



Rural Policy and Development Research Programme 2001-2002

The Rural Policy and Land Use Research Programme of the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) consists of a portfolio of research aimed at informing the policy debate on some of the most pressing rural issues of the day.

The programme which is funded mainly by the SEERAD's Land Use and Rural Policy Research Committee with additional support from the Department's Agricultural and Biological Research Fund, is drawn up in consultation with other Scottish Executive research programmes and with regard to the research programmes of other relevant organisations in Scotland such as Scottish Natural Heritage and, from wider afield, such as the Countryside Agency. Research output from the programme is made available to research users through publications, seminars and conferences.

This report on the 2001-2002 programme provides information to those with an interest in rural policy research including practitioners and contractors. It includes an outline of new research projects which it is intended to commission during 2001-2002, information on ongoing research projects, and details of publications.

Contractors interested in undertaking any of the new projects outlined are invited to complete the enclosed "**Expression of Interest**" form and return this by **8 August 2001** to the address shown. Potential contractors are advised to read the notes of guidance on page 2 which provide information on our procedures in commissioning research.

Published reports and research findings produced on projects in the research programme are available on the Scottish Executive Website. To facilitate effective internet dissemination it has been necessary to standardise the format of reports and guidance on this will be provided to contractors at the commissioning stage of a project.

Contacts

Enquiries about the rural policy research programme should be addressed to Juliet Harvey or Wendy Kenyon, Rural Research, Scottish Executive, Central Research Unit, Room 007, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY. Email: wendy.kenyon@scotland.gis.gov.uk, juliet.harvey@scotland.gis.gov.uk. Telephone: 0131 244 6123.

Enquiries about aspects of rural policy should be addressed to Jane Hamilton, Head of Rural Policy, Scottish Executive, Room 104, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY. Email: jane.hamilton@scotland.gov.uk. Telephone: 0131 244 3103.

This document (and other CRU Research Findings and Reports) and information about the work of the CRU may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/>. The site carries up-to-date information about social and policy research commissioned and published by CRU on behalf of the Scottish Executive. Subjects covered include transport, housing, social inclusion, rural affairs, children and young people, education, social work, community care, local government, civil justice, crime and criminal justice, regeneration, planning and women's issues. The site also allows access to information about the Scottish Household Survey.

Guidance for Potential Contractors

INTRODUCTION

Much of the Department's research is commissioned by way of selective competitive tender. Most often this occurs through the issue of invitations to a selected number of contractors to bid for a contract on the basis of a specification setting out the particular requirement for the work.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Contractors who wish to be considered for inclusion on tender lists for any of the new projects outlined in this report are invited to complete the attached "Expression of Interest" form for each project. (The form should be copied if required.)

Expressions of interest submitted by **8 August 2001** on the attached form will be considered in the process of drawing up a short list, usually of between 3 and 6 names depending on the nature of the project and the extent of expertise amongst potential contractors.

As the number of expressions of interest may exceed the number of contractors who will be invited to tender, an expression of interest should not be taken as a guarantee of inclusion in the list. The Department will not inform the contractors who are not invited to tender for a specific project.

INVITATIONS TO TENDER

An invitation to tender will be accompanied by a specification of the proposed research. The specification will usually set out the background to the requirement, the aims, what contractors are expected to provide in the tender and a date for receipt of tenders. The standard conditions governing the contract are also provided.

ASSESSMENT OF TENDERS

Tenders will be assessed by research managers and policy colleagues. Overall assessment will be concerned with value for money taking account of the quality and cost of contractor's proposals. In particular assessment will focus on:

- the contractor's understanding of the issues being addressed;
- familiarity with previous relevant research;
- the appropriateness of the proposed methodology, output and timetable;
- arrangements for managing the research;
- the proposed costs and distribution of resources.

AWARDING OF CONTRACTS

The assessment of tenders normally results in the selection of a preferred tender, although the Department is not bound to accept any tender. On occasion, some researchers are invited to make a presentation on their proposals to the Department to assist in the assessment. The successful tenderer then finalises a formal contract with the Department. All tenderers are informed of the outcome in writing.

Some contracts are jointly funded with other Scottish Executive Departmental Research Programmes or other organisations such as the Countryside Agency.

TIMETABLE

New projects listed in this report are planned for commissioning during the financial year 2001-2002 but the exact content and timing will depend on the requirements of the policy customer.

PUBLICATION

While final decisions on publication remain with the Department, there is a presumption that research commissioned from the programme will be published.

2001-2002 Research Programme

Much research effort this year will be guided by the recommendations of the reports arising from the two working groups on rural services and rural poverty and social inclusion.

Examples of Best Practice in Rural Service Delivery

– a review of national and international best practice in the delivery of rural services, to assess lessons to be learnt for the Scottish context from wider experience of rural service provision.

Community Malls

– this research will evaluate the feasibility of setting up one-stop shops for the provision of rural services in Scotland.

Modernising Rural Shops

– identification and assessment of European case studies on modernising rural shops. An evaluation of good practice with recommendations for application in Scotland.

Guidance on Village Halls

– to review requirements of communities and funders in financing the provision of village halls in rural areas of Scotland.

Benchmarking Rural Poverty Milestones

– a programme of research is required to assess milestones related to poverty and inclusion of young and old people in rural Scotland.

Community Processes and Social Exclusion

– research to investigate the extent to which community processes contribute to social exclusion and to investigate possible solutions.

Social Exclusion in Rural Areas

– research to investigate problems and propose solutions to the problems related to social exclusion of young and older people in rural areas.

