

UTASS Briefing: 4th October 2016

2016 BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME RATES.

The RPA has announced that the exchange rate which will be used to calculate the 2016 payments is 1 euro = £0.85278. This is based on the average exchange rate during September and is an increase of over 16.5% on last year. Payments are due to start from 1st December 2016 with 90% of claims paid by the end of the year. The rates per hectare including the Greening payment are:

Non SDA	£208.44
SDA	£206.94
Moorland	£54.67

FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE REFUNDS.

The RPA are currently sending out refunds of the Financial Discipline deductions (a 1.3% deduction on all 2014 Single Payment Scheme payments apart from first 2,000 euros) as FD money was not required for any unforeseeable eventuality in that year. The Remittance Advice from the RPA will describe the payment as *FDM Reimbursement*. This has caused a degree of confusion as the RPA are also currently making correction payments to 2015 claims as part of the RPA's Annual Reconciliation process. These payments should say *Correction* on the Remittance Advice. The RPA are under some pressure to complete all the other outstanding payments, which include Probate, Cross-border and those whose bridging payments have not been completed, by the extended EU deadline of the 15th October 2016. Payments made after this date will be made by the Treasury but cannot be reclaimed from the EU Commission.

PILLAR TWO ENVIRONMENTAL PAYMENTS.

We understand that most of the outstanding checks and authorisations have been completed on HLS and Countryside Stewardship claims. Payments should start from 15th October 2016.

NEW ANIMAL MOVEMENT REGIME.

Defra have informed livestock keepers of their plan to simplify and standardise the movement rules for cattle, sheep and goats. In essence this means the end of all exemptions (Sole Occupancy Authority, Holding links, "retained keepership" etc.) and the ability to have all land within a 10 mile radius forming a single business (epidemiological unit) under one CPH number. It will mean that individual numbers will only need to be recorded and reported for movements between different CPHs. This should bring a reduction in the reporting and record keeping requirements but, as usual, the devil is in the detail. As yet we have insufficient information, especially in relation to commons and shared grazing, to be able to explain how this will work on the ground.

For further advice and assistance contact 01833 641010.

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