

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE CROFT HOUSE GRANT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2006 SSI/2006/214

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 42(4), (6), (7), (8), (10), (44) and (45) of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993.

Policy objectives

The purpose of the instrument is to regulate the operation of the Croft House Grant Scheme (CHGS). The purpose of CHGS is to grant assistance to eligible crofters and owners to build adequate housing on their croft. The main aims of the Scheme are; to help retain/increase the population of remote areas in the crofting counties; to improve and maintain the quality of housing stock available; and to enable crofters to continue to live and work on their crofts.

This Instrument replaces The Crofters etc. Building Grants (Scotland) Regulations 1990 which governed the previous scheme and which closed to applications on 31 December 2004. The Instrument seeks to alter the grant condition period detailed in the 1990 SI and sets out a revised period for which grant conditions will apply under the new Scheme. It also puts in place arrangements for the monitoring and allocation of the budget for the scheme and sets a new recovery rate, from the previous scheme, to be applied to the recovery of grant assistance should the applicant breach grant conditions.

Consultation

The following bodies have been consulted on a draft of the instrument (Consultation on proposals and draft regulations for a revised Croft House Grant Scheme (CHGS) issued on 12 September SPICE bib number 37304).

All Scottish MSPs
All Scottish MPs
All Scottish Lords
All Scottish MEPs
Political Parties
Scottish Parliament
Local Authorities
Scottish Crofting Foundation
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

Others on request.

There were responses from 9 organisations and 1 individual.

Financial Effects

The instrument utilises the funding which the Scottish Executive has allocated to CHGS. The budget for the grant scheme remains the same. The grant rates and maximum grant payable have changed along with the period of grant conditions.

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
18 April 2006