1982 No. 149

AGRICULTURE

Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982

Made	*14th May 1982*
Coming into operation . . .	*17th June 1982*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 1(1) and (4) and 2(1) of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) and now vested in it(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel(c) hereby makes the following Scheme:

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982 and shall come into operation on 17th June 1982.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme—

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"the Company" means Seed Potato Promotions (Northern Ireland) Limited.

Payments to the Company

3. For the purpose of assisting persons engaged in the production of seed potatoes in Northern Ireland and improving the quality, production and marketing of seed potatoes the Department may make payment to the Company, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme, for expenditure incurred by it in carrying out functions provided in this Scheme.

Purpose of payments

4.—(1) Payments under Article 3 shall amount to the whole or part of the expenditure incurred by the Company for the purposes of increasing efficiency in the growing, handling, storage, transporting or marketing of seed potatoes; and

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (1) the purposes may relate to—

(*a*) the growing and production and encouragement of the growing and production of stocks of seed potatoes which have a high degree of freedom from disease;

(*b*) increasing publicity relating to the seed potato industry;

(*c*) conducting or assisting in conducting research and development work and work of an experimental nature in connection with the breeding, growing, handling, storage, transport or marketing of seed potatoes; and

(*d*) surveying and developing markets for seed potatoes.

(a) 1954 c. 31 (N.I.) as amended by 1957 c. 3 (N.I.) s. 1

(b) *See* 1973 c. 36 s. 40 and Sch. 5 para. 7(1) and 1974 c. 28 s. 1 and Sch. 1 para. 2(1) and (2)

(c) Formerly Ministry of Finance — *see* Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 (c. 36) Sch. 5 para. 8(1) and S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Art. 3

Amount of payments

5.—(1) The aggregate amount of payments made under Article 3 shall not exceed £133,000.

(2) No payments shall be made under Article 3 after 31st March 1983.

Recovery of payments

6. If the Company pays money other than in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme it shall repay such amount to the Department and such amount so repayable shall be recoverable by the Department from the Company as a civil debt.

Furnishing of information

7. The Company shall furnish to the Department at any reasonable time any information or documents, including:

(*a*) minutes of any meetings of the Board of Directors of the Company;

(*b*) the Company's Annual Report;

(*c*) reports of any projects or visits undertaken by the Company; and

(*d*) a detailed quarterly account indicating the use of the monies obtained under this Scheme and relating to the exercise by the Company of its functions under this Scheme.

Retention of documents

8. The Company shall obtain and retain vouchers, receipts or other documents evidencing all spending of monies by the Company in exercise of its functions under this Scheme and such vouchers, receipts or documents shall be made available for examination at any reasonable time by the Department or the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Revocation

9. The Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1981(**a**) is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 14th May 1982.

(L.S.) *K. E. Brady*
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel for Northern Ireland on 14th May 1982.

(L.S.) *J. M. Dowdall*
Assistant Secretary

(a) S.R. 1981 No. 148 as amended by S.R. 1981 No. 376

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Scheme.)

This Scheme provides for payments by the Department of Agriculture to the Seed Potato Promotions (Northern Ireland) Ltd. to enable it to assist the seed potato industry in Northern Ireland so as to benefit farmers producing seed potatoes.

The total amount of payments under the Scheme shall not exceed £133,000 and these payments will not be made after 31st March 1983.