

**EXECUTIVE NOTE TO**  
**THE MEAT (OFFICIAL CONTROLS CHARGES) (SCOTLAND) (No. 2)**  
**REGULATIONS 2007 SSI 2007/538**

1. The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

**Policy Objectives**

2. The purpose of the instrument is to revoke the Meat (Official Controls Charges) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/144 “the current regulations”) and continue to provide for the collection of meat hygiene official controls charges in Scotland, as required by Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 (“the EC OFFC Regulation”)<sup>1</sup>. The instrument implements the charging rates applicable to meat hygiene and animal welfare official controls in approved meat establishments. The instrument will for the first time, set out all charging rates in £ Sterling. The rates in Schedule 2 to the instrument have been converted from Euros to Sterling at the exchange rate applicable to 2008. (Minimum rates set out in the EC OFFC Regulation are expressed in Euros.)
3. The requirements laid down as regards charges for meat hygiene official controls were previously contained in Council Directive 85/73/EEC (“the Charging Directive”). The EC OFFC Regulation supersedes the Directive and requires that, from 1 January 2007, Member States must charge no less than specified minimum charge rates. The EC OFFC Regulation permits Member States to retain the charge rates set out in the Charging Directive until 1 January 2008, though as minima rather than standard amounts. In Scotland, the current Regulations make use of this derogation.
4. The rates in the Charging Directive and the EC OFFC Regulation are throughput rates for inspection costs relating to the slaughter per species/type of animal or bird. For controls and inspections connected with cutting operations, the fee is per tonne of meat entering the cutting plant for the purpose of being cut up or boned there.
5. Some of the throughput rates in the current Regulations (e.g. for adult bovines) are currently less than the minimum rates specified in the EC OFFC Regulation. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has consulted on the proposed changes to the chargeable standard rates to ensure that the minima specified in the EC OFFC Regulation are applied appropriately by the required date, namely 1 January 2008.
6. The instrument perpetuates the current meat hygiene charging system, which was introduced in 2001 to support smaller slaughterhouses and cutting plants. This is achieved by providing for official control charges to be the lower of time cost charges and charges calculated from the specified throughput rates.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules (O.J. No. L165, 30.4.04, p.1). A copy of this Regulation accompanies this Executive Note.

7. In implementing the EC OFFC Regulation throughput categories, the instrument will maintain the current charges structure (i.e. that derived from the Charging Directive) insofar as this is possible. This enables the instrument to continue to specify particular throughput rates for different weights of animals/birds (e.g. poultry) so that current differentials are maintained, as far as possible, to take into consideration the types of businesses concerned, as required by Article 27.5 of the EC OFFC Regulation. However, the EC OFFC Regulation throughput categories for cattle are not the same as the current ones, which will result in a small number of cattle being charged at a lower rate than hitherto.
8. The changes to the current throughput charges that are required to meet the EC OFFC requirements from 1 January 2008 are set out in the table in Schedule 2 to the instrument. They will affect slaughterhouses that process cattle, boars, and ruminants (other than cattle, sheep and goats i.e. mainly deer), slaughterhouses that process turkeys and game handling establishments that process boars and/or ruminants (other than cattle, sheep and goats, i.e. mainly deer).
9. A public consultation was carried out by the Agency in Scotland between 1 August 2007 and 24 October 2007 on the draft Meat (Official Controls Charges) (Scotland) (No.2) Regulations 2007. Sixty-two stakeholders in Scotland were consulted, including organisations representing slaughterhouses, game handling establishments and meat cutting sectors. In addition, the operators of all approved slaughterhouses, game handling establishments and meat cutting businesses were sent a letter alerting them to the consultation and providing them the opportunity to respond either directly or via a representative organisation. Three responses were received from Scottish stakeholders, of which one made substantive comments. A summary of the responses may be found in the Scottish consultation section of the Food Standards Agency's website and is attached at Annex B
10. A list of interested parties consulted is attached at Annex 1 to this note.
11. The main impact of the instrument will be on businesses processing cattle, boars, and some ruminants other than cattle, sheep or goats (mainly deer). A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) has been prepared and accompanies this Executive Note.

**FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY SCOTLAND**  
**NOVEMBER 2007**

**Contact:**

Claire Tyreman

Food Standards Agency Scotland, St Magnus House, 25 Guild Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6NJ

Tel: 01224 285105

[Claire.Tyreman@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Tyreman@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

**Scottish consultation on the draft MEAT (OFFICIAL CONTROLS CHARGES)  
(SCOTLAND) (NO. 2) REGULATIONS 2007: List of Interested Parties**

Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society  
Aberdeen Scotch Meat Ltd  
ABP Scotland  
ANM Group Ltd  
Association of Deer Management Groups  
Association of Meat Inspectors  
BASC Scotland  
Braehead Foods Ltd  
Branded Beef Breeders Ltd  
British Deer Society  
British Goat Society  
British Poultry Council  
British Veterinary Association  
Coldstorage and Distribution Federation  
Deer Commission for Scotland  
Department for Environment and Rural Affairs  
Fenton Barns (Scotland) Ltd  
Glasgow University Veterinary School  
Grampian Country Food Group  
Grampian Pig Producers  
Greggs Scotland  
Independent Farming Group  
James Finlay Ltd  
MacSween of Edinburgh  
M D Longhorn & Co  
Meat and Livestock Commission  
Meat Hygiene Service  
National Beef Association Scottish Council  
National Farmers Union Scotland  
Orkney Direct Waste Disposal  
Orkney Meat Ltd  
Pataks Frozen Food  
Quality Meat Scotland  
Rick Bestwick Ltd  
Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland  
Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland  
Scottish Agricultural College  
Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers  
Scottish Beef Cattle Association  
Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health  
Scottish Chambers of Commerce  
Scottish Committee of the Council on Tribunals  
Scottish Consumer Council  
Scottish Crofting Foundation  
Scottish Executive

Scottish Executive Rural Directorate  
Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association  
Scottish Food and Drink Federation  
Scottish Food Quality Certification Ltd  
Scottish Game Dealers and Processors Association  
Scottish Gamekeepers Association  
Scottish Retail Consortium  
Scottish Rural Property and Business Association  
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Simply Organic  
Animal Health  
The Halal Food Authority  
The Scottish Gourmet (Scotland Direct)  
Tombuie Smokehouse  
Women's Food and Farming Union  
And 2 individuals

# FINAL REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## 1. TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL

### **THE MEAT (OFFICIAL CONTROLS CHARGES) (SCOTLAND) (No.2) REGULATIONS 2007**

- 1.1. Implementation of the provisions of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on Official Feed and Food Controls (OFFC) relating to charging for official controls at approved meat establishments for which domestic legal provisions are necessary.

## 2. PURPOSE & INTENDED EFFECT OF THE MEASURE

### 2.1 The Objective

- 2.1.1. The objective of the proposed SSI is to implement, in Scotland, the financing provisions of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 on Official Feed and Food Controls (the EC OFFC Regulation<sup>2</sup>) that relate to the requirement to charge minimum fees, for specified throughput categories, for meat hygiene official controls at approved meat establishments by 1 January 2008. It will also enable the current charging structure for meat hygiene official controls carried out by the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) in Scotland to continue. The proposed regulations will apply in Scotland only.

### 2.2. Background

- 2.2.1. The charges to which this RIA relates are currently implemented in Scotland by the Meat (Official Controls Charges) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007 No. 144). These charges are paid to the MHS, an Executive Agency of the Food Standards Agency. The current SSI implements certain EC requirements that are set out in Council Directive 85/73, as last amended by Directive 96/43 (the Charging Directive). This lays down standard Community fees for relevant official controls. In the case of slaughterhouses the standard fees are headage charges per animal or bird slaughtered. For meat cutting plants, the fee is a fixed amount per tonne of meat entering the plant to be cut or boned.

