

UTASS Briefing: 21st October 2015

BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME.

DEFRA have confirmed that the exchange rate for 2015 is £0.73129. This is a reduction of 5.92% from 2014. They have not announced what this will make entitlements worth as there are still various calculations that have to be made in relation to such things as the young farmer payments and the need for the overall cost of BPS to be within the UK allocated budget ceiling. There is also “Financial Discipline”, a mechanism to keep the EU budget as a whole within the level agreed by the EU parliament and the Council of Ministers, to be deducted. Defra have already announced that after voluntary transfer the rate for SDA and Lowland should be around 244euros (approx. £195) and Moorland around 70 euros (approx. £56). The definitive rates should be announced in mid-November 2015.

EXTRACTION OF SAND AND GRAVEL FROM STREAMS AND RIVERS.

The removal of gravel from the bed or banks of a watercourse can cause damage to fish, plants and animals or create an increased flood risk. You may be committing an offence if undertaken without consent from the Environment Agency or Local Authority. Under the Water Resources Act (1991) consent is required from the Environment Agency for works in, under, over or within 5 metres of a designated ‘Main River’. For work on ‘Ordinary Watercourses’ consent may be required from the Local Authority. Please contact Louise Poole from the Environment Agency office in Darlington on 01325 376151 for further advice and to check whether the watercourse is a Main River or Ordinary Watercourse. To ensure you comply with fishery legislation the Environment Agency advise that any gravel beds in streams or rivers in the dale are not disturbed between October and May (inclusive) to protect spawning trout and salmon and their eggs and fry.

UTASS OFFICE CLOSURE.

A reminder that we will be closed from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th November inclusive. If your need is urgent please contact Diane on 07968 874968 at any time. As usual any ARAMS forms or BCMS information posted through the door will be dealt with as appropriate within 24 hours.

FREE ESSENTIAL FIRST AID TRAINING– 3.11.15 – 9.30am-12.30pm

Free 3 hour course delivered here by the St John’s Ambulance - course modules include severe bleeding, chest pains, choking*, communication & casualty care, primary survey, resuscitation* and unconscious casualty* *All ages (baby, child, adult)

INTRODUCTION TO FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE INTERNET

Starting Tuesday, 3.11.15 for 4 weeks from 6pm-8.30pm, accredited with County Durham Learning & including staying safe on line – cost £25 for those not eligible for fee remission. *Please contact Julia for further info on both courses 01833 641010, or julia@utass.org*

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.
Richard Betton.

More overleaf

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