STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1963 No. 569

AGRICULTURE

GUARANTEED PRICES AND ASSURED MARKETS

The Eggs (Guaranteed Prices) Order 1963

Made - - - -	*20th March* 1963
Laid before Parliament	*25th March* 1963
Coming into Operation	*31st March* 1963

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretaries of State respectively concerned with agriculture in Scotland and Northern Ireland acting jointly in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by sections 1, 35 (3) and 36 (3) of the Agriculture Act 1957(a) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, with the consent of the Treasury and after consultation with such bodies of persons as appear to the said Ministers to represent the interests of the producers of hen eggs, hereby make the following order :—

Citation and Commencement

1. This order may be cited as the Eggs (Guaranteed Prices) Order 1963; and shall come into operation on 31st March 1963.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this order, unless the context otherwise requires—

"average selling price" means the average selling price ascertained in accordance with article 5 hereof;

"the Board" means the British Egg Marketing Board constituted by the British Egg Marketing Scheme 1956(b) which has effect as if made under the Agricultural Marketing Act 1958(c);

"guaranteed price" means the guaranteed price determined by the Ministers pursuant to article 4 hereof;

"hen eggs" means eggs in shell laid by domestic fowls in the United Kingdom;

"indicator price" means the indicator price determined by the Ministers pursuant to article 4 hereof;

"packed" means packed on behalf of the Board by any person appointed by the Board to purchase, grade and pack hen eggs on their behalf or packed by the Board in the course of exercising those functions themselves;

"the Ministers" means the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretaries of State respectively concerned with agriculture in Scotland and Northern Ireland, acting jointly;

"the Minister", in relation to any part of the United Kingdom, means either that one of the Ministers who is concerned with agriculture in that part, or that Minister and either or both of the others acting jointly;

(a) 5 & 6 Eliz. 2. c. 57. (b) S.I. 1956/2082 (1956 I, p. 66). (c) 6 & 7 Eliz. 2. c. 47.

"year" means a period of 52 or 53 weeks commencing with the Sunday nearest to 31st March in any calendar year.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(a) shall apply to the interpretation of this order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if this order and the orders hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

Guarantee Standards for Hen Eggs

3. This order shall apply to such hen eggs as conform to the standards and conditions specified by the Ministers in the light of their conclusions from a review held under section 2 of the Agriculture Act 1947(b).

Guarantee Prices and Payments

4. In respect of each year the Ministers shall with the consent of the Treasury, in the light of their aforesaid conclusions and subject to such terms and conditions as they may specify, determine in respect of hen eggs—

(a) a guaranteed price;

(b) an indicator price, being an estimate by the Ministers of the average price to be received by the Board on the sale of hen eggs on the basis that production thereof is sufficient but not excessive having regard to the national demand therefor and to normal imports into the United Kingdom during the year of hen eggs produced outside;

being in each case a price per dozen:

Provided that the Ministers may in the light of their aforesaid conclusions make such reduction in the indicator price as appears to the Ministers, with the approval of the Treasury, to be appropriate having regard to any increase above a normal level of imports into the United Kingdom, during any part of the year, of hen eggs produced outside and to the prices received by the Board during the same period and throughout the year.

5. At the end of each year an average selling price of hen eggs for that year shall be ascertained by the Ministers in accordance with arrangements agreed with the Board or in default of agreement in accordance with such principles as the Ministers shall decide.

6. Subject to such terms and conditions as he may with the consent of the Treasury prescribe, the Minister may pay to the Board in respect of each dozen hen eggs packed in any year the difference between the guaranteed price and the indicator price.

7.—(1) If for any year the average selling price of hen eggs is higher than the indicator price thereof, the Board shall pay to the Minister two thirds of the difference in respect of each dozen hen eggs packed in that year:

Provided that the total amount payable by the Board to the Minister under this paragraph shall not exceed the total amount which may be paid by the Minister to the Board under article 6 hereof in respect of the same year.

(2) If for any of the years before 30th March 1969 the indicator price of hen eggs is higher than the average selling price thereof, the Minister may pay to the Board in respect of each dozen hen eggs packed in that year the proportion of the difference specified in relation to that year in the Schedule to this order.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (b) 10 & 11 Geo. 6. c. 48.

8. Subject to such terms and conditions as he may with the consent of the Treasury prescribe, the Minister may make available by way of advance to the Board such sums as he may from time to time think fit.

Keeping of Records

9. The Board shall maintain such books of account, records and documents as the Minister may from time to time direct and such books of account, records and documents shall be available for inspection at all reasonable times by any duly authorised officer, servant or agent of the Minister or of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Revocation

10. The Eggs (Guaranteed Prices) Order 1957(a) and the Eggs (Guaranteed Prices) (Amendment) Order 1960(b), insofar as they relate to hen eggs, are hereby revoked.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 15th March 1963.

(L.S.)

Christopher Soames,
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Given under the Seal of the Secretary of State for Scotland on 19th March 1963.

(L.S.)

Michael Noble,
Secretary of State for Scotland.

Given under the hand of the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 19th March 1963.

Henry Brooke,
Secretary of State for the Home Department.

We consent.

20th March 1963.

John Peel,
G. T. C. Campbell,
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

SCHEDULE

	Article 7 (2)
Year ending 28th March 1964	60 per cent.
Year ending 27th March 1965	50 per cent.
Year ending 2nd April 1966	40 per cent.
Year ending 1st April 1967	30 per cent.
Year ending 30th March 1968	20 per cent.
Year ending 29th March 1969	10 per cent.

(a) S.I. 1957/1125 (1957 I, p. 89). (b) S.I. 1960/427 (1960 I, p. 93).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This order replaces the Eggs (Guaranteed Prices) Order 1957, as amended, insofar as it relates to hen eggs. It makes new arrangements, having effect from 31st March 1963, under section 1 of the Agriculture Act 1957 for the provision of guaranteed prices for hen eggs.

The principal change is that any deficiency payment will basically be the difference between the guaranteed price and an indicator price (each such price being determined by Ministers in the light of conclusions from a review under section 2 of the Agriculture Act 1947). Supplementary provisions are included which apply if the Board's average selling price is higher or lower than the indicator price.

Provision is also made by the order to enable adjustments to be made in the event of the market being disturbed by abnormal imports of hen eggs from abroad.