



Rural Payments
Agency

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7 January 2015
Ref: RFI 3901

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Environmental Information Regulations – Information Request

Thank you for your request for information dated 7 December 2015 which is being dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

To answer your questions:

Please provide data held by the Department which has a bearing on the following questions as addressed by the RPA in the administration of the basic payment and the decision to pay some farmers later than others:

- 1. The entirety of the closed list of criteria which would trigger a claimant being put into the later payment window, or confirm that the three bullet points above were the only categories of reason.**

The categories were; claimants with common land, claimants with land in more than one UK region (cross-border) and claims where further checks were required (i.e. inspection cases, both remote sensing and physical “on the spot”).

- 2. The number of claimants put into each category for later payment expressed as either a number or percentage whichever is easier;**

Cross-border: 372
Inspections: 8,927
Commons: 4,722
Multiple Issues: 342 (i.e. claimants in more than one of the categories)

- 3. The date by which the assessment putting claimants in to earlier or later tranches was made in order that the letters of 27 November could be sent out;**

RPA can confirm that the date was 4 August 2015.

4. **Confirmation that each of the 'normal' (i.e. paid before the end of January) applications and the delayed applications was assessed and found to either**
 - a. **not be caught by any of the criterion triggering later payment, or**
 - b. **to satisfy one of the criteria for delayed payment before the letter was sent out.**

The determination of which payments would be made in January and which would be paid after January, but still within the claim window period, was based on whether a claim had a high degree of processing complexity. This includes inspections, commons, or cross-border as we prioritise the processing of cases to achieve the public commitment of majority of payments by the end of December 2015 and vast majority by end of January 2016.

If you are not happy with the way we have handled your request, you can ask for an internal review. These requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Access to Information, Rural Payments Agency, North Gate House, 21-23 Valpy Street, Reading, RG1 1AF.

If you have any queries about this let us know.

Yours sincerely

Access to Information Helpdesk