

Rural Payments Agency
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
**Non-qualifying regulatory provision assurance
statement: confirmed**

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is content that, on the basis of the summary information provided, none of the measures or activities covered in the summary document should be considered as a qualifying regulatory provision for the purposes of the business impact target. This statement does not provide a detailed view of any specific activity in the regulator's summary document. Nor does it comment on any activities not included in the summary. Some activities might, however, have been the subject of separate assessments of qualifying regulatory provisions.

Comments on the non-qualifying regulatory provision summary

The initial submission of the NQRP summary list lacked adequate explanation for sections on excluded categories A, L1, L2, L3 and L4. Further narrative has since been provided in an amended assessment. It was also initially unclear whether particular guidance reproduced by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) should be reported by the RPA as a qualifying regulatory provision in light of potential familiarisation costs. The RPA has now submitted a separate QRP summary accounting for this guidance.



Anthony Browne, Chairman

Non-qualifying Regulatory Provisions Summary Reporting Template

Regulator: Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 2015-2017

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**
A – EU and International	<p>RPA is the English ‘Paying Agency’ as defined in EU regulation and is responsible for administering Common Agricultural Policy schemes as defined in regulation. In line with s.22(4)(c) of the SBEE Act, this does not count as a qualifying regulatory provision.</p> <p>None of the activities associated with the administration and payment of schemes represent a change in burden of regulation on business.</p>
B – Economic Regulation	Not applicable
C – Price Control	Not applicable
D - Civil Emergencies	Not applicable
E – Fines and Penalties	Not applicable
F – Pro-Competition	Not applicable
G – Large Infrastructure projects	Not applicable
H – Misuse of Drugs/National Minimum Wage	Not applicable
I – Systemic Financial Risk	Not applicable
K – Industry Codes	Not applicable
L1 – Casework	<p>RPA does enforce scheme rules and undertake risk based selection. The selection of inspection and type conducted is defined in regulation (in particular 809/2014 but also associated guidance such as DSCG/2014/32) and so is exempt from the reporting requirements.</p>
L2 – Education, communications and promotion	<p>Any guidance or other literature on gov.uk, sets out in plain English what is required should individuals or business wish to access support and provisions made available under the Common Agricultural Policy schemes.</p> <p>None of the material produced creates a new regulatory standard that businesses will be expected to follow. Any new regulatory standards will follow the regulatory process and their impacts assessed as part of this process if appropriate, a qualifying</p>

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available**
	regulatory provision summary will then be submitted.
L3 – Activity related to policy development	The RPA is an Executive Agency of Defra and an EU Paying Agency. It is not responsible for policy development. Any changes to the rules governing the processing and payment of schemes administered under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a consequence of changes to European regulation agreed by the Commission or as a result of domestic flexibility (eg around which Ecological Focus Areas farmers can declare to meet their greening requirements) which was agreed between Defra policy teams and Ministers.
L4 – Changes to management of regulator	There have been no changes to the management of the RPA.