

Executive Note

The Designation of Institutions of Higher Education (The Scottish Agricultural College) (Scotland) (No 2) Order 2008 SSI/2008/177

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 44(1) and 60(3) of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 (“the 1992 Act”). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

In October 2006, The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) applied to the First Minister to be designated as a higher education institution under the 1992 Act. Designation is granted by the Scottish Ministers on the basis of a designation audit based on a set of criteria. The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Scotland was commissioned to advise the Scottish Ministers on SAC’s application and QAA’s audit found that SAC satisfied all the criteria. The higher education sector and relevant stakeholders were consulted by the Scottish Government for their views on SAC being designated as a higher education institution. The responses to the consultation exercise were, in general, supportive. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/04/SAC> SAC is currently the last remaining Central Institution in Scotland and its designation as a higher education institution will bring it fully into the higher education sector.

The Order also revokes the Designation of Institutions of Higher Education (The Scottish Agricultural College) (Scotland) Order 2008 (S.S.I. 2008/163) prior to it having legal effect. It was considered that the powers relied on in this Order were not sufficient to revoke the Central Institutions (Recognition) (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 1990. These Regulations are now being revoked (given that there are no remaining bodies which are recognised as Central Institutions in Scotland) by the Central Institutions (Recognition) (Scotland) Revocation Regulations 2008.

Consultation

SAC has been consulted during the preparation of this instrument.

Financial Effects

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

Scottish Government, Lifelong Learning Directorate

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