

## **POLICY NOTE**

### **THE COMMON ORGANISATION OF THE MARKETS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (FRUIT AND VEGETABLES) (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2023**

**SSI 2023/311**

#### **Introduction**

1. The above instrument (“the SSI”) is made by Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Act 2020(a) and all other powers enabling them to do so. The SSI is subject to negative procedure.

#### **PURPOSE OF THE INSTRUMENT**

The purpose of the SSI is to clarify the minimum duration of an Operational Programme that is available to a Producer Organisation within the Fruit and Vegetables Aid scheme.

#### **Policy Objectives**

2. The SSI will explicitly state that Operational Programmes for Scottish Producer Organisations (POs) in the fruit and vegetables sector can have a minimum duration of two years and a maximum duration of three years.
3. The SSI will enable the synchronisation of the cycles of Operational Programmes being submitted for approval this year with the cycles of other existing Scottish and UK POs with all current programmes having an end date of 31 December 2025.
4. The SSI will come into force on 15 December 2023, in line with the regulatory deadline for the Scottish Government to notify approval of proposed operational programmes commencing on 1 January 2024.

#### **EU Alignment Consideration**

5. The SSI makes only minor amendments to clarify the length of an operational programme which can be applied for under the Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme. The amendment is clarification and does not deviate from the EU programme rules.

#### **Consultation**

6. We have engaged with all existing Scottish POs in the Scheme, the RPA, and other UK Governments to ensure they are aware of the requirement for and purpose of the amendment. There has been no formal public consultation on the SSI given the nature and scale of the amendments.

### **Impact Assessments**

7. This is a small simplification and clarification amendment, further impact assessments were not deemed necessary.

### **Financial Effects**

8. There are no additional costs arising from this amendment.

### **Timing**

9. The SSI comes into force on 15 December 2023.

Scottish Government

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

SASA, Agriculture Division

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