

3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT - ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL POST (AN101-2002)

Since June 1999, the Environmental and Consumer Protection Department has sponsored a Trading Standards Student. The sponsorship included the student working for up to 12 weeks in the summer period with the Council.

The student completes his course in June and, subject to him obtaining the appropriate final qualification, the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection wishes to appoint him to a new post of Trainee Trading Standards Officer.

This additional post is necessary to cover additional work requirements in the Trading Standards Section, particularly animal health enforcement, which was previously carried out by Perth and Kinross Council at a cost of £13,000 to Dundee City Council. There are also new enforcement burdens for the authority in connection with Fair Trading 'STOP NOW' orders and Food Standards Agency animal feeding stuff requirements, which will be discharged by the Trading Standards Service. These latter duties have attracted recurring RSG funding of £7,000 from central government.

It should also be noted that qualified Trading Standards Officers are difficult to recruit and the appointment of the student to the new post would be considered an investment in the future. In recognition of recruitment difficulties, the Department of Trade and Industry will provide up to £10,000 per trainee, and application for this money would be made once the person is in post.

The Committee is, therefore, requested to approve the establishment of a post of Trainee Trading Standards Officer at a grade of T1-PO6 (£13,124 - £27, 479), the cost of which would be met from a combination of existing budgets and the saving of £13,000 previously paid to Perth and Kinross Council.