

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



26 February 2016

Dear Rob,

## CAP PAYMENTS

I am writing to provide the Committee with an update on progress with CAP payments (figures as at Wednesday 24 February). In Parliament earlier this week, I indicated that we were approaching 50 per cent of first instalment payments paid to farmers and crofters. I can confirm that from the very latest figures this morning, we have now exceeded 50 per cent. I have included these latest figures within the standard weekly report.

I would also like to provide an update on the Scottish Government backed CashFlow Loan Scheme. I can confirm that the scheme opened for applications on Monday 22 February, and we have had a number of expressions of interest. As the Committee will remember, the process requires the farmer to go via their bank first. My officials are continuing regular discussions with the banks to monitor the situation and we will give a further update next week.

I am again meeting with industry representatives next Thursday 3 March, to provide further updates and hear any concerns directly.

I will continue to provide you with regular progress updates on a weekly basis and share the same information with stakeholder organisations.

Yours sincerely,

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**

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## Weekly Update on Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) Payments Published 26 February 2016

BPS Payments	
<p><b>Total number of eligible BPS claims</b></p> <p><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></p>	<b>18,137</b>
<p><b>Total number of payments committed last reported (as at close of business 17 February 2016)</b></p>	<b>7,887 (43%)</b>
<p><b>Total number of payments committed as at close of business 24 February 2016</b></p> <p><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></p>	<b>8,846 (49%)</b>
<p><b><u>Additional update</u></b></p> <p><b>Over 50% of payments were committed as at 12 noon 26 February 2016</b></p> <p><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></p>	<b>9,149 (50%)</b>