



FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

Question number	WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – THE AGRICULTURE IN WALES WHITE PAPER – WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE	Answers
1	Can people choose who they use for the advisory service or will they have to pick from an approved list? Where are Welsh Government going to find appropriate consultants?	We haven't determined that yet. I think what we're talking about here is an advisory service in the most holistic sense. We recognise that different farmers might require advice for different things, and that could be from farm practice, but it also could be business advice for example, and we have a variety of different support mechanisms which could provide those right now, but also in the future. We haven't got to the detail of how and exactly what advice is accessed, but I think the commitment from Welsh Government is to make sure that farmers aren't asked to make this transition to the new proposals on their own. We want to make sure that there is complimentary support along every step of the journey.
2	Regarding guidance and advice, will we be free to source our own advisors (not just from a limited pool) and will farmers be given the responsibility for creating their own farm biodiversity plan?	See question 1
3	This scheme is asking that all farmers will have an initial assessment and then a consultant to provide a Sustainable Farm Plan of the farm. Are there enough consultants to do this?	See question 1

4	<p>The adviser led approach for every individual Sustainable Farm Plan will be hugely costly and a mammoth undertaking, is this a wise use of public funds? How can you ensure consistency of adviser interpretation of the scheme guidance?</p>	See question 1
5	<p>It seems the scheme relies on people to undertake reviews and assessments on-farm, which is likely to be expensive. Also, do you think the human resource is available to undertake this work?</p>	<p>That's one of the challenges and reasons of having an extended transition period, and I think we recognise that different types of farm/farm businesses might require different types of advice. Some may require very little and some may require slightly more to enable them to make the transition into the new scheme. We want to make it as flexible and as accessible as we possibly can in providing that advice, but we also recognise that it's got to be paid for, and it's a Government backed advisory service and we have to demonstrate that it's delivering value for money over that period of transition. We absolutely do hear the fear of armies of consultants wondering around Wales providing advice and the money then not going to the people undertaking the action that we want. We are acutely conscious of that, and building a proposition for advice which reflects that each farm is slightly different and will require something different, but value for money, will be a key consideration of our advisory service proposal.</p>

6	<p>If Welsh Government is going to decide which outcomes are expected on each farm, who is going to do the Farm Review and decide on these required outcomes?</p> <p>Outcomes will need to be very detailed outcomes, in order that it can be decided whether the farmer has achieved these outcomes or not.</p>	See question 5
7	<p>Is the farmer being put first in this, with farmer focused communication, ease of use and with their values being put in high priority? Will other organisations be working together to ensure the smooth run out of this?</p>	We will work with farmers to ensure that the process is as simple as it can be and will be running further phases of co-design to ensure opinions are heard.
8	<p>What will the annual budget be available for the Sustainable Farming Scheme?</p>	We are not in a position to confirm budgets at the moment.
9	<p>You said that Wales had been short changed by the UK Government and your slide said that we will get paid in 2022 if funds allow, but if we've been short changed, how can you guarantee we will be able to get the same amount in 2022?</p>	We cannot guarantee anything until the UK Government confirms the budget. We have set out our intention to pay Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2022 subject to budget being made available.
10	<p>Will future policy include default linkages for Welsh agricultural food products to be directly linked to supply our public body procurement, i.e. schools, Local Authorities, the Senedd and health boards?</p>	We are still developing our policy in this area but we will consider how we can shorten supply chains.

11	How will the supply chain support help land managers achieve landscape scale deer management?	Landscape scale deer management is out of scope for the Sustainable Farming Scheme and Industry and Supply Chain support.
12	Given the onus on environmental benefits, will you be supporting marketing to make this viable in the marketplace?	Yes, the work on sustainable brand values will be an important part of the scheme.
13	Will Welsh Government look at working with the private sector who may be interested in purchasing carbon that farmers can sequester as part of the scheme?	We are interested in how we can leverage private sector funding into the scheme and will be exploring what is possible.
14	What will you do to reduce food waste?	Welsh Government has published a strategy (beyond recycling) which commits to eradicating avoidable food waste. We will do this by working with businesses across the whole supply chain, from farm to fork, to minimise waste, maximise resource efficiency and working to limit food waste in all settings.
15	What about support for local abattoirs to shorten supply chains, reduce meat miles and improve animal welfare?	The detail of the scheme is still being developed and we will seek the views of farmers when we have an initial draft of the approach.
16	We currently get grants for purchasing certain equipment or improving farm infrastructure, are these kind of things going to carry on?	See question 15
17	Are there any plans for a capital grant/investment scheme? The first proposals had two schemes - one for environmental outcomes, the other for capital grants. But now,	See question 15



FARMING
connect
cyswilt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

	that they have been combined, has the capital aspect disappeared?	
18	Will there be a review of capital works payments e.g. for fencing which at present does not cover the price for materials?	See question 15
19	Question in relation to non-landowners. Are there considerations for landless keepers and tenant farmers? E.g. current BPS payments can go to the landlord; some tenancies forbid tree planting or other actions that could be desirable. Will there be advisors and mediators available?	The Minister is really clear that if the new scheme doesn't work for tenants, then it doesn't work. There are proposals in the White Paper around tenancy, so again, anyone who is interested in those then please send us your views and opinions. But we do need to make the scheme work for tenants, and everything we've talked about in the new scheme is to reward the active farmer, so the farmer who undertakes action on their land that is our prerogative here, and where that's a tenant farmer obviously then we want to make sure that they're rewarded, so we have to make it work for tenant farmers.
20	If you're renting land that is currently involved with Glastir payments, as the active farmer on this land, will we get the opportunity to manage the soil and improve them with inputs? Also, in regards to renting land with grazing licences, will the farmer benefit from the payment or the landowner?	See question 19
21	Will tenant farmers be able to access the new scheme?	See question 19