- 2.2.2. The current regulations make use of a transitional provision in the EC OFFC Regulation which permits Member States to retain the Community fees of Council Directive 85/73 until 1 January 2008, though from 1 January 2007 they became minima rather than standard amounts.

- 2.2.3. From 1 January 2008, the transitional arrangements of the EC OFFC will cease and amended domestic legislation is required to implement the EC OFFC throughput categories and to increase some of the current throughput rates so

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and welfare rules.

that at least the specified EC OFFC minima are charged. The majority of the current throughput rates applicable in Scotland and the rest of the UK are above the OFFC minima and the proposed regulations would not increase these.

2.2.4. The current meat hygiene charging system, which will be continued by the proposed Meat (Official Controls Charges) (Scotland) (No.2) Regulations 2007, was introduced in 2001 to support smaller slaughterhouses and cutting plants. This was achieved by providing for official control charges to be the lower of time cost charges and the charge calculated from standard EC rates. These regulations will maintain the current charges structure (i.e. that derived from Council Directive 85/73) insofar as this is possible. This enables the regulations to continue to specify different throughput rates for different weights of animals (e.g. poultry) so that current differentials are maintained, as far as possible, to take into consideration the types of businesses concerned, as required by Article 27.5 of the EC OFFC Regulation. However, the OFFC throughput categories for cattle are not the same as the current ones. This will result in a small number of cattle being charged at a lower rate than hitherto.

2.2.4. The changes to the current regulations that are required to meet OFFC requirements from 1 January 2008 are set out on the table in the attached Annex. They will affect slaughterhouses that process cattle, boars and some ruminants (mainly deer), slaughterhouses that process turkeys and game handling establishments that process boars and/or ruminants (mainly deer).

2.2.5. All operators will continue to pay the lesser of time costs or throughput charges.

2.2.6. The MHS will remain responsible in Scotland and the rest of GB for enforcement, sanctions and monitoring for the meat hygiene charging provisions set out in the Regulations. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) will continue to have this responsibility in Northern Ireland.

### **2.3. Rationale for Government intervention**

2.3.1. The SSI is required to achieve continued compliance with the EC OFFC requirement, by the due date. Not to do so would incur the risk of infraction proceedings being taken against the UK, would be contrary to Government policy regarding the implementation of EC law and would tend to undermine the purpose of the EC OFFC regulation insofar that it limits the variance of charging practises in Member States, which would be anti-competitive.

### **2.4. Devolution**

2.4.1. The proposed regulations will apply in Scotland only. England, Wales and Northern Ireland will make separate legislation.

## **3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1. The Agency carried out a full public consultation, including stakeholders and other Government Departments in Scotland between 1 August and 24 October 2007.

## **4. OPTIONS**

The options considered are:

- i. Option 1 - do nothing;
- ii. Option 2 - implement the throughput categories and minimum standard charge rates applicable to meat hygiene and animal welfare official controls in approved meat establishments as required by the EC OFFC Regulation;
- iii. Option 3 - implement the requirements of the EC OFFC Regulation as described in Option 2, but increase the standard charge rates by more than the amount needed to ensure compliance with the required minima.

### **4.1.2. Analysis of options**

- i. Option 1 (doing nothing) – This would breach an EU obligation to apply the EC OFFC Regulation and leave the UK open to infraction proceedings by the Commission for failing to comply with the meat hygiene official controls charges requirements of the Regulation (which might have cost implications).
- ii. Option 2 – This would ensure continuing compliance with EC law. There are no additional administrative costs, social or environmental impacts associated with this option.
- iii. Option 3 – would ensure continuing compliance with EC law. However, increasing the charges by more than is required by the EC OFFC Regulation to bring them closer to the recovery of official control costs is not proposed at this stage. The need to increase charges further will be considered for implementation from the start of the 2008/09 financial year.

