DP 715/03-07

Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside

DEBATE ON THE SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME; MIEC.

DIRECT SPACET SCHEMES (APPLIALS) (WAKES) KEGE 200

9 NOVEMBER SCOT

Our ref: MB/CJ/0825/04

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government

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Mr Brynle Williams National Assembly for Wales Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

29 November 2004

Dear Bynn

THE SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME AND MISCELLENEOUS DIRECT SUPPORT SCHEMES (APPEALS) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2004.

I refer to the question you raised at the plenary session held on 9 November 2004 in respect of the above. You asked,

"I have grave concerns about the handling of cross border holding under the Single Payment Scheme. What is being done?"

## Answer:

As you know I am not in a position to clarify the exact position presently. However, a press notice (copy enclosed) was issued on 16 November confirming how entitlements will be apportioned between each country, which is based on where the land lies. Some issues still need to be resolved on a UK basis but officials will be writing to farmers setting out as much as they can at this stage and inviting them to meetings in early December to discuss their concerns.

Yours sincerely

Carwyn Jones AM



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Topics:

Farming Sheep & Beef; Farming (General); CAP Reform

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## Carwyn Jones announces cross border approach

Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside Carwyn Jones announced on Monday 15 November that farmers who also farm outside of Wales will be contacted shortly to explain how their entitlement to the Single Farm Payment will be calculated.

Mr Jones said: "We are anticipating some 23,000 applicants in Wales for the new single farm payment next year but there are just over 500 potential claimants whose farmed area includes land both in and outside of Wales.

"My announcement today clarifies how we are going to deal with their entitlement in 2005. At the UK level, it has been agreed that the historic reference amount, based on activity and land usage in the 2000 - 2002 reference period, will be apportioned between the regions in which the farming activity took place.

"My officials will be contacting each farmer who falls into the category of a cross border farmer shortly to set out how their historic reference amount will be distributed between land in Wales and for land outside Wales. This would be the basis on which to calculate their SFP entitlement. Farmers will also be advised about meetings that will be held locally at which they would be able to discuss their particular circumstances".

Mr Jones explained that cross border farmers' historic reference data relating to crops would be based on the location of the arable land during the reference period. For the livestock sector, the data would be based on apportioning the historic forage area.

For example, a livestock farmer's average forage land between 2000 and 2002 was split 70 per cent Wales and 30 per cent England. The farmers' average livestock production during this period that attracted CAP subsidy was 100 sheep and 10 suckler cows. The livestock numbers would be distributed pro-rata to the location of the forage area ie 70 sheep and 7 suckler cows to Wales and the remainder to England.

For dairy producers in a cross border situation, the dairy payments in 2005 would be allocated pro-rata to the regional location of the forage area declared in 2005.

With the cross border approach determined, the Welsh Assembly Government will now move forward to settling the Wales financial ceiling that will apply from 2005. This work will be in conjunction with the other UK Agriculture Departments to set the financial ceilings for the other regions within the