

purposes of collective bargaining. Parts VI and VII provide for secret ballots of the members of trade unions before undertaking industrial action and for the purposes of elections for certain positions in the union. Part VIII restricts the application of funds by a trade union or employers' association for political purposes. Part IX provides for the appointment and functions of the Northern Ireland Certification Officer and the Northern Ireland Commissioner for the Rights of Trade Union Members. Part X provides for the amalgamation of trade unions or employers' association.

Part XI contains provisions relating to the machinery for promoting the improvement of industrial relations. Articles 82 to 90 re-enact, with amendments, the provisions of the Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 relating to the constitution and functions of the Labour Relations Agency. Articles 91 to 94 re-enact, with amendments, the Industrial Courts Act 1919 and provide for the constitution and functions of the Industrial Court and of courts of inquiry. Article 95 provides for the issue of Codes of Practice by the Department.

Part XII contains miscellaneous amendments of industrial relations law, including amendments as to employees' individual rights and the holding of ballots. That Part also amends the Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Acts.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

### THE PETROLEUM (PRODUCTION) (SEAWARD AREAS) REGULATIONS 1988

1. Further to the Notice published on 6 March 1992 regarding the 14th Round of petroleum production licensing, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry now invites applications, in accordance with the Petroleum (Production) (Seaward Areas) Regulations 1988 (SI 1988 No 1213), as amended by the Petroleum (Production) (Seaward Areas) (Amendment) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990 No 1332) and the forthcoming Petroleum (Production) (Seaward Areas) (Amendment) Regulations 1992 (in this Notice called "the Regulations"), for petroleum production licences in respect of the blocks specified in Schedules 1, 2, 3, and 4 to this Notice and delineated on maps deposited in the Library at the Department of Trade and Industry, 1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE. The maps may be inspected by prior appointment (Telephone No 071-238 3042) between 09.15 and 16.45 hours Monday to Friday until Tuesday 15 December 1992.
 

*Consideration for and Conditions of Licences*

  2. Licences issued in respect of blocks shown on the maps at Schedules 1 and 3 and listed in Schedules 2 and 4 to this Notice will have an initial term of six years with a second term of twelve years. This second term may be extended beyond twelve years for a further period of eighteen years. These licences will be subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 4 to the Regulations.
  3. The consideration required in respect of production licences granted as a result of this invitation will be:
    - (a) an initial payment, at the time the offer of a licence is accepted, of £390 for each square kilometre comprised in the licensed area;
    - (b) subsequent annual payments determined according to the following provisions:
      - (i) on the sixth anniversary of the date of commencement of the licence term (following exercise of the option to continue as to the remaining period of the licence) the sum of £450 will be payable for each square kilometre in the area to which the licence then relates; on the seventh anniversary £900 per square kilometre and so on, rising by annual increments of £450 until an annual sum of £6,750 is payable for each square kilometre comprised in the licensed area;
      - (ii) the payments specified in sub-paragraph 3(b)(i) above will be subject to variation as follows:
        - (aa) The annual payments will be increased or subsequently reduced at two-yearly intervals in line with movements in the Index of the Price of Crude Oil acquired by Refineries (published in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics) if the Minister so determines. The Minister will give notice of any such determination ("biennial determination") during the month preceding the eighth anniversary of the date of commencement of licences or any subsequent two-yearly anniversary, and will specify in the notice the increase or reduction in the amount payable. Movements in the Index will be calculated by reference to a comparison between the arithmetic mean of the Index levels for the two latest calendar years for which figures are available at the time when the determination is made, and the arithmetic mean of the Index levels for 1990 and 1991. In the event that the Index of the Price of Crude Oil acquired by Refineries ceases to be published, the Minister may substitute arrangements for redetermination of annual payments having substantially similar effect to those set out above based on such other comparable Index as he may determine.
        - (bb) The increase or reduction specified in a biennial determination will be payable or take effect on the anniversary of the date of commencement of the licence next following the date of the relevant determination.
        - (cc) No biennial determination will have effect so as to reduce the annual payments below the levels set in sub-paragraph 3(b)(i).
        - (dd) The Minister will not make a biennial determination increasing or reducing the amounts payable, where that increase or reduction would be 5% or less of the levels set following the previous biennial determination.
  - (c) A royalty (provided for in Clauses 10-13 of Schedule 4 to the Regulations) at the rate of 12.5% payable in respect of petroleum won and saved from any field which is neither:
    - (i) a relevant new field for the purposes of the Petroleum Royalties (Relief) Act 1983, nor
    - (ii) a relevant Southern Basin field for the purposes of the Petroleum Royalties (Relief) and Continental Shelf Act 1989.
4. Licences may be granted subject to special conditions governing the notice required for, and the timing and circumstances of, operations carried out thereunder. The Department of Trade and Industry will make copies of these conditions available as soon as possible.
 

*Applications for Licences*

  5. In respect of all blocks listed in Schedules 2 and 4:
    - (a) applications should be made on a standard application form available from the Department of Trade and Industry;
    - (b) applications should be delivered between 09.30 and 12.00 hours on Tuesday 15 December 1992 or between 09.30 and 12.00 hours on Wednesday 16 December 1992 to the Oil & Gas Division of the Department of Trade and Industry at 1 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HE, together with a remittance in respect of the appropriate application fee of £3,700;
    - (c) no applications will be accepted after 12.00 hours on Wednesday 16 December 1992;
    - (d) applicants are requested to indicate where possible any preference they attach to the blocks applied for and should indicate if blocks applied for are alternatives;
    - (e) applicants are requested to provide details of the work programme they propose to carry out if awarded a licence;
    - (f) applicants should note that they are requested to submit a statement of their policy with regard to health and safety and, for the first time, to submit a statement of their policy with regard to the environment;