22	Would the new policy be exclusive to the working farmer and not allow landowners renting land out to claim the financial benefits on offer?	See question 19
23	Will tenant farmers be able to access this new scheme and do you envisage problems with landowner's tenancy agreements?	See question 19
24	Will the benefit be to the farmer or the landlord e.g. where the landlord is currently claiming all the BPS etc?	See question 19
25	Question in relation to consolidating processes. Is there any intention to simplify the system for new entrants to register? My business is 6 months old, it was a tangled nightmare, and I'm used to dealing with layers of administration. Could it also include novel business models e.g. shares?	We need to take the opportunity from leaving the EU to make our proposals as administratively simple and practical as we possibly can.
26	Will the scheme be compulsory or voluntary to all farms in Wales?	The scheme is voluntary.
27	How will Welsh Government ensure that from now on, the person farming the land gets rewarded, not simply the landowner?	The proposed scheme is different to current BPS. The fundamental change will be that the level of payment will be linked to the actions which a farmer undertakes.
28	Will the new scheme centre around owning farm entitlements? If so, how does this support all farmers?	See question 27
29	Will entitlements be needed in the future to access support for land management?	See question 27

30	In terms of the new scheme what is the definition of the word FARMER?	We have been clear that payments under the new scheme will go to those undertaking the actions which will deliver the outcomes we are seeking. Payments will not be made for simply owning land.
31	Do you need to be an active farmer when this scheme will be put in place to receive payments?	We have made a commitment that future farm support should reward active farmers who take action to deliver both sustainable food production and environmental outcomes.
32	Is joining the scheme mandatory?	The scheme is voluntary.
33	As part of the co-design work completed contacting 2,000 farmers, did you have a measure of their businesses i.e. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to understand where those farms sat in terms of business performance?	No, the co-design work did ask for some information on farm type but not KPI data. We try to keep the level of data we request to a minimum.
34	What mechanisms are in place to ensure we plant the right tree in the right place? We need to avoid mistakes of the past where large swathes of land were planted with single species Sitka spruce, often to the detriment of biodiversity.	The ERAMMP (Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme) modelling platform takes into account a wide variety of factors on tree suitability such as soil quality, rainfall, slope and climate change. This evidence will inform our policy.
35	We will support a made in Wales approach, but how transparent will the co-design process be so that it will give us confidence?	We will publish the findings of the first phase of co-design and we are planning further phases as our thinking develops.
36	How do you expect the income from subsidies to change based on an average Welsh farm on a percentage basis?	It's too early to say, but we are undertaking a range of economic analyses to ensure that we understand the impact of our proposals.

37	It's apparent that payment levels will be based on delivering public goods, one farm reduces production to attract payments whilst another sees a reduced payment but maintains current levels of food production. What impact will this scenario have on the Welsh economy?	See question 36
38	Is the economic impact based on the farming sector only, or linked sectors such as tourism and the wider economy linked to farming?	We will be conducting an integrated impact assessment which will consider multiple sectors.
39	How reliant are your analyses on environmental impacts for the White Paper on Life Cycle Assessment based systems, which are well known to have certain limitations depending on the available data?	We will take a wide range of evidence into account in developing our policy and will not rely on one type of evidence.
40	Regarding monitoring, what metrics will be used to measure soil improvement? Will there be a baseline survey for soils on all farms?	Soil health is a key element of our policy going forward. We are currently developing our approach to how we will monitor and evaluate the future scheme. This will include soil health.
41	Can James tell us anymore about how they are calculating societal value?	The ERAMMP consortium is developing logic chains which will set out the relationship between the social value of ecosystem goods and services and SLM (sustainable land management) actions undertaken on farms.
42	What baseline ecological data would be helpful to collect now before the onset of future schemes?	Our strategy will build on our previous monitoring and evaluation programme, GMEP (Glastir Monitoring and Evaluation programme), which includes a field survey and on-going assessment of the environmental condition of Welsh land.



FARMING
connect
cyswilt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

43	How will Government measure whether the SMS scheme is succeeding in its ambitions? This will be so important to ensuring continuity of funding to Welsh agriculture. In particular, how will it measure and showcase to the wider public how Welsh agriculture is contributing to mitigating the climate and nature crisis?	The SMS scheme will be evaluated and the findings of this work will inform future policy.
44	Will the White Paper get the go ahead if there is a change of Government in May? Or do we go back to the drawing board?	There are two things I'd say here. Obviously, the political parties in Wales will no doubt be publishing their manifestos for agricultural policy, and I would encourage you all to read those. Moreover, we have taken powers from the UK Agriculture Act to enable continuity and stability in Wales over the next couple of years, but these are time limited powers. Any new Government are going to have to consider legislating in this space if they want to continue operating BPS as it is, or change into the kind of system that we're proposing, and that will mean introducing primary legislation into the Senedd.
45	What provision is there to prevent long term agriculture support goals becoming a political football?	The intention is to set out the overarching principles for agricultural support in legislation which set the strategic direction for all future support.