Developing Policies to Promote Accessibility in Rural UK

– to develop a conceptual framework for the formulation of policy instruments to foster accessibility at a strategic level in 6 regions of the UK.

Rural Analysis of Scottish Household Survey

– analysis of the Scottish Household Survey data for 1999/2000 to identify and explain rural issues. Looking particularly at issues of social exclusion in rural areas.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE ABRG PROGRAMME

Evaluation of Farm Woodland Premium Scheme

– evaluation of the contribution of the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme to meeting its own objectives and broader sustainable rural development objectives in Scotland.

The Benefits of Owner-Occupiers and Tenant Crofts

– an evaluation of the relative social, economic and environmental benefits of owner occupiers crofts and tenant crofts in Scotland. Jointly funded with HIE and the Crofters Commission.

Assessment of Specific Agricultural Grant Scheme Demand

– research to identify a robust methodology for accurately ascertaining the likely levels of demand for the agricultural business improvement schemes.

Agricultural Holdings in Badenoch and Speyside

– research to compare the economic, social and environmental benefit of small tenant farmers to owner occupied crofts in Badenoch and Strathspey.

Deer Management: Socio-economic Opportunities for Rural Communities

– the research will identify the economic and social impacts and opportunities arising from deer and their management in rural communities in Scotland. Barriers to developing such opportunities will also be assessed.

Review of Research on Rural Development in Scotland

– a project to review current and past research commissioned in Scotland, with the aim of drawing effectively this body of knowledge together. The review will synthesise research findings in order to increase understanding of the implications of research for rural development policy.

Dissemination from the Research Programme in 2000-01

ONGOING RESEARCH

EU Nordic Collaborative Project

Contractor – Prof. Mark Shucksmith, Arkleton Centre
– to promote exchange of best practice in rural development.

The Development of a Community Development Evaluation Methodology and Model

Contractor – Jon Pickering, Cardiff University
– a three year collaborative studentship to develop a model for community development evaluation.

Jobs and the Environment – Quality of Natural Heritage Jobs

Contractor – Dr. Mary Ann Smyth, RSK ERA Ltd
– a study to examine the quality of employment in the natural heritage sector and considering whether these jobs meet broader rural development objectives.

Consensus Building Review

Contractor – Tim Richardson, University of Sheffield
– in partnership with SNH and Forestry Commission, research to identify contemporary models of consensus building for potential use in rural Scotland.

Rural Scotland Pricing and Expenditure Survey

Contractor – Sneddon Economics & Market Research
– commissioned in partnership with HIE, the survey provides information of the relative price of goods and services, and expenditure patterns in various locations throughout Scotland.

Database of Rural Landholdings

Contractor – ERM
– to develop a database of rural landholdings. This project explores the extent and nature of demand for information on ownership of land holdings.

Options for an Rural Community Gateway Website

Contractor – Lambda Research & Consultancy Ltd
– to assess the options for a rural community gateway website. Determining what should be contained on the site and addressing issues of development, housing and maintenance.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Crime and the Farming Community: The Scottish Farm Crime Survey 1998: Andra Laird, Sue Granville and Ruth Montgomery, George Street Research Ltd. (1999) (£10.00). Summary available: Agricultural Policy Co-ordination and Rural Development Research Findings No.1

New Ideas in Rural Development No 7: Community Development Agents in Rural Scotland: Lynn Watkins (Rural Research Branch, The Scottish Office Central Research Unit) with Alison Brown (Scottish Community Education Council). (1999) (£2.50). Summary available: Agricultural Policy Co-ordination and Rural Development Research Findings No.2

New Ideas in Rural Development No 8: Tackling Crime in Rural Scotland: Mary-Ann Smyth, RSK-ERA Limited. (1999) (£2.50). Summary available: Agricultural Policy Co-ordination and Rural Development Research Findings No.3

Study of the Impact of Migration in Rural Scotland: Professor Allan Findlay, Dr David Short, Dr Aileen Stockdale, Anne Findlay, Lin N Li, Lorna Philip (Department of Land Economy, University of Aberdeen). (1999) (£10.00). Summary available: Agricultural Policy Co-ordination and Rural Development Research Findings No.4

The Quality of Services in Rural Scotland: Steven Hope, Simon Anderson and Becki Sawyer, System Three. (2000) (£10.00). Summary available: Agricultural Policy Co-ordination and Rural Development Research Findings No.5

Social Exclusion in Rural Areas: A Literature Review and Conceptual Framework: Mark Shucksmith and Lorna Philip, University of Aberdeen. (2000) (£10.00). Summary available: Agricultural Policy Co-ordination and Rural Development Research Findings No.6.

Copies of the above Research Findings are available from Lorraine Curran at: Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, 2J, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ; Tel: 0131-244 7560; Email: lorraine.curran@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

CRU Research Papers and Tactica Solutions/Astron published research can be purchased from: The Stationery Office Bookshop, 71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 7AZ; Tel: 0870 606 5566; Fax: 0870 606 5588; <http://www.tsonline.co.uk/>

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SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Expression of Interest

Please use one form per project (copy as required)

Policy area of interest: Rural Policy and Development
Project title (eg Modernising Rural Shops)

Contact name, address of organisation (including post code and telephone number and e.mail)

Experience and capabilities in relation to this project including recent relevant work

Please tick if you are also interested in: the Scottish Executive Development Department Research Programme

the Scottish Executive Environment Group Research Programme

Send completed forms by **8 August 2001** to:-

Miss Lorraine Curran, Scottish Executive Central Research Unit,
2-J, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ,

Telephone No: 0131 244 7560, or fax: 0131 244 7573. E.mail: lorraine.curran@scotland.gsi.gov.uk