Option 2 is proposed

## **5. COSTS AND BENEFITS**

### **5.1. Sector and groups affected**

- 5.1.1. The regulations will affect slaughterhouses that process cattle, slaughterhouses that process turkeys and game handling establishments that process wild boar and/or wild ruminants. No impacts on racial equality, social, animal welfare or environmental issues due to the proposals have been identified.

## 5.2. Red meat slaughterhouses

### 5.2.1 Costs

- i. Red meat slaughterhouses will be affected by a 6.2% increase in the throughput rate for adult bovines from £3.18 to £3.38 (at the current exchange rate<sup>3</sup>).
- ii. The total charge for the red meat slaughterhouse sector is estimated to increase by £73,000 per annum or 2.6%. The impact will be small on average, but will vary across plants depending on their degree of specialisation in the slaughter of cattle. In relative terms, large plants will be the least affected by implementation of the OFFC minima, which is explained by the fact that 4 of them are charged time-costs. The absolute increase in charge affecting micro plants<sup>4</sup> will also be small on average (£19.33 per annum), although the impact may vary significantly across plants depending on their degree of specialisation in the slaughter of cattle.
- iii. The estimates do not take account of the fact that the OFFC throughput categories for bovines are not the same as the current ones. This change will result in cattle that are slaughtered between 6 weeks and 8 months of age being charged the throughput rate that currently applies to animals aged less than six weeks at slaughter. They will be charged £1.77 per animal rather than the current charge of £3.18, a reduction of 44%. It is not known how many cattle accepted for slaughter are between these ages.
- iv. In addition to the changes regarding cattle, some slaughterhouses will be affected by increases in four of the standard charge rates:
  1. the rate for “Boar” weighing less than 25 kg will increase from £0.3534 to £1.0136 (187%);
  2. the rate for “Boar” weighing 25 kg and more will increase from £0.9189 to £1.0136 (+10%).

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<sup>3</sup> All proposed increases in throughput rates from 31 December 2007 have been converted from Euros to Sterling at the exchange rate applicable to 2007, i.e. as published in the C Series of the Official Journal of the European Communities on 4 September 2007 (Euro/Sterling 0.67575).

<sup>4</sup> The four size categories of plants are based on annual throughput quartiles. Micro plants process fewer than 895 Animal Units, small plants process between 895 and 6,561 Animal Units, medium-sized plants process between 6,562 and 32,613 Animal Units, and large plants process more than 32,613 Animal Units.



3. the rate for ruminants (other than cattle, sheep and goats) weighing less than 12 kg will increase from £0.1237 to £0.3379 (+173%);
4. the rate for ruminants (other than cattle, sheep and goats) weighing between 12 and 18kg inclusive will increase from £0.2474 to £0.3379 (+37%);

Only a small number of Boars and other ruminants (estimated around 1500) are processed by slaughterhouses and we estimate that the total increase in charge on account of this will be very small (less than £200). Furthermore, as some of the plants may be paying time costs, the overall increase in the final charge may be even less than £200 across all plants.

**Table 1: Increase in hygiene charges paid by red meat slaughterhouses in Scotland<sup>5</sup>**

	Plant Type <sup>6</sup>				
	Micro	Small	Medium	Large	All
Number of firms	9	4	12	12	37
<b>Pre-OFFC 2007/8 charge (annualized)</b>	6	36	379	2,430	2,850
Average per plant (£k)	0.6	9.0	31.6	202.5	77.0
Average per animal unit (£)	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.4
Number of plants charged time cost	0	0	0	4	4
<b>Post-OFFC 2007/8 charge (annualized)</b>	6	37	391	2,489	2,923
Average per plant (£k)	0.7	9.2	32.5	207.4	79.0
Average per animal unit (£)	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.5
Number of plants charged time cost	0	0	0	6	6
<b>Increase in total charge</b>					
Absolute (£k)	0	1	12	60	73
Relative (%)	3.0%	2.8%	3.1%	2.5%	2.6%

## 5.2.2. Benefits

- i. Slaughterhouses handling young cattle (i.e. under 8 months) will see a reduction in official controls charges.
- ii. UK will be compliant with EC OFFC Regulations.