FARMING
connect
cyswilt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

46 What do you mean by land sharing?

Land sharing is the concept of food production operating alongside the natural environment. We are not proposing a process of agriculture intensification, or of rewilding, or for land to either be taken out of production or put into intensive production. We want the land in Wales, over 80% of which is already used for agricultural practices, to continue to produce food but at the same time to be managed in a way that can deliver environmental benefits. Therefore, farmers sharing their approach between the agricultural production and the environmental outcomes that we're seeking.

47 I think 'land sharing' is a very dangerous phrase. It suggests opening up private land and farming businesses to the public. Are there any other phrases that can be used?

Thank you for the feedback. I hadn't heard of it being used in that context before. I think we use it in a very particular way around agriculture and environment operating in harmony together, but we'll certainly take that feedback on board and consider its use.

48

Would you agree that set levels of fines are not proportionate and favour the bigger farmers? Fines based on percentages are proportionate.

I would really encourage you to respond to our consultation with that opinion. I think we need to make sure that it's proportionate to the type of breach that's occurred. We know at the moment that the Common Agriculture Policy doesn't always feel fair to those farmers that have a disallowance payment for example, because of a technical, field work or a paperwork error, and those are exactly the types of things that we would seek to remove from a future regulatory system. Before we get to a position where we would be seeking to enforce any fines in relation to the farmers, I think we'd be looking at actually what's the damage that's been done to the environment and what's the restitution that can be done as a result of that by the farmer, and to enforce that proportionally. So, I'd welcome that response coming into the consultation. It's absolutely right we need to think about the principle of a set regime against a flexible regime, it is a complex piece of work because it's changing in essence the current cross compliance and legislative framework that underpins it in both EU and domestic law.

49	Regarding enforcement, will there be a right to appeal and will there be an independent arbitrator?	Yes, our proposals will have to have an ability for farmers to appeal any decisions that are made through the enforcement regime, and they will have to have an independent arbitrator to the appeal process. I would reiterate our intent here, it's to make it as easy as we possibly can for farmers in Wales to comply with the existing legislation that is already in place, and we think the way to do that is through advice, support and guidance in the interim. It's only really when we get to the more kind of egregious breaches of existing regulation that we should be considering more different forms of civil sanction or indeed criminal enforcement. I go back to the point about trying to make this as a system that's proportionate but is actually based on a clear policy intent to make it as easy as we possibly can for farmers to comply with the existing law.
50	Will the National Minimum Standards be the same across all sectors of the industry?	The National Minimum Standards will apply to all businesses across the agricultural industry in Wales as defined in the 1947 Agriculture Act, modified by the 1985 Act.

51	<p>If the standards vary too much with National Minimum Standards in Wales and cross compliance in England how will you deal with cross border farms?</p>	<p>The differences between the regulations which currently apply to farmers in Wales and in England are already managed by collaboration between the appropriate regulatory bodies. As part of ongoing discussions with DEFRA and regulators in Wales and England, we will need to consider further what these reforms will mean on a practical level to cross border farms. We will need to ensure farmers with land in Wales have a full understanding of the legal requirements relating to how they farm on that land to avoid confusion.</p>
52	<p>Simplification has been promised. Yet in a very long section of the White Paper you have both cross compliance and civil sanctions in the new scheme.</p>	<p>I'm sure most would agree that the current cross compliance regulations are fairly complex, so what we're seeking to do is to simplify those. So, if you take that as our existing baseline, cross compliance is in operation and has been in operation for farms across Wales under the Common Agriculture Policy, and it's underpinned by domestic legislation. What we want to do is to take the opportunity to simplify that existing regime. I do accept that in the White Paper we do talk about regulation perhaps a little more than anyone would hope to see, but I can't stress enough that the policy intent behind that is to try and simplify the existing legislative framework.</p>
53	<p>Where legal non-compliance is brought to the attention of Welsh Government/Natural Resource Wales (NRW) by members of the public, will the process include keeping the member of the public informed of progress?</p>	<p>This will need further consideration.</p>



FARMING
connect
cyswilt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

54	Were the proposals in this White Paper compiled with consideration of the changes recently announced to Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)?	The White Paper lays out proposals for consolidating existing regulation into a single set of National Minimum Standards. The goal is to provide a single set of regulations, in one place, making them easier to understand. The National Minimum Standards will provide the baseline for the proposed scheme, which proposes to pay for actions which go beyond regulatory compliance, to provide outcomes valued by Welsh society but not rewarded by the market. We work closely with colleagues to stay aware of proposed changes to regulation which may come in to force before the scheme is proposed to commence. We are conscious of the likely level of regulation and are developing proposals for actions which go beyond them.
55	After imposing this very environmentally bias scheme and the proposed NVZ scheme (with no derogation for 80% grassland and uplift to 250kgN) where do you think our food is going to come from, as we will ALL become organic by default?	See question 54
56	Regarding the NVZ's, what is the purpose in having a consultation?	The importance of good engagement and listening to feedback has been at the heart of our approach to policy development – illustrated by the progression of ideas in our two previous consultations and in our approach to co-design.

