



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Ein cyf/Our ref – MA/LG/1274/20

Elin Jones AM
Llywydd
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

01 May 2020

Dear Elin,

The Common Agricultural Policy (Payments to Farmers) (Coronavirus) (Wales) Regulations 2020

In accordance with sections 4(1) and 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, as inserted by Sch.10 para 3 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, I am notifying you that this statutory instrument was laid before the Assembly on 30 April 2020 after it came into force at the beginning of that day and comes into force less than 21 days from the date of laying. The Explanatory Memorandum for the Regulations is attached for your information.

Farmers who wish to apply for Direct Payments, and Glastir Schemes have to submit the Single Application Form (SAF), by a date set out in legislation – currently 15 May each year. The same deadline applies for aid applications and payment claims. There is also a window within which farmers can make changes to a submitted SAF, aid application or payment claim if there are any errors or amendments without penalties.

As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the EU has published Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/501 of 6 April 2020 which allows all Member States (including the UK in relation to Pillar 2 – rural development programmes) to choose to extend the SAF, aid application and payment claim deadlines by 1 month to 15 June for claim year 2020. The date for amending a submitted SAF form, aid application or payment claim can then also be amended from 31 May to 30 June. The rationale being that this will ease the administrative pressure on farmers.

The Common Agricultural Policy (Payments to Farmers) (Coronavirus) (Wales) Regulations

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

2020 also extends the transfer and lease (T&L) notification period by 2 weeks. Amending the T&L deadline to 15 May from 30 April moves the transfer deadline as late as possible to align with the 15 May (date land declared must be at a farmers disposal), at the request of stakeholders.

It was necessary to wait for the Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Act 2020 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2020 ("2020 Regulations") to be made before making this instrument to ensure continuity of approach for interpretation. The 2020 Regulations make consequential amendments required as a result of the Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Act 2020 on a UK-wide basis. The 2020 Regulations were made on 27 April, laid before the UK Parliament on 28 April 2020 and came into force on 30 April 2020.

The Common Agricultural Policy (Payments to Farmers) (Coronavirus) (Wales) Regulations 2020 was made on 29 April 2020, came into force at the beginning of the day on 30 April 2020, to ensure there is clarity around submission dates, and was also laid before the Assembly on 30 April 2020, after it had come into force.

Due to the urgent timetable there has been no time to carry out a meaningful consultation or a Regulatory impact Assessment. However, an Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared and this has been laid, together with the Regulations, in Table Office.

The Regulations provide additional time for farmers and landowners to submit their annual claim forms, as a result of requests made by industry representatives to provide flexibility whilst the UK is observing strict social distancing measures due to COVID-19.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd, Mick Antoniw AM, Chair of the Legislative, Justice and Constitution Committee, Sian Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Service and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd