EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE AVIAN INFLUENZA (PREVENTIVE MEASURES) (DATE FOR IDENTIFICATION OF POULTRY PREMISES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 (SSI/2005/625)

Introduction

The above instrument is made by Scottish Ministers under section 2(2) of the European Communities act 1972. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedures.

Policy Objective

The **Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Date For Identification Of Poultry Premises) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (SSI/2005/625)** requires the registration of commercial poultry holdings with more than 50 birds by 28 February 2006.

Background

The Avian Influenza (Preventative Measures) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 required poultry keepers with more than 50 birds to maintain records. It also provided for the Scottish Ministers to require such premises to register.

The purpose of the register is to support the obligation, under EC Decision 2005/734/EC, of Scottish Ministers to undertake regular risk assessments of the possible introduction of high pathogenic avian influenza from migrating wild birds. It will also support any response to a confirmed outbreak of disease.

Impact

Whilst the timescale has not allowed formal consultation, we have worked with key stakeholder groups to ensure that appropriate questions are asked and that the forms impose the minimal burden on stakeholders. As such, the impact of the requirement to register is expected to be minimal. The information sought is readily available to most poultry keepers and it is anticipated that the completion of the registration form will take a matter of minutes.

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
December 2005