

THE CROFTING COUNTIES AGRICULTURAL GRANTS (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT SCHEME 2011

SSI/2011/262

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

Policy objectives

The purpose of the above instrument is to amend the current Crofting Counties Agricultural Grants Scheme 2006 (CCAGS) to enable it to continue to operate within the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP). SRDP is co-financed by the European Commission and in order to benefit fully from European Union (EU) funds, CCAGS has to be amended to contain provisions on the circumstances in which Scottish Ministers shall not pay a grant.

This instrument ensures that the CCAGS 2006 Scheme complies with Commission Regulation 65/2011/EC (laying down rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, as regards the implementation of control procedures as well as cross-compliance in respect of rural development support measures”). Commission Regulation 65/2011 replaces Commission Regulation 1975/2006 to which CCAGS 2006 was previously subject.

Purpose of the Scheme

The purpose of CCAGS is to provide financial assistance to crofters and certain occupiers of land in the Crofting Counties to assist the improvement of crofting agriculture, as part of the general policy of compensating crofters for disadvantages of climate, scale, terrain and remoteness and to preserve an agricultural base in the Highlands and Islands. Crofters, crofting groups and others of a similar status are eligible for grant assistance.

Consultation

The amending instrument has been fully discussed with the Crofters Commission, the regulatory body for crofting issues. As there is no change to the purpose of CCAGS, its measures or level of support, it is anticipated that the amending instrument should receive the support of the crofting community.

Financial Effects

CCAGS is estimated to cost £2 million per annum and the Scottish Government has provided for that amount in its future allocations. There is no change to the level of support provided by the CCAGS.

Scottish Government Rural and Environment Directorate
31 May 2011