

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail, Biadh agus an Àrainneachd  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment  
Ridseard Lochhead BPA  
Richard Lochhead MSP

F/T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)



Rob Gibson MSP  
Convener  
Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee  
c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP



19 February 2016

Dear Rob

## CAP PAYMENTS

I am writing to give the Committee the standard weekly update on progress with CAP payments (figures as at Wednesday 17 February).

I would also like to give a further update regarding some additional support we are providing to farmers and crofters. Government officials have held extensive discussions with industry and the banking sector, to design a support scheme to help ease cash flow for those farmers and crofters who have not received a first instalment payment. The Scottish Government backed loan scheme will open for applications on Monday, and under the scheme those farmers and crofters who cannot access support from their bank will be able to apply to the Scottish Government.

We are asking farmers and crofters to approach their bank first. If their request is declined, then they will be able to apply to the Scottish Government for a fast-tracked interest-free advance worth 60 per cent of their CAP claim, to tide them over until their payment comes through.

As you know, I will continue to provide further updates on a weekly basis and share the same information with stakeholder organisations.

Yours sincerely,

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG  
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



## ANNEX A - Weekly Update on Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) Payments 17 February 2016

BPS Payments	
<b>Total number of eligible BPS claims</b>  <i>This is an estimate of the total number of eligible BPS claims. They are still being finalised and therefore this figure is expected to change over time.  All the percentage of payments paid noted within the report, are a percentage of this figure.</i>	<b>18,137</b>
<b>Total number of payments committed last reported (as at close of business 10 February 2016)</b>	<b>6,990 (39%)</b>
<b>Total number of payments committed as at close of business 17 February 2016</b>  <i>Includes all payments that have been submitted into the banking system. The majority will have arrived in customers' accounts but some may still be working their way through the banking system.</i>	<b>7,887 (43%)</b>