the Department of Agriculture to a private company, Seed Potato Promotions (Northern Ireland) Limited, in order to assist the seed potato industry in Northern Ireland by improving the quality, production and marketing of seed potatoes and thereby indirectly to benefit farmers producing seed potatoes.

The total amount of payments both under this Scheme and the Scheme which has been replaced shall not exceed £133,000 in the period up to 31st March 1983 and a further £138,000 during the year ending 31st March 1984.