57	<p>A main focus of the two previous consultations was nutrient management planning which was welcomed. Can you explain how paying for Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) in the new scheme fits in light of the proposed NVZ regulations?</p>	<p>Proposals relating to nutrient management planning are being developed within a wider policy looking at soil husbandry. This includes looking at the physical, chemical and biological components of soil and how changes to soil structure, nutrient management and biodiversity decline will impact the ability of future generations to farm Wales' soils. This includes issues like compaction or erosion, nutrient imbalance and loss of ecosystem services like soil aeration provided by burrowing animals. It is proposed that any scheme will build on the regulations in place at the time so that actions paid for relating to soil husbandry are beyond regulatory compliance, providing Welsh society with outcomes which may include; less loss of soil from farms via erosion, improved quality of water and air, reversal of biodiversity loss. There are a number of ways farmers could work beyond NVZ regulations in the context of a wider soil husbandry policy, including consideration of other applied nutrients, soil carbon content, or physical and biological soil metrics.</p>
58	<p>Will there be a tax on the use of nitrogen fertiliser as part of the NVZ rules ?</p>	<p>No</p>

59

What support are farmers going to get to support them with compliance to the NVZ policy for the whole of Wales.?

Between 2018 and 2020, £22m was made available for farmers through the Sustainable Production Grant to improve nutrient management and to reducing farm pollution. A further £22.5m has been allocated to support farmers during this period and into 2021. This totals an investment of £44.5m. Transitional periods within the regulations provide time for farmers to consider the actions needed to address any infrastructure needs. The capital funding has been allocated in accordance with anticipated demand. This will be kept under review. Detailed guidance on the regulations and support tools will be published in the coming days.

60

Will there be a tightening of rules regarding land management methods used by farmers that are currently causing e.g. soil loss, water pollution?
At the moment, I see slurry spraying and poaching near my local river which may not technically be illegal (I'm not sure) but which are definitely causing pollution and soil loss.

The new regulations will replace the existing NVZ regulations but there will be minimal changes to requirements and practices. The transitional periods will not generally apply to farms within NVZs. Further information will be provided in the guidance documents. These regulations are not punitive. They will establish baseline standards in Wales, comparable to those in the rest of the UK and large parts Europe. Farmers in Wales are just as capable of working to these basic standards and many already do. The regulations are proportionate to the risks of pollution from agricultural practices. They are based on good practice recommendations, so some farmers will see minimal impact, particularly those already following good practice, whilst others will need time and support to improve.

61	Were the proposals in this White Paper compiled with consideration of the changes recently announced to NVZ?	See question 54
62	Is spreading the NVZ area pan Wales an effort to simplify policy?	Agricultural pollution is having a detrimental impact on Wales' environment and because of this, Welsh Government is introducing regulations applying to the whole of Wales. Evidence of poor practice and pollution is not restricted to one area or farm type. The regulations are proportionate, focusing on those farms where the environmental risk from poor slurry and nutrient management is greatest, with farmers who already operate to recommended standards seeing a minimal impact to their practices.
63	If simplifying is the goal, why introduce more paper based regulations with the NVZ for instance?	See question 54
64	Were the proposals in this White Paper compiled with consideration of the changes recently announced to NVZ?	See question 54
65	If the aim is land sharing, is there a possibility that the organic scheme will be opened for new farmers?	There are currently no plans to introduce an organic conversion scheme, although we continue to support the maintenance of organic farming methods for existing contract holders through Glastir Organic, which is now closed to new applications.

66	Are we likely to see an organic scheme in the future?	Our proposal is quite clear that we're looking at a single sustainable farming scheme, which should be accessible to all farmers, and so within that there should certainly be a place for organics. The new scheme is not an organic scheme, but I think some of the types of land management practices that many organic farmers are already undertaking will stand them in good stead for whether they consider coming into the new scheme.
67	Will there be an organic element to the new scheme?	There are currently no plans to introduce an organic conversion scheme.
68	Will the new scheme enhance organic farming as the EU schemes have historically? Also will farms within Glastir schemes have some continuity going forward?	See question 66
69	I am a little concerned as I am in my final year of a Glastir Organic contract. This support has been instrumental in allowing us to grow our business. Can I be sure that there will be replacement to this scheme?	Farm businesses whose Glastir agreements expired on 31 December 2020 were offered contract renewals or extensions until 31 December 2021, this included Glastir Organic contract holders. There is no certainty beyond December 2021; we are considering the future of Glastir contracts in the context of new domestic budgets as they become available, and how the support provided through Glastir should be considered during the transition to future proposed support schemes. Until the future budget is confirmed and how best to transition to any proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme, we are not in a position to make a decision on Glastir contracts beyond December 2021 at the moment.

70	Will future policy recognise and reward the ability of well managed herbivores that enhance ecosystem function and biodiversity on grasslands?	Our proposals are to encourage action on farms to enable animals/farms to produce food sustainably. We're talking about a variety of actions that can be undertaken now, and many farmers already do, to deliver the environmental outcomes that we're seeking. What we propose to do is have a range of actions that should be applicable to farms in Wales, around animal health, around future land management, that farmers can undertake alongside food production, and for which we will then reward them.
71	I understand payment for desired outcomes, but what if we are already taking actions, such as avoiding fertilisers and sprays and improving soils? Will we be paid for continuing what we are already doing?	What we're going to reward is the management of land and if farmers are already undertaking the actions which are delivering the outcomes that we want, and it does mean taking action, it doesn't mean leaving the land alone, farmers should find the transition very straightforward and very simple.
72	Will you be paying farmers on alternative systems that promote soil health and greater carbon sequestration e.g. regenerative farming systems?	Yes, soil husbandry is one of the key areas of interest in the proposed scheme. We are assessing actions for their potential to sequester carbon in soils, to maintain existing soil carbon and to improve all aspects of soil health across the physical, chemical and biological components.
73	Will farmers be rewarded for land being allowed to flood in order to protect housing?	Possibly, that would be part of the detailed scheme proposal which we are still developing. I think if you've got ideas on that I'd encourage you to respond to our consultation and it's something we can certainly look at alongside our water and flood colleagues here in Welsh Government.

74	Isn't paying farmers for actions which lead to outcomes the same as Glastir?	Through the Sustainable Farming Scheme we are proposing to pay for actions which have an evidenced link to economic, social and environmental outcomes. The value of these outcomes to wider society will form the basis for our consideration of payments for actions, rather than the income foregone cost incurred approach of Glastir. Actions within Glastir were prescribed, we are seeking to structure actions which allow farmers to undertake actions using their knowledge of their land/situation.
75	Mindful of our net zero commitment, will the targeted outcomes of improved soils or ecosystem resilience consider on-farm carbon capture?	Yes, this will play an important part of us achieving our net zero target.
76	Do you agree that any carbon sequestration hopefully to be achieved by the scheme must be considered as paying back a carbon debt rather than being a saleable commodity to allow the wealthy to buy their way out of behaviour change?	Agriculture and land use will play an important role in sequestering carbon alongside other sectors meeting their own emissions targets.
77	You refer that this policy includes food production. But it doesn't. This policy direction of a narrow definition of public goods will lead to the death knell of family farms in Wales and a tragedy to the rural economy and Welsh rural communities and businesses. You seriously need a rethink about your direction and change of emphasise.	The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme would reward farmers for implementing actions which deliver Sustainable Land Management (SLM) outcomes, such as water quality, animal health and biodiversity. Sustainable food production is a key part of SLM. There are outcomes which can be delivered alongside sustainable food production; we want to pay for those outcomes.

78	Will improvements in animal health and animal welfare be recognised and rewarded by the new scheme, or only environmental outcomes?	We propose to integrate animal health and welfare objectives into the Sustainable Farming Scheme.
79	There is no mention about rewarding the production of high quality, safe food, only environmental actions. Why is this?	The scheme is designed to pay for outcomes which aren't rewarded by the market. However, rewarding farmers for delivering SLM outcomes will also support farmers to produce food sustainably - food production and environmental resilience are interlinked.
80	How is the government going to measure rural societal sustainability?	We are developing metrics for each of the SLM outcomes.
81	How can you quantify or measure clean air and water in terms of payments?	We are proposing to pay for actions which have an evidenced link to the outcomes we are seeking. This evidenced link will help us understand the level of outcomes being delivered and will be supported by monitoring and evaluation to help further assess this.
82	Because of a finite budget for the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme, will the scheme be set within a competitive framework i.e. will holdings will be scored and ranked and a cut-off set against the constraints of the budget?	We have not made any decisions on payments or how the budget will be managed.
83	When payments are related to environmental benefits it seems to me that large landowners will have more opportunities to provide environmental benefits and will therefore receive greater rewards enabling them to become larger landowners - as has happened	One option to influence the distribution of funding would be to cap payments at a certain level. We are exploring how capping could help us make sure smaller farms get rewarded and the larger farms do not take up a disproportionate amount of the funding.



FARMING connect
cyswilt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

to a large extent with EU payments. What brakes will the new system provide on the snowballing to ever larger units?

84

How will fairness be built into the system? Current payments on the environment are loaded to certain areas with some being disadvantaged against by their location.

Our proposals talk about the actions that should be available on farms, to deliver improved soils, habitat management, animal health and welfare that we've talked about previously. I do believe that the majority of those actions should be available to the majority of farms. I think we do need to recognise that there will be some complexity because no farm in Wales is the same so we need to work through that complexity, but we do need to ensure that the payment rates are proportionate to the action undertaken. We want to make sure that as many farms as possible in Wales come into the scheme. And why do we want that? Well because we want to buy the outcomes off farmers, the public goods that we've talked about in terms of clean air, clean water, carbon capture etc. As a government, we are looking to buy them so we want to make it as attractive as we possibly can, but recognising obviously that that'll have to be within the constraints of whatever budget is agreed upon in future years.

85

Does this mean then, that farmers will only get a payment if they comply with the rules?

Yes. We will only pay for actions which deliver outcomes beyond those required by regulation.

86	To address the biodiversity crash, and bear in mind we will have had a crash in BPS, it is imperative that farmers are paid properly to take land out of production and moved into creating habitat for wildlife. Can you offer any assurance that public payment for public goods will be at a sensible level, way above income foregone as otherwise you will not get the uptake that we need across Wales?	We have proposed to go beyond the 'income foregone and costs incurred' model and reflect the value of environmental goods provided in future scheme payments.
87	How will payment rates be calculated, per hectare or per business?	We are still developing our approach in this area.
88	Will payments be available for all land being managed by an individual at any given time, or will the payments reflect the current BPS entitlement levels of individuals?	We are still developing our approach in this area, but what we are proposing is fundamentally different to BPS and will be based on the level of action undertaken by a farmer.
89	How will the new scheme be paid? By the acre or by any other method? For new entrants, will they be able to get into the scheme?	We are still developing our approach to payments and eligibility for the proposed scheme.

90

How soon can we expect to see some sort of pilot farms or trialling of future schemes? Also, there is very little discussion been about future common land policy and schemes.

We hope to be able to publish further details on the scheme later this year with our next phase of co-design later this year. We hope that that will lead into a test and trial phase of the programme. I talked about our transition starting in 2024, and I think that gives us a good opportunity to test some of the proposals as we run into the scheme. This is important for a couple of reasons, one, we need to demonstrate quite clearly that the actions are feasible on different types of farms in Wales, two, that they deliver the benefits that we're seeking in terms of the environmental outcomes, and three, to ensure that we can make it work for the whole of Wales. Certainly as we come to the end of this year and our next co-design, we will be looking at how we can develop those ideas even further into some practical examples on land in Wales. Recognising that the volume of land in Wales that is under common land arrangements, it is important that the scheme does incorporate the ability for actions to be undertaken on common land. By the nature of how common land is currently organised, we recognise that this may be a more complex part of the scheme to design. But absolutely, we need to make sure that the scheme does reflect the actions that can be taken on common land because of the opportunity for delivering the types of benefits that we're talking about. When we go back to talking about tests and trials, I think it's absolutely essential that we test it in areas like common land to ensure that the scheme can work at a level beyond the individual farm.



FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

91	"Welsh Government (WG) is ready to pay for the following goods...." - clean water. But at the same time WG aims to refine 'civil sanctions regime' to support farmers (for example help avoid 'polluter pays' in NVZs etc). Has Welsh Government got any live pilot projects looking at how to do this?	See question 90
92	Will there be an opportunity to work in the second phase of co-design on natural flood management on our farms?	We are currently scoping the next phase of co-design and will publish details later in the year.
93	Will there be support through Farm Connect to develop pilot schemes to guide transition especially in the area of environment and public goods?	Of course, we're well aware that Farming Connect already run pilot schemes and I think as our scheme development proposals develop, looking to embed some of those proposals in perhaps some of these pilot schemes, and wider than that, through the Farming Connect programme would seem to me a really good opportunity to showcase how effective this new scheme could be, what it would mean for farmers and to enable some of that knowledge transfer of information to happen as well. It would seem to me like an obvious place to look.

94

Are you going to ensure that paperwork is manageable and fair for all?

Yes, I think the Minister's on record in saying that we need to take the opportunity of leaving the EU, to make this as administratively simple and practical as we possibly can. You've started to see some of the changes that we can already introduce in Wales through the simplification consultation that we launched last year to make the existing scheme simpler and easier to administer. We certainly need to take the lessons from years of running Common Agricultural Policy schemes in Wales as we move to the new scheme. We also then need to think about the effective use of technology, and I mean technology in the widest sense, for how farm payments are administered, but also the technology that can be used on farms to ensure effective monitoring and remote sensing of the different types of things that we're seeking to do. So, without a shadow of a doubt, we will want to make this as simple and administratively easy for farmers as we possibly can, and we will support them in that process as well. A key tenant of our proposals is around an advisory service which will be there with the farmers through the transition period to help them move from the current systems to the new.

95

The consultation states that the proposals will lead to an increase in arable and horticulture production. What kind of support will be on offer to achieve this?

Support in the widest sense. We've talked about the revenue support that we're seeking to provide in the future for the Sustainable Farming Scheme. If you've had chance to read the White Paper, you'll also see the business and supply chain support that we're looking to provide, so how we can support new farm businesses and new farm ventures to be successful and flourish, and support again in the widest possible sense, through advice, potentially through capital grants, potentially through knowledge transfer and ability to develop continuous professional development (CPD). We certainly look at supporting all of those aspects, and I think one of the reasons we want potentially an increase in the arable and horticulture sector to thrive is because we want to make sure we have as short a supply chain as we possibly can in Wales. Thinking about those sectors in particular, there may be opportunities to help shorten some of those supply chains and develop businesses in a way that perhaps they haven't been supported to be done under the Common Agricultural Policy.

96

You mentioned consultation many times. Can you please list what actually changed in the White Paper following responses to the proposals in first two consultations?

The previous two consultations were specifically on our proposals for how to support farmers after Brexit. The White Paper sets out the powers we need to do this (as well as for some other powers). You can read our response to the Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation on our website.

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2020-11/sustainable-farming-summary-of-responses.pdf>

97	Who will ensure compliance of this once in place, will it be Local Authorities and Welsh Government?	As is the case now, various public bodies will have these responsibilities.
98	As a marginal hill farmer, my business can only survive with subsidies. After reading the document I cannot see how continuance of support will continue?	I go back to the evidence piece of work that we're doing. We've always been clear that the scheme needs to be available to all different types of farms in Wales, different sectors, different regions, and so part of developing our evidence base is to prove that the types of actions that we're seeing to deliver on farms alongside the payment rates will enable those farms to become part of the scheme and will enable them to be viable in the future. We absolutely recognise those concerns, but we're working on developing the evidence base which will enable us to demonstrate that all different types of farms in Wales could enter the scheme and that the payment rates would recognise the value of the environmental outcomes that they're delivering, so going beyond that cost incurred model that we see at the moment.
99	Will it be viable for upland and lowland farms, i.e. beef and sheep versus dairy?	We aim to list a wide range of various actions which a farmer can undertake on any farm type.
100	Does this mean a more traditional farm should get more help than the large producers i.e. poultry and pig farming?	Most pasture based farms, which are the majority of farms in Wales, should be well suited for the scheme.
101	Our farm is in the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). We hardly can do anything with our land to improve or diversify to make a profitable business and we are not getting any financial support for this. Will this change with	We are exploring how the scheme can support and complement the objectives of conservation areas like SSSI and reward farmers for the important role they play in managing them.

