

## **EXECUTIVE NOTE**

### **THE FARRIERS (REGISTRATION) ACT 1975 (COMMENCEMENT No. 4) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2006 SSI/2006/581 (C. 44)**

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 19(3) of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975.

#### **Policy Objective**

To require all “unregistered” persons currently practising the craft of farriery in Scotland to become registered with the Farriers Registration Council (FRC) from 30 March 2007. The requirement ends a previous exemption which has allowed unregistered farriers to practise in the Highlands and Islands. The above Commencement Order, which was made on 4 December 2006, will not come into force until 30 March 2007 in order to allow sufficient time for those “unregistered” persons to submit applications for registration to the FRC.

The requirement will ensure that the practice of farriery is uniformly controlled throughout the whole of Scotland. Thus, horses and their owners in the Highlands and Islands, will have the same degree of protection as that currently enjoyed by those elsewhere in Scotland.

#### **Background**

The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 was introduced to prevent and avoid suffering by, and cruelty to, horses arising from shoeing by unskilled persons; to promote the proper shoeing of horses and the training of farriers; to establish the FRC to register persons engaged in farriery and to prohibit the shoeing of horses by unqualified persons.

The FRC was established under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 as the statutory body responsible for the administration of the Register of Farriers. The Register records the details of all those farriers who have satisfied the prescribed registration conditions.

The requirement to be registered (Section 16 of the Act) came into force in Scotland on 1 November 1981, but specifically excluded Highland Region; Western Isles Islands Area; Orkney Islands Area; Shetland Islands Area and all other islands. The “Highlands and Islands” were exempted because of fears that there might not be enough farriers eligible for registration to cover these remote areas and carry out all necessary farriery work. This is not now considered to be the case.

#### **Consultation**

The Scottish Executive has undertaken a consultation exercise seeking the opinions of a wide range of interested parties. The vast majority of respondents were in favour of extending Section 16 of the Act to the Highlands and Islands.

#### **Financial Effects**

Very minimal – the annual Retention Fee for registered farriers is currently £118 and so should not be an unreasonable imposition on even part-time farriers. There are no financial implications for the Scottish Executive.

**Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department**