

EXECUTIVE NOTE

The Education (Recognised Bodies) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2005 SSI/2005/591

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 216(1) of the Education Reform Act 1988. The instrument is not subject to Parliamentary procedure.

Policy Objectives

Sections 214 to 216 of the Education Reform Act 1988 make provision on unrecognised degrees. These provisions have as their purpose the protection of the good name of UK higher education by ending the traffic in bogus degrees. These sections make it an offence to offer, in the course of business, a qualification purporting to be a degree of a UK institution, unless it is a recognised award. It falls to Trading Standards Officers to pursue any cases where a body is believed to be offering such degrees without authorisation.

Recognised awards are awards granted, or to be granted, by a university, college or other body which is authorised by Royal Charter or Act of Parliament to grant degrees, or by a body for the time being permitted by any of the foregoing to act on its behalf in the granting of degrees; and such other awards as the Secretary of State (or, in Scotland, the Scottish Ministers) may by order designate as recognised awards for the purposes of section 214 of the 1988 Act.

Bodies currently authorised to grant awards are listed in the Education (Recognised Bodies) Order 1999. The Scottish Ministers are required to publish an up-to-date list of these bodies. The other devolved administrations also make similar Orders. Each Order lists the names of all the recognised bodies in the whole of the UK.

This Order amends the 1999 Order to update the list of bodies that was originally included in the Schedule to the 1999 Order. A number of bodies are omitted from the Schedule, as they no longer have degree awarding powers. This Order also adds a number of new bodies to the Schedule, as these bodies appear to Scottish Ministers to now fall into the definition of a recognised body. This Order also makes a number of minor amendments to take account of name changes since the 1999 Order was made.

Updated Orders for other devolved administrations are being made on similar terms to this Order.

Consultation

Officials of the Department for Education and Skills, the Welsh Assembly Office and the Department for Employment and Learning of Northern Ireland have been consulted during the preparation of the instrument.

Financial Effects

A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared as this instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Executive, local government or on business.

Scottish Executive Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department
November 2005