

DP 714/03 - 07

**Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad
Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside**

DEBATE ON THE SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEMES MISC.
DIRECT SUPPORT SCHEMES (APPEALS) (WALES) REJS 2004



9 NOVEMBER 2004

Our ref: MB/CJ/0825/04

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Ms Helen Mary Jones AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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29 November 2004

Dear *Helen*

THE SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME AND MISCELLANEOUS DIRECT SUPPORT SCHEMES (APPEALS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2004.

I refer to the questions you raised at the plenary session held on 9 November 2004 in respect of the above. You asked,

1. "When will farmers be informed of their payment entitlement?"

Answer:

In December we aim to issue an entitlement statement detailing the provisional number of entitlements farmers will be allocated, excluding any they may receive from the National Reserve. The statement will not include any monetary information. Provisional entitlement values will be issued with the 2005 IACS forms March 2005.

2. "When will the Minister know what will be the average payment calculated, that is, relevant to those seeking entitlement through the National Reserve?"

Answer:

The Regional Average for National Reserve purposes will be calculated once the number of historic entitlements has been established, over next summer.



3. "Can the Minister assure us that those who feel the need to appeal will not experience any prolonged delay in receiving payments?"

Answer:

It will not be possible to calculate the value of any entitlements until the majority of appeals have been completed. Officials are monitoring the workload and will do everything they can to enable Single Payment Scheme payments to be calculated and issued from 1 December 2005.

4. "When will farm inspections begin?"

Answer:

The new cross compliance requirements commence on 1 January 2005. The closing date for Single Payment Scheme applications is 15 May and inspections will commence soon after that. However, other inspections will be ongoing throughout the year and any anomalies found will impact on the Single Payment.

5. "How will failed inspections affect the payment of entitlement to all farmers?"

Answer:

Farmers receiving Single Payment are required to comply with statutory management requirements, which already exist, and the requirement to keep the land in good agricultural and environmental condition. The reduction in a farmer's payment will depend on the nature, extent, severity and permanence of the breach. Where they are as a result of negligence, the percentage reduction in the Single Payment shall not exceed 5%, and in cases of repeated non-compliance, 15%. In cases of intentional non-compliance, the percentage reduction shall not in principle be less than 20% and may go as far as total exclusion for one or more calendar years.

6. "Will the Minister tell us what discussions he has had with colleagues in Westminster on the effect of differing cross compliance measures in England and Wales on those farms that straddle the border?"

Answer:

Essentially the cross compliance measures set for each country will apply to the land that lies in each country. Officials will be firming up arrangements for inspections over the coming months.

Yours sincerely



Carwyn Jones AM