Executive Note

The University of the West of Scotland Order of Council 2007 SSI/2007/426

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council by sections 45 and 60 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act"). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The University of Paisley ("the University"), along with the majority of other post 1992 universities and designated higher education institutions, has a Governance Order, the University of Paisley (Scotland) Order of Council 1993 ("the 1993 Order"), made by the Privy Council. The purpose of this instrument is to amend the 1993 Order to effect a change of name to the "University of the West of Scotland". In terms of section 49 of the 1992 Act, the governing body of the University of Paisley resolved to change the name on 17 October 2006 and the Privy Council consented to the change of name by letter dated 18 July 2007.

Name

The University wishes to change its name to the "University of the West of Scotland" to better reflect its regional, multi campus presence, with campuses in Paisley, Ayr, Dumfries (Crichton) and also, following its merger with Bell College of Technology on 1 August 2007, Hamilton. With the University keen to attract students from overseas and all parts of the UK to its 4 campuses in the West of Scotland, the new name will more naturally assist the promotion of all that the University has to offer.

The University will work with key local stakeholders to ensure a continued association between the renamed institution and each of the communities where its individual campuses are located. The University has agreed to develop a naming protocol that would see the location of the various campuses reflected in the naming structure alongside the main University title – for example, by use of the title "University of the West of Scotland, in Paisley" when referring to activities located on the Paisley campus.

Order of Council

At the request of the University, the Privy Council made an Order of Council under section 45 of the 1992 Act to give legal effect to the change of name.

Article 3 of the instrument confirms the University's name change to the "University of the West of Scotland" and its governing body's name change to the "Court of the University of the West of Scotland". Article 4 amends articles 2 to 4 of the 1993 Order and Article 5 amends Schedule 3 of the 1993 Order (variations and revocations of provisions of the Paisley College of Technology Scheme 1954 ("the 1954 Scheme")). Article 6 confirms that the governing body continues to be a body corporate in accordance with the 1954 Scheme.

Consultation on new name

Prior to the Privy Council granting its consent to the name change, the University conducted a comprehensive consultation on the proposed name change, seeking the views of a wide range of stakeholder organisations, including colleges, universities, health boards and trusts, education departments within local authorities, MPs, MSPs, local authorities, special interest groups and students associations. A consultation paper was issued and stakeholder events held in each region served by its campuses.

Financial Effects

A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared as this instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Executive, local government or on business.

Scottish Executive, Lifelong Learning Directorate
September 2007