

# UTASS Briefing: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## Coronavirus

In order to minimise the unlikely risk to UTASS staff and ensure that they are available to complete everyone's BPS applications, if you are showing the recognised symptoms of coronavirus:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

**Prior to making or attending an appointment, please contact UTASS by telephone for advice and consideration of the best way of completing your application.**

## BPS 2020

The application window opens on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020**. Applications have to be made by midnight **15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**. Penalty reductions will apply to claims received after this date. As I am sure you are all aware, the Government is considering restrictions to delay/limit the spread of Coronavirus. In light of this we feel it would be prudent for applications to be made as soon as possible in the application window. Please contact UTASS to book an appointment. Overleaf is printed a check list of things to be considered when making an appointment.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

The deadline for annual management claims is **midnight 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020**. All Countryside Stewardship annual claims have to be made on line. We understand that this may be applied to HLS claims this year. The onus is on the applicant to make sure that an annual claim is submitted: failure to do so can result in no payment.

## HEDGEROW AND BOUNDARY CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME (reminder)

This scheme closes for applications midnight **1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**. It is an online application process through the Countryside Stewardship scheme. The maximum grant is £10,000 with all the options being done under "standard costs" (a fixed price per metre). Applications need to be accompanied by photographic evidence showing the condition of the wall or hedge being restored.

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS 01833 641010.

Richard Betton.

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## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR BPS 2020 COMPLETION

### Deadline for submission of claims midnight 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### Members will need to bring along:

- Have you received a paper claim form?  
If so you'll need to bring it as it won't be possible to do the claim online.
- Copy of 2019 BPS CLAIM and any Continuation Booklets submitted in 2019
- Copy of RLE1 including maps if submitted in 2019
- BPS Claim statement for 2019
- Details of any changes to your land area in 2019/20 including land given up, additional land, new buildings etc.
- 10 Digit Customer Reference Number and Registration Password if you have not empowered UTASS to act on your behalf.
- Are you a Young Farmer (40 or under in 2020)  
Evidence of eligibility for those claiming the Young Farmer Payment (form completed by accountant/ solicitors)
- Are you a new entrant? (2014 onwards)
- Bring any BPS correspondence from the RPA 2019/20 including inspection reports
- Do you receive a HLS payment? If so have you received / sent off a claim form?
- Any Mid-Tier or Higher Tier Forms must also complete a claim form which are available online by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
- Please note Hedgerow and Boundary Grant applications will need to be completed in a separate appointment.

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