

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



3 March 2016

Dear Rob

CAP PAYMENTS UPDATE

I am writing to give the Committee the standard weekly update on progress with CAP payments figures as at 2 March.

I would also like to give an update about other actions that we are taking. At a meeting with industry stakeholders this afternoon I discussed with them proposals for supporting our most vulnerable farmers and crofters in the most remote and rural areas. Less Favoured Area Support Scheme payments are normally made in March. To avoid delays we are taking action using Scottish Government funds to ensure that the vast majority of claimants will receive payments in March as usual.

Under the Scottish Government's National LFASS Scheme, funded wholly by the Scottish Government, around 8,000 farmers will receive a payment worth 90 per cent of last year's claim, while another 1,400 crofters and small farmers who are eligible for the minimum LFASS payment of £385 will receive that in full. The level of payment to the remainder of eligible claimants will depend on various factors including changes to their land since 2014. Support under this scheme would be offset against the claimant's final LFASS payment. *De minimis* state aid rules will apply.

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

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ANNEX A - Weekly Update on Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) Payments 2 March 2016

BPS Payments	
Total number of eligible BPS claims <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>	18,137
Total number of payments committed last reported (as at close of business 24 February 2016)	8,846 (49%)
Total number of payments committed as at close of business 2 March 2016 <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>	9,755 (54%)