



Rural Payments
Agency

RECEIVED - 9 NOV 2016

Mr David Hall
National Farmers Union
Agriculture House
1 Moss Lane View
Skelmersdale
Lancashire
WN8 9TL

From
Mark Grimshaw
Chief Executive

8th November 2016

Dear Mr Hall,

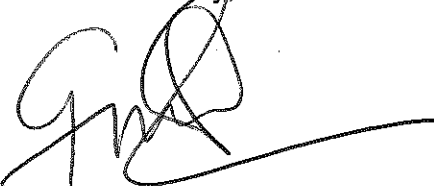
Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments to commoners

Thank you for your letter of 30th September about concerns over BPS payments to farmers in the North West whose claims include common land.

I think that your suggestion of a meeting is a good one. My Operations Director, Paul Caldwell, has good knowledge of commons issues, as well as being based in the North West, so I would like him to meet you and other representatives. This will give him the chance to fully understand the issues which you have set out in your letter and to explain our position. Obviously I would ask him to report back to me. If you are content I will ask Paul's assistant to contact you over possible dates.

I very much understand how reliant many upland farmers are on farm subsidy payments and can assure you that we are doing our best to ensure that payments for BPS 2016 are made far more quickly than they were for BPS 2015.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Grimshaw
Chief Executive Officer

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