

# UTASS Briefing: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

## **Water Abstraction Licences.**

Many of our members have recently received letters from the Environment Agency (EA) about a change in the legislation which may affect private water supplies.

We have received the following advice from the EA:

“If you are a North East resident, landowner or business with a private water supply then you might require a new water abstraction licence. Legislative changes recently came into force meaning that most people using 20 cubic metres of water a day (4440 gallons) from a borehole, well or spring now require a licence. You can find out some additional information by visiting <https://bit.ly/2KsB7fj> or you can contact the Environment Agency by emailing Diane Steele or Andrea Emsley at [water.resources.northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:water.resources.northeast@environment-agency.gov.uk) The deadline for applications of 31 December is looming so don't hesitate in getting in touch”.

The National Customer Contact Centre telephone number: 03708 506 506.

For tenants of Raby Estate, John Wallis has agreed with the EA that the Estate will deal with this matter rather than individual tenants, some of whom are not aware of the total use from the supply they are attached to. He added that “in most cases, the Estate either holds an existing abstraction licence or the peak daily maximum threshold is below the 20,000 litre limit”. Raby tenants do not need to fill out the questionnaire.

## **HLS Agreements.**

A “Ministerial Decision” on the possible roll-over of HLS agreements, expected some time ago, has been delayed in the Brexit process. This could affect:

- Agreements that ended this year (2019) which met the Natural England criteria and have already received a one year extension.
- Agreements which end during 2020 subject to Natural England approval.

Holders of the above agreements should have already discussed and agreed roll-over in principle with the relevant NE Field Officer. We have been advised that there is nothing that can or needs to be done until the Ministerial Decision is made.

## **“Farming is Changing”**

Defra have produced a leaflet for farmers which will be available at UTASS from next week for those who would like a hard copy.

The “Farming is Changing” leaflet can be found online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-farming-changes-to-farming-in-england>

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS 01833 641010.

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