



Rural Payments  
Agency



Basic Payment Scheme 2015

# What happens next?

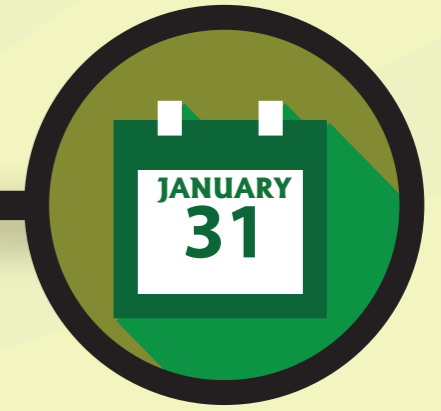
Find out when payments will start and when you can expect to hear from us.



[gov.uk/rpa/bps](http://gov.uk/rpa/bps)

# What happens next?

We received 88,000 applications for the new Basic Payment Scheme this year. Since then we've been checking the application forms and contacting people who needed to send us more information. We've also been adding the information from the application forms into our computer system (called 'Rural Payments').



## October 2015

We're now working on land and entitlement transfers.

We'll contact anyone who sent us an RLE1 form to let them know when their land or entitlement transfer is complete. We'll also contact the person they are transferring to.

## November 2015

At [www.gov.uk/rpa](http://www.gov.uk/rpa) we'll announce the payment rates for BPS (entitlement values and the greening payment rate) and the young farmer payment.

The exchange rate is €1 = £0.73129.

We'll contact anyone who has applied for entitlements to tell them whether their application has been successful.

## December 2015

Payments start from 1 December. We're aiming to make the majority of payments by 31 December. Once we've made a payment, we'll send a Remittance Advice which will show the amount paid.

If someone isn't going to be paid before the end of January 2016, we'll contact them. We'll explain why, and let them know when we're aiming to make their payment.

## January 2016

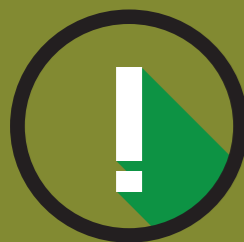
We aim to make the vast majority of payments by 31 January.

We'll continue contacting those people who aren't going to be paid by the end of the month.

After the Remittance Advice we'll send a Claim Statement. This will show how we've worked out the payment and give details of any reductions or penalties applied.

The payment window will close on 30 June 2016.

## Things to remember...



- Each year the European Commission will use some of the BPS budget to create a 'crisis reserve'. This is funded by the Financial Discipline Mechanism (FDM). It means that if the value of a BPS claim is more than €2000, a reduction will be made.
- Anyone eligible for a refund from last year's FDM reduction will be paid separately (it won't be included with their BPS 2015 payment). Refund payments will start from early 2016.
- If an applicant didn't have enough eligible land on their application form to go with an entitlement, it will be considered an 'excess entitlement' and it will be lost. The Entitlements Statement will show what entitlements an applicant has.

## If you have changed your bank account

If your bank account has changed since the last time we paid into it, call us on 03000 200 301 to give us the new details.

Bank accounts need to be able to accept the currency chosen to be paid in – Sterling or Euros. If you're not sure about your account, your bank should be able to help.

# How we'll contact you in the future



We are going to use email to contact you more in the future. We'll use the email address you've registered on Rural Payments. If you change your email address, remember to update it in Rural Payments.

If you're expecting an email from us and don't receive it, check your spam or junk folder to see if it's in there.

## Avoiding fraud



As the 2015 BPS payment window gets close, be aware of potential fraud.

In the past, banks have warned that fraudsters - pretending to be from their bank's fraud department - may try to target farmers who receive subsidy payments.

The same fraudulent activity could take place this year, so remain aware - particularly as December approaches and payments start.

### Remember:

- Your bank will never ask you for your full online password
- Your bank will not ask you to make a payment over the phone using your online account.
- If you get a call from someone claiming to be from your bank (or any other organisation), make sure it's genuine. End the call then wait 5 minutes and call them back on a number you know is correct (not a number they've given you).

## GREENING

The 2016 greening rules have been published online.

Applicants should do their greening calculations every year to make sure that they will be able to meet the rules.

The main changes for next year are:

- oilseed radish can now count (as part of a mix) as an ecological focus area (EFA) catch and/or cover crop
- some EFA features can now be up to 5 metres away from arable land, rather than immediately next to it



Search for 'greening 2016' at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



[www.gov.uk/rpa](http://www.gov.uk/rpa)



03000 200 301