	the new scheme or will there be a benefit financially for being in SSSI?	
102	Will the scheme put obligations on land management to use their land appropriately i.e. horticultural soils being used for horticulture and not for fodder or biofuels?	We haven't made any decision yet on the scheme's eligibility or specified any obligation for how the land is managed, but it is something we are exploring and will work with the industry on.
103	What steps are you taking to avoid the mistakes of the Glastir box ticking approach?	Farmers know their farm better than anyone. Wherever possible, we are trying to build in flexibility to allow farmers to decide how to deliver the actions on their farm.
104	What plans does Welsh Government have to control grey squirrels? Their presence is a huge limiter to options for sustainable land management options e.g. having productive quality mixed broadleaf woodland i.e. replacing meat production with nut orchards (which our climate and many of our soil types are best suited to).	Our Grey Squirrel Management Action Plan sets out what we will do to reduce the effect of grey squirrels on red squirrel populations and woodlands.
105	How much emphasis of the White Paper will encourage youngers into the industry and stop the rural brain drain, where we are losing excellent farmers into urban areas?	We are exploring how the scheme can help bring new entrants and young people into the farming sector, learning from what has and hasn't worked in past schemes.
106	Will the Welsh Government set any targets alongside SMS (Sustainable Management Scheme) - to measure whether it is succeeding in its ambitions e.g. around the mentioned climate and nature ambitions?	We will report annually on how we are progressing against the targets of each outcome and use the evidence we have gathered to show how sustainable farms in the scheme are.

107	If a farm chooses to operate as a business without subsidies and complies with basic rules but chooses to operate on stand-alone financially, would there be potential for funded schemes to be forced upon the business to comply with Welsh Government desires?	The proposed scheme is voluntary.
108	Will the Welsh Government be supporting farmers to sell carbon credits i.e. through peatland code?	We are very interested in designing the scheme in a way so that it can help more farmers access payment for ecosystem services.
109	How do you intend to ensure mixed grazing continues given the importance of cattle for environmental management?	We want to reward mixed grazing and especially the role cattle grazing has in managing habitats.
110	Will breeding horses gain agricultural status within the new scheme as they already do in England?	We'd be interested in hearing more from you on this as part of our White Paper consultation.
111	If actions and outcomes fit the FAWL criteria, would Government recognise "earned recognition" as part of the new funding if producers qualify as farm assured under, for example, animal health and welfare?	Yes, farm assurance and certification schemes will be used as a way of earned recognition where they have the same standards as the scheme.
112	How will it be possible to manage negative public activity on farms e.g. fly-tipping, trespass damage to crop areas etc without penalising land managers under the new proposals?	We expect anyone visiting the countryside to follow the Countryside Code.
113	There used to be a website which stated how much each farm claimed. Will the amount each farm gets be made publicly available with this new scheme?	This was an EU requirement and no decision has been made yet on how the scheme will be administered.

114	Will measuring organic matter levels in soils be one of the measures used to assess soil health?	Yes
115	Will there be support to employ people, thus increasing the skills pool rather than supporting larger landowners to grow bigger?	We are exploring how capping could help us make sure smaller farms get rewarded and the larger farms do not take up a disproportionate amount of the funding.
116	A lot of the environmental work would rely on cattle. Beef numbers are in decline due to TB and an aging farming population, is Welsh Government doing anything to help with TB?	We have seen good progress towards eradication since we established the programme in 2008, with long term decreases in new incidents and prevalence. In the latest 12 months, up to September 2020, there was a 10% decrease in the number of new herd TB incidents compared to the previous 12 months. This is the 27 th consecutive month there has been a decrease in the 12-month total of new herd incidents. At the end of September 2020, 97.3% of beef herds in Wales were free of TB. This is a higher proportion compared to September 2019, where 97.1% of beef herds were free of TB.
117	Will there be a retirement package to enable older farmers to hand over to their sons/daughters and still receive a form of income?	It is not part of our current proposals to have a retirement package for farmers.
118	How much involvement do Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have in this consultation as their attitude to clean water and air, improved soils and ecosystem resilience appears at odds with your aims when applicable to river management and flooding?	We are working constructively with NRW on our proposals for the scheme. Both we and NRW recognise that farmers play an important role in helping us manage the impact of extreme weather (floods and droughts) brought about by climate change and we will work with land managers to enhance this role.

119	Surely environmental sustainability underpins social and economic sustainability, it is not merely an equal third element.	The principle of SLM means that we consider sustainability in the round.
120	Improved soils are a local effect to sustainable land management and so are paid for by the market.	There is a need to incentivise change in practice to achieve improved soil health and deliver the associated outcomes.
121	Do you agree that sustainable land management to achieve our Environment Act and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act requires that we reduce meat production and use our land more imaginatively? (I am not vegetarian and have a small suckler herd!)	Reducing meat consumption is not part of the current proposals for future agricultural support.
122	When you mention not wanting intensification, what is your definition of intensification? Would this include high stocking rates on a grass based system or more towards farms that buy in feed? Would some farms potentially become unprofitable without intensification?	We define intensification as the use of external inputs at a level which causes significant adverse environmental effects. We support practises which enable increased grass utilisation such as mob grazing.
123	If the Welsh language is equal in Wales, why is there no Welsh interpreting service available? Will there be a Welsh version of the slides made available?	Yes, the slides are available online.

