

UTASS Briefing: 21st March 2016

BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME 2016.

UTASS staff are well aware that many of our members have yet to be paid for their 2015 BPS claim and that this delay in payment is causing some serious difficulties. However, the 16th May deadline for applications for 2016 is approaching fast at a very busy time in the farming calendar.

The following information from the last briefing still holds true: the RPA intend to use the 2016 application to launch an online application process that will be fully functional for 2017. The key aspects of the process are:

- Applicants will need to make sure that their business and personal details on the Rural Payments site are complete and correct.
- There will still be the opportunity to make paper applications but pre-populated forms will **only** be sent to those who did **not** make an electronic application in 2014, the last year of SPS Online.
- Paper forms can be ordered from the RPA helpline for those who do not wish to use the online version.
- Entitlement transfers can be done either online or using the paper RLE1 form. Online entitlement transfers are done in “real” time (when the submit button is hit).
- Mapping alterations still need to be done using the RLE1 form.
- The RPA advise claimants to prepare their claim well in advance of the deadline by checking all the relevant data. There is a risk that the delays in processing the 2015 application may allow some incorrect data to be used to pre-populate 2016 forms.
- The deadline for submission of claims will be **midnight 16th May 2016** with the usual penalties for late claims. If you want UTASS to assist with your claim, please try and make an appointment before **30th April 2016**.

The RPA have now opened their 2016 online application system. They will shortly be sending out online application packs with a guidance book explaining how to apply online. UTASS are now able to assist those members who have empowered us to act on their behalf to make a claim for 2016 but, as yet, **only if they have been paid for 2015 and received a claim statement**. Please bring a copy of last year’s claim form, any RLE1 forms and attached maps and any recent relevant correspondence from the RPA to your appointment. We will need your help and cooperation to make sure that everyone submits a valid application, especially as there will be inevitable teething problems with a new system and road closures hampering staff and members!

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.

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