

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE LAND MANAGERS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 SSI 2008/162

The Regulations are made in exercise of powers conferred by section 2(2) of and paragraph 1A of Schedule 2 to, the European Communities Act 1972. The Regulations are subject to negative resolution procedure.

Background

The Regulations provide the domestic framework necessary to implement the skills development (support for setting up and running group training initiatives) measure within the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (“the SRDP”).

This measure is co-financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and governed, at European level, by Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 (O.J. No. L 277, 21.10.2005, p.1), in particular Articles 20(a)(i) and 52(c), and Commission Regulations (EC) No. 1974/2006 (O.J. No. L. 368, 23.12.2006, p.15) and (EC) No. 1975/2006 (O.J. No. L 368, 23.12.2006, p.74).

Policy Objectives

The SRDP provides the platform to support a range of measures to achieve economic, social and environmental goals. The Programme includes a skills development measure which has five separate options, four of which are aimed at individual land managers and delivered through Rural Development Contracts.

The fifth option, covered by these Regulations, is a grant scheme to support industry and related organisations in developing projects such as workshops, training programmes and other group events to improve land managers’ land and business management skills. To be considered for grant, applicants must be an organisation (other than a commercial training provider) involved in promoting or supporting the development of land or business management skills among Scottish land managers, and either an agricultural levy body, an Enterprise Company or a non-profit organisation (other than an educational establishment, a local authority or a public authority).

Projects must either fill a gap in existing provision or offer a new and effective way of meeting a skills need where current provision has not achieved the desired effect.

However, the grant scheme will not support courses which form part of normal programmes or systems of agriculture or forestry education at secondary or higher levels. Nor will it support training that is required or leads to a certificate, licence, diploma or other qualification that is required by law to carry out the beneficiary’s basic work activities.

Consultation

The SRDP consultation was launched on 4th April 2007. The consultation ran for 12 weeks until 30th June and nine public meetings were held around Scotland during this period with over 1400 copies of the consultation document distributed. Additionally the Consultation document was available on-line.

A total of 259 written responses were submitted from a range of organisations and individuals. The responses comprise answers to closed questions ("yes/no/don't know"), as well as extensive textual answers to each of the 21 questions set out in the consultation document.

Financial Effects

The instrument uses funding which the Scottish Government and the European Commission have allocated to the scheme under the SRDP.

The effect of the Regulations is to permit financial assistance to organisations involved with land management industries. We foresee no increase in costs on the Scottish Government, local government or business. We have therefore not carried out a Regulatory Impact Assessment.

Scottish Government Rural Directorate
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