



Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 10044

Dyddiad/Date: 15th January 2016

Dear ,

ATISN 10044 – Request for Recorded Information

Thank you for your request which I received on 14 December 2015. The information you requested is contained below:

1. *In ascertaining the extent to which ineligible features have been accurately declared, please confirm if RPW has used the same measuring tool as was available to farmers in the run up to the deadline for submission of the SAF 2015 on RPW online.*

For technical and security reasons, the two systems are based on different platforms. However, both systems use the same Ordinance Survey Master Map base layer and measure to a precision better than the +/- 0.01ha that results need to be recorded to in order to meet EU requirements for land declarations.

2. *If different measuring software/equipment/calibration has been used, please let us have full details.*

See above.

3. *Please confirm which aerial photographs (by reference to the dates for the aerial photography relied upon) have been used by RPW in ascertaining the extent to which there may have been over declarations in respect of trees. 2013 and 2014 (depending on the location within Wales).*

4. *With reference to para 4 above – are these the same aerial photographs that would have been available to applicants via RPW online?*



Yes.

5. *Please confirm which domestic regulations (and which provisions within those regulations) are relied upon and which set out the eligibility criteria in relation to trees. Please confirm as well the EU regulations and the specific provisions within those regulations that form the basis for the rules being applied in respect of trees.*

No domestic legislation is applicable.

Article 9 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 640/2014.

6. *Please confirm the number of SAF 2015 applications validated up to the 14th December where RPW has concluded that there is an over declaration in relation to trees.*

6,565

7. *Please confirm the number of those over declaration cases in respect of which a penalty has been applied.*

1,371. Please note that penalties on these cases include all types of over declarations (e.g. dual claims, other ineligible features, etc)

You may also be interested to know that Rural Payment Wales is currently operating a simplified appeals process to assist farmers who are querying area deductions.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely