

12 November 2013

Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Consultation

A public consultation on the implementation of CAP Reform measures commenced on 31 October and runs until 28 November. The [consultation document](#) includes details about the new environmental land management scheme and a number of questions for which public views are sought. Some budget scenarios are presented in the consultation document to help respondents give an informed response. Chapter five deals specifically with the Rural Development Programme.

We would encourage you to read the document and submit your views to this consultation.

CAP Delivery IT System

Defra are in the process of building a new IT system which will be used for submitting applications and claims for all CAP schemes from 2015 (of which forestry grants are a part).

Over the next year Defra would like to offer customers the opportunity to view, test and comment on the system as it is being developed, so they can ensure that customers' needs are properly taken into account in the design and operation of the system. Defra are looking for land managers, advisers and agents to volunteer to take part in this exercise.

If you are interested, there will be various ways for you to get involved. These might include:

- One to one visits demonstrating the screens to you at your home/office

- Testing via online surveys
- Demonstration events (e.g. at village halls)

If you would like to participate, you will not be required to take part in all the events. Defra will visit different counties and types of rural business over a series of months, and will give advanced notice of 'when and where' so you can confirm whether you will be available or not. It may be a few months before they are in your area.

To register your interest please contact our Business Support team by [email](#) or telephone 0117 372 5118. We will then pass on your details to the CAP Delivery Programme Team.

Consultation on Balance of Competencies

As part of the UK Government's Review of the Balance of Competencies, which will provide an informed and objective analysis of what EU membership means for the UK and our national interest, Defra has recently launched a call for evidence on agriculture.

This will examine the EU's competence (power to act) for the common agricultural policy, plant health, plant reproductive materials and international trade in agricultural goods. It will also consider forestry. The resulting report will examine the scope of the EU's competence, how it is used and its effect on the UK.

We would encourage you to take a look at the [consultation](#) and submit your views.