## 5.3 Poultry slaughterhouses

### 5.3.1 Costs

<sup>5</sup> Due to roundings, the numbers do not necessarily calculate to the figures shown.

<sup>6</sup> The four size categories of plants are based on annual throughput quartiles. Micro plants process fewer than 895 Animal Units, small plants process between 895 and 6,561 Animal Units, medium-sized plants process between 6,562 and 32,613 Animal Units, and large plants process more than 32,613 Animal Units.

- i. Implementation of the OFFC minima will only affect the poultry sector through the need for an increase in throughput rates for turkeys:
  1. the rate for turkeys weighing less than 2kg will need to rise by 138% from £0.0071 to £0.0169.
  2. the rate for young turkeys weighing more than 2kg and adult turkeys weighing 2-5kg will need to rise by 19% from £0.0142 to £0.0169.
- ii. Detailed analysis of the charge increase cannot be carried out from MHS data as throughput is currently not recorded separately for turkeys. However, it is clear that the first rate increase, while high in percentage terms, is almost irrelevant as the vast majority of turkeys weigh more than 2kg at slaughter<sup>7</sup>. Since most turkey production in Scotland is from premises exempt from approval under Regulation 853/2004, only operators of approved poultry slaughterhouses are affected by the second rate increase. We understand there may be one approved premises which processes turkeys on a seasonal basis.
- iii. Altogether, the economic impact on poultry slaughterhouses in Scotland is expected to be limited.

### **5.3.2 Benefits**

- i. UK will be compliant with EC OFFC Regulations.

## **5.4 Game-Handling Establishments**

### **5.4.1 Costs**

- i. Game-handling establishments will be affected by increases in four of the standard charge rates:
  1. the rate for ruminants (other than cattle, sheep and goats) weighing less than 12 kg will increase from £0.1237 to £0.3379 (+173%);
  2. the rate for ruminants (other than cattle, sheep and goats) weighing between 12 and 18kg inclusive will increase from £0.2474 to £0.3379 (+37%);
  3. the rate for “Boar” weighing less than 25 kg will increase from £0.3534 to £1.0136 (187%);
  4. the rate for “Boar” weighing 25 kg and more will increase from £0.9189 to £1.0136 (+10%).

The assessment of impact on game-handling establishments is tentative as it relies on an MHS data set for the period December 2004 to November 2005. With that

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<sup>7</sup> The average weight of a turkey at slaughter in the UK was 12.8 kg in 2006 according to DEFRA’s slaughter statistics.

caveat, the total charge to game-handling establishments is estimated to increase by £3,959 (or 22.67%). However, establishments that concentrate on the processing of roe and fallow deer (the main types included in other ruminants weighing between 12 and 18kg inclusive) will be affected the most, as relatively few of the other categories of animals that are affected by increased throughput rates are processed. In particular, there are few boars existing in the wild in GB and very low numbers have been presented to game handling establishments for processing.

**Table 2: Increase in hygiene charges paid by Game Handling Establishments in Scotland<sup>8</sup>**

	Lower half of all plants <sup>9</sup>	Upper half of all plants	All plants
Number of establishments	6	8	14
<b>Pre-OFFC 2007/8 charge (annualised)</b>	320	17,145	17,466
Average per plant (£k)	53	2,143	1,248
Number of plants charged time cost	0	1	1
<b>Post-OFFC 2007/8 charge (annualised)</b>	334	21,090	21,424
Average per plant (£k)	56	2,636	1,530
Number of plants charged time cost	0	1	1
<b>Increase in total charge</b>			
Absolute (£k)	14	3,944	3,959
Relative (%)	4.38%	23.01%	22.67%

## 5.4.2 Benefits

- i. UK will be compliant with EC OFFC Regulations.

## 5.6 Costs to Small Firms

- i. Operators of low throughput approved meat establishments are generally charged on the basis of their throughput and would be affected by the proposed increase in charges. We do not consider that the impact on small businesses in general will be significant.

**Table 3: examples of the effect of the proposed increase in charges per week for businesses with relatively low levels of throughput.<sup>10</sup>**

No of animals	Current charge	Proposed	Increase £	Increase %
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<sup>8</sup> Due to roundings, the numbers do not necessarily calculate to the figures shown.

<sup>9</sup> The lower half of all plants is equivalent to those with a throughput that is less than the median of 75.9 Livestock Units; the rest of the plants represent the upper half of all plants. We only consider two size categories here (as opposed to quartiles) due to the small number of plants.

<sup>10</sup> Due to roundings, the numbers do not necessarily calculate to the figures shown.

			£		charge £					
	Micro	Small	Micro	Small	Micro	Small	Micro	Small	Micro	Small
<b>Slaughterhouse (mixed species)</b>										
Bovine adult	2	11	6.36	34.99	6.76	37.17	0.40	2.18	6%	6%
Sheep less than 12kg	2	11	0.25	1.36	0.25	1.36	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Sheep 12 - 18kg	2	11	0.49	2.72	0.49	2.72	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Sheep over 18kg	7	55	2.47	19.44	2.47	19.44	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Pigs less than 25kg	7	55	2.47	19.44	2.47	19.44	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Pigs 25kg or more	15	110	13.78	101.08	13.78	101.08	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Boars less than 25kg	2	11	0.71	3.89	2.03	11.15	1.32	7.26	187%	187%
Boars 25kg or more	2	11	1.84	10.11	2.03	11.15	0.19	1.04	10%	10%
Deer less than 12kg	2	11	0.25	1.36	0.68	3.72	0.43	2.36	173%	173%
Deer 12 - 18kg	2	11	0.49	2.72	0.68	3.72	0.19	1.00	37%	37%
Deer 18kg or more	3	22	1.06	7.77	1.06	7.77	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Total charge			30.17	204.88	32.70	218.72	2.53	13.84	8%	7%
<b>Poultry slaughterhouse</b>										
Broilers	750	8,500	5.33	60.35	5.33	60.35	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Turkeys, less than 2kg	50	550	0.35	3.91	0.84	9.30	0.49	5.39	138%	138%
Turkey, 2kg or more <sup>11</sup>	500	5,500	7.10	78.10	8.45	92.95	1.35	14.85	19%	19%
Turkey, adult 5kg or more	50	550	1.41	15.51	1.41	15.51	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Total charge			14.19	157.87	16.03	178.11	1.84	20.24	13%	13%
<b>Game-handling establishment</b>										
Small game birds, less than 2kg	5	170	0.04	1.21	0.04	1.21	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Small ground game, 2kg or more <sup>12</sup>	1	35	0.01	0.50	0.01	0.50	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Boars less than 25kg	1	2	0.35	0.71	1.01	2.03	0.66	1.32	187%	187%
Boars 25kg or more	1	2	0.92	1.84	1.01	2.03	0.09	0.19	10%	10%
Deer less than 12kg	1	20	0.12	2.47	0.34	6.76	0.22	4.29	173%	173%
Deer 12 - 18kg	1	20	0.25	4.95	0.34	6.76	0.09	1.81	37%	37%
Deer 18kg or more	1	20	0.35	7.07	0.35	7.07	Nil	Nil	0%	0%
Total charge			2.04	18.75	3.10	26.36	1.06	7.61	52%	41%
<b>Cutting plant</b>										
	<b>Tonnes</b>									
All Meat	2	6	4.24	12.72	4.24	12.72	Nil	Nil	0%	0%

- ii. Small businesses and their representative organisations are invited to comment and provide relevant impact information that they envisage as a result of the proposed increase.

## 6. TEST RUN OF BUSINESS FORMS

- 6.1 No changes to the administration of the system for charging for meat hygiene official controls are intended as part of these proposals. No new or additional forms will be introduced.

## 7. COMPETITION ASSESSMENT

- 7.1. The proposals are unlikely to significantly affect competition as the impact of the increased throughput fees will be small. Similar proposals have been made in

<sup>11</sup> Except those which are adult and weight 5kg or more.

<sup>12</sup> Except those which are adult and weight 5kg or more.

Wales, England and Northern Ireland. All operators would continue to pay the lesser of time costs or throughput charges.

## **8. ENFORCEMENT, SANCTIONS AND MONITORING**

- 8.1. The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), an Executive Agency of the Food Standards Agency, will remain responsible for enforcement, sanctions and monitoring for the meat hygiene charging provisions set out in the Regulations. The MHS will collect meat hygiene official controls charges on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, and may ultimately, under the direction of the Scottish Ministers, withdraw official controls where a decree has been obtained against an operator for any sum of such charges payable, and the operator fails within a reasonable time to comply with that decree.
- 8.2. No changes are being proposed to the sanctions contained in the current regulations, which are considered to be proportionate and the minimum needed to enable the policy to be implemented effectively.

## **9. IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERY PLAN**

- 9.1. The proposal would implement the minimum throughput rates for meat hygiene official controls stipulated in the EC OFFC Regulation in accordance with Hampton Review principles. This applies, in particular, to the way that the regulations have been drafted, the information requirements that will be made of FBOs, the sanctions that may be applied and the easy availability of free advice about charges.

## **10. POST-IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW**

- 10.1. The policy will be reviewed in June 2008 to establish its actual costs and benefits and the achievement of its desired objectives.

## **11. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION**

- 11.1. The proposed SSI will ensure continuing compliance with EC law and minimum change to the current system and will implement an EC requirement that comes into effect from 1 January 2008 that official controls charges must meet the minima required by EC OFFC.

11.2 The cost and benefits of option 1 (doing nothing) are not analysed here, as the costs and implementing this option would be in breach of EC charging requirements. Making more significant changes to meat official controls charges (option 3) is not proposed at this stage and therefore the costs and benefits are not analysed in this RIA.

## **12. DECLARATION AND PUBLICATION**

**I have read the regulatory impact assessment and I am satisfied that the benefits justify the costs.**

**Signed: SHONA ROBISON**

**Date: 28 NOVEMBER 2007**

Minister for Public Health

## Annex 1 MEAT HYGIENE STANDARD CHARGE RATES

	2007 charge £ per 100 animals	Proposed charge £ per 100 animals	Increase	
			£	%
<b>Red meat slaughterhouses</b>				
Bovine - adult	318.06	337.88	19.82	+6.2
Bovine - young	176.70	176.70	None	Nil
Sheep less than 12kg	12.37	12.37	None	Nil
Sheep 12 – 18kg	24.74	24.74	None	Nil
Sheep more than 18kg	35.34	35.34	None	Nil
Pigs less than 25kg	35.34	35.34	None	Nil
Pigs 25kg or more	91.89	91.89	None	Nil
<b>Poultry slaughterhouses</b>				
Chicken less than 2kg	0.71	0.71	None	Nil
Chicken 2 - 5kg	1.42	1.42	None	Nil
Chicken more than 5kg	2.82	2.82	None	Nil
Turkey less than 2kg	0.71	1.69	9.80	+138
Turkey 2 – 5kg	1.42	1.69	27.00	+19
Turkey more than 5kg	2.82	2.82	None	Nil
<b>Game-handling establishments</b>				
Small game birds less than 2kg	0.71	0.71	None	Nil
Small ground game 2 - 5kg	1.42	1.42	None	Nil
Small ground game more than 5kg	2.82	2.82	None	Nil
Boar less than 25kg	35.34	101.36	65.78	+187
Boar 25kg or more	91.89	101.36	9.23	+10
Other ruminants less than 12kg	12.37	33.79	21.34	+173
Other ruminants 12 – 18kg	24.74	33.79	8.97	+37
Other ruminants more than 18kg	35.34	35.34	None	Nil
<b>Cutting plants</b>				
All meat	212.04	212.04	None	Nil