



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

October 2013

Dear Consultee

Consultation on the Implementation of CAP Reform in England

1. I write to invite comments on how the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will be implemented in England.
2. Full details of the four week consultation, including those areas on which the Secretary of State has made decisions, are contained in a consultation document which may be found on our consultation website: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/>.
3. Many scheme rules are set out in the European regulations and we have no choice other than to follow them. However there are aspects where we have options on how we implement elements of CAP in England. On some of these the Government already has a clear view on the way forward, or has already had to make decisions due to the long lead time for implementing aspects of the schemes or the need for farmers to have certainty. In these cases the document sets out what we have decided. In other areas we are seeking views in order to make the best informed choices.
4. There are some constraints that affect the timetable for consultation. We need to notify the Commission formally by 31 December 2013 on our position on whether and to what extent we wish to transfer funds from the CAP budget for direct payments (Pillar 1) to fund rural development (Pillar 2), which is part of this consultation. On some issues, we are consulting before the final detail has emerged from the European regulations. Our approach is to make the consultation as comprehensive as possible to help interested parties to reach an informed view on interrelated issues and to minimise the need for separate consultations.
5. This consultation is an integral part of a much broader approach to engagement with interested parties. Prior to publication of this document, Ministers and officials have been working closely with stakeholders to consider what reform of the CAP means in England and will continue to do so. There are some detailed issues on which it would not be sensible to reach a view until we have more information from the European Commission about how the rules will apply. We will engage closely with stakeholders on these issues as the details from the EU processes emerge.



6. The consultation document is supported by evidence documents that are available at the above consultation website link. We also published two status reports on 12 August that set out in more detail the outcome of the negotiations, including greening, and the new Rural Development Programme. The status reports are available at:

Direct payments: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/cap-reform-in-england-status-report-on-direct-payments> .

Rural Development Programme: <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/cap-reform-in-england-status-report-on-the-new-rural-development-programme> .

Responses

7. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. We would prefer you to give us your answers to the consultations questions using the online survey on our consultation website: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/>. If you are unable to do so, we will accept responses via email to the consultation mailbox: capconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Alternatively, postal responses should be addressed to:

CAP Consultation
Defra
Area 1D, Nobel House
17 Smith Square London
SW1P 3JR

Responses should be received by **28th November 2013**.

Consultation Criteria

8. This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>
9. When this consultation ends, we will hold copies of responses here in Defra and will be made available on request. Members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.
10. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
11. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of

information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

12. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.gov.uk/defra. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact:

Mr T Higginson
CAP Implementation Team
Defra
Area 1D, Nobel House
17 Smith Square London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020 7238 4433

Email: capconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

13. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Defra Consultation Co-ordinator,

Room 629
9 Millbank
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

14. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Robin Fransella

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs