



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Environment and Rural Affairs Department

Interested Parties

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5 September 2005

Dear Consultee

CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF COMPENSATION RATES FOR COMPULSORY SCRAPIE FLOCKS SCHEME

Martin Morgan wrote to you on 26 July with proposals for consolidation of the TSE (Scotland) Regulations, the TSE (Scotland) Amendment Regulations and the EU TSE Roadmap. In that letter reference was made to a forthcoming consultation on compensation rates for sheep and goats killed and destroyed under Schedule 6A of the TSE (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2004 (this enforces Annexe VII of the Community TSE Regulation on scrapie controls i.e. **the Compulsory Scrapie Flocks Scheme (CSFS)**). I am now writing to seek your comments on the details of those proposed preliminary revised compensation rates.

The compensation rates, as set, when the **CSFS** was launched last year were intended to reflect average values of sheep across different breeds and sectors that might be covered by the scheme that balanced reasonable rates for the farmer, good value for the tax payer and importantly an incentive to report the disease.

We undertook to keep those rates under review and there is now the need to do so to better reflect compensation rates paid particularly for ewes and for animals removed under whole flock cull action. There is now good evidence to support that the rate of £90 for any ewe is disproportionately high for the majority of females removed under the scheme. There is also evidence that in some circumstances compensation rates paid under whole flock cull action has not represented the best value for money for the taxpayer in tackling scrapie.

In the longer-term, we propose to review the current compensation arrangements with the view to establishing a system that more accurately reflects average market value of animals across different breeds and sectors of the industry. We will consult on that separately following further consideration.

We would appreciate your views on proposals to:

- 1) Reduce the rates for ewes to**
 - **a single rate of £65 or**
 - **to £70 for gimmers and breeding ewes and £30 for broken mouth cast ewes (also directly applicable to nanny goats of the same age).**
- 2) Retain the current rate of £50 for lambs**
- 3) Reduce the rates for adult sheep and lambs by 50% when whole flock cull is employed.**
- 4) It may *also* be appropriate in circumstances of whole flock cull where a farmer requests a valuation to reduce the compensation payable to 50% of the valuation or to *possibly* remove the option of valuation.**
- 5) Introduce the option for SEERAD to appoint a valuer through the Institute of Auctioneers and Assessors in Scotland where there is cause to consider the standard rates to be unreasonably high for particular animals.**

This consultation is less than 12 weeks which is the standard minimum period for a consultation exercise under the Government Code of Practice on Consultation. However, this is necessary in order to enable us to have domestic legislation laid in a timely fashion. Parallel consultations are being conducted by the Rural Affairs Departments in both England & Wales.

Please send your comments to Alastair Douglas, no later than **13 October 2005**, at the address above. Alternatively responses can be e-mailed to scrapie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk. Your response cannot be made public until the enclosed responsee information form is returned to us and we are obligated to write to those who respond without completing it.

Yours faithfully



Stuart Baxter
Animal Health and Welfare 3

Annexe 1

Summary of proposed revised rates

Animal/product	Current compensation rate £	Proposal £
Male sheep or goat	90	No change (but reduced by 50% where whole flock cull)
Female sheep or goat	90	65 (or alternatively 70 for ewes with normal permanent incisors and 30 for broken mouthed animals). (Reduced by 50% where whole flock cull)
Lamb (under 12 months) or kid (under 12 months)	50	No change (but reduced by 50% where whole flock cull).
Embryos	150	No change
Ova	5	No change

No change to rates for female sheep under derogation or for lambs in flocks where ram has derogation.

No change to option of valuation by RICS nominated valuer -at farmer's expense- where a farmer thinks the rate unreasonable (except possibly for whole flock cull). However we propose to introduce the option of valuation by RICS nominated valuer where SEERAD thinks the rate unreasonable.

List of Consultees

Copies of this consultation document are available on request from: Alastair Douglas, Animal Health & Welfare Branch 3, SEERAD ☎: 0131 244 6129, fax: 0131 244 4755

It will also be published on the Internet on the following sites:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/current.htm

www.scotland.gov.uk/views/views.asp

www.wales.gov.uk/keypubconsultation/index.htm

www.ukonline.gov.uk/CitizenSpace/CSConsultationList

Organisations
Advocates for Animals
All DVMs
All Scottish Faith Groups
All Scottish Local Authority Chief Executives
All Scottish Political Parties
Blackface Sheep Breeders Association
Blue Faced Leicester Sheep Breeders Association
Border Leicester Sheep Breeders Assoc.
British Veterinary Association (Scottish Branch)
Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine
Charollais Sheep Society
Cheviot Sheep Society
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Crofters Commission
Food Standards Agency Scotland
Health and Safety Executive
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Highlands and Islands Sheep Strategy
Institute for Animal Health Neuropathogenesis Unit
Institute of Auctioneers & Appraisers in Scotland
LACORS
Lleyn Sheep Society
National CJD Surveillance Unit
National Farmers Union of Scotland
National Sheep Association (Scotland)
North Country Cheviot Sheep Society
NSP Breed Traits
Quality Meat Scotland
Road Haulage Association
Roslin Institute
Rowatt Research Institute
Royal Dick Veterinary College
Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland, The

Royal Society of Edinburgh
Scotch Mule Association
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers
Scottish Association of Sheep Health
Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs
Scottish Crofting Foundation
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Environment Services Association
Scottish Goatkeepers Federation
Scottish Rural Property and Business Assoc Ltd.
Scottish Texel Sheep Breeders Club
Scrapie and Related Diseases Advisory Service
Sheep Veterinary Society
Shetland Flock Book Trust
Shetland Livestock Marketing Group Ltd
Shetland Sheep Society
Suffolk Sheep
Tenant Farmers Association
Texel Sheep Society
The Highlands and Islands Sheep Health Association
University of Glasgow Veterinary School
Veterinary Laboratories Agency
Woman's Food and Farming Union

Contact point

Please send any comments on the proposal by 13 October to:

Alastair Douglas
Animal Health and Welfare 3 (Rm 358)
Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh
EH15 1TY
Tel: 0131 244 6129
e-mail: scrapie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

We require your permission to make your response available to the public, and therefore would be grateful if you could return the Respondee Information Form along with your reply to enable us to handle your response appropriately.

We intend making all non-confidential responses available to the public in the following ways:

- In hard copy at the Scottish Executive Library, **K Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD** by 10 November 2005. Copies of responses can be viewed by visiting the library or can also be provided by post. Charges for photocopies are made on a cost-recovery basis. To request copies by post and enquire about charges or make an appointment to view responses at the library, contact the Library on 0131 244 4552.
- In full or summary form on the Scottish Executive consultation web pages by 17 November.

We also intend to post a summary or analysis of responses received to the consultation on the Scottish Executive consultation web pages.

A new email alert system for SE consultations, SEconsult (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/seconsult.aspx>) now allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new SE consultations (including web links). SEconsult complements, but in no way replaces SE distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all SE consultations activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

This consultation, and all other SE consultation exercises, can be viewed online at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>. You can telephone Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out where your nearest public internet access point is.

Please return this form to:

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RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name:

Postal Address:

Consultation title: Consultation exercise for a revised longer term strategy for the NSP

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual (go to 2a/b)
(b) **on behalf of** a group or organisation (go to 2c)

2a. **INDIVIDUALS:**

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
No, not at all

2b. **Where *confidentiality is not requested***, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

2c. **ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:**

Your name and address as respondents ***will be*** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

- Yes
No

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

3. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

- Yes
No