124	<p>The focus seems to be mostly on carbon sequestration, as the carbon aims are SMART, whereas the biodiversity aims in the paper are not SMART – they are more ambiguous. As of now loads of farmers are doing Carbon Audits, which may not improve biodiversity on farm level, as the carbon audits themselves are very variable depending on which audit you do.</p>	<p>Biodiversity is a key part of our future policy and we are still developing our approach.</p>
125	<p>Haven't agricultural subsidies been paid by consumers since 1952 through import tariffs rather than by 'generous governments'?</p>	<p>Agricultural subsidies have been paid up to now by the EU from funds paid in by each member state.</p>
126	<p>A question regarding to the use of new technology. Will there be consent or support for new technology, e.g. the new electric GPS livestock collars (replacing electric fencing) that I'm told are currently not supported? What process is there for new technology to go through to be approved?</p>	<p>A key part of our proposals is around the capital elements that might support sustainable land management principles in the future and we think the use of technology whether it be remote sensing or whether it be livestock sensing, we think it'll play a huge part in that. Again, we would be really interested in people's opinions on what type of technology would really help with some of these land management proposals. We of course have a number of schemes that we run at the moment, Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) and Farm Business Grant (FBG) through our Rural Development Programme in particular, and thinking about how those schemes operate in the next couple of years as we transition to the new scheme, and then beyond that in terms of the capital works that we support, we think is really important. So, any ideas on that are welcomed.</p>

127	What about the internet problems we get on a lot of farms? Would we be able to get help with that?	Support is currently available through the Access Broadband Cymru scheme.
128	You mention technologies for monitoring, but there is relatively little support available for farmers towards adopting these technologies which often can require significant investment. Is there any indication of increased funding towards such technologies at government subsidy levels?	We of course have a number of schemes that we run at the moment, SPG and FBG through our Rural Development Programme in particular, and thinking about how those schemes operate in the next couple of years as we transition to the new scheme, and then beyond that in terms of the capital works that we support, we think is really important.
129	Is Welsh Government also ensuring all farms will be connected online in order to comply with the online reporting required? Poor broadband is a significant problem in rural areas.	Support is currently available through the Access Broadband Cymru scheme.
130	Is this transition all dependent on what moneys are given to Welsh Government from Westminster and surely the UK election will have a bigger effect on your proposals than the elections in May?	Once we have clarity about the level of future funding for agricultural support, we will work with stakeholders to develop an appropriate model for transition from BPS to the proposed scheme.

<p>131</p>	<p>What will happen to Glastir schemes, Glastir Advanced and Organic in 2022 and 2023? I am in both and it is frustrating they are effectively frozen. I can't add new land in for example.</p>	<p>Government hasn't made a decision on that at the moment I'm afraid, so I can understand your frustration. Part of the reason for that of course, is the financial uncertainty that Welsh Government has had to deal with over the last couple of years, and now that the money isn't coming from the EU in the same way that it was, we'll look to the UK Government to make good their commitments about not a penny less. I mean, unfortunately, you may have seen played out in the press that that hasn't been the case in the last settlement and we feel that Wales has been short changed by the UK Government in respect of the budget allocation for the next year. I do understand your frustration around those types of schemes for 2022 and 2023, but rest assured that we're very conscious that we need to make decisions on that sooner rather than later so that farm businesses can plan for the future accordingly, and I'm sure it'll be on the plate of a new government after the election.</p>
<p>132</p>	<p>In the transition period I think your suggestion is that Glastir whole farm schemes will continue, which is very good news. Will you be opening these schemes for farmers not currently in them? Glastir Uwch hasn't opened since 2017, as you'll be aware.</p>	<p>See question 131</p>

133	So if BPS is the same for 2021 and 2022 and transition starts in 2024 - what happens in 2023?	One of the reasons why of course 2023 hasn't been confirmed yet is because we have an election this year. It's very difficult for a Government towards the end of its term to make commitments that bind a new Government, but realistically the timeframe that we have set out is already challenging to deliver both in terms of what needs to happen from a Government perspective and a Senedd perspective to enable a transition to start in 2024. This is likely to mean that any incoming Government would only have so many options about what it could do in 2023.
134	If 2022 payment is subject to funding, how will the transition period be funded?	Once we have clarity about the level of future funding for agricultural support, we will work with stakeholders to develop an appropriate model for transition from BPS to the proposed scheme.

135

Would the future budget following the transition be expected to be similar to the current budget?

Welsh Government committed to maintaining funding for the lifetime of this Senedd term. The UK Government in Westminster committed to ring-fencing funding until the end of the next Parliament. I think it's important to be honest and say we don't really know what the position would be thereafter. One really important point to note is that we will have to justify the continued amount of money that goes into this sector, and the budget will undoubtedly be subject to more scrutiny than ever before, because decisions on the budget will be taken in the Senedd. I think we have some certainty for the immediate future, and I think it'll depend on future Government's about what commitments they want to make. And for us in terms of the agriculture sector, I think that it's really important that we justify the value that farming and farm businesses play in their rural communities, to the social fabric of communities. We need to demonstrate that they're making a difference in terms of the economy of those rural communities and supporting viable businesses in those areas, and of course I think we need to demonstrate the environmental difference because so much of land is under agricultural management, the environmental benefits that justify continued support for farming. It's imperative that we do that to make the best possible case we can to retain and protect those budgets.

136

How long do you foresee the transition period lasting for from 2024?

We haven't made a decision on the exact length of time, but we're talking about multiple years. I think in the Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation we asked for ideas about how long it'll last and I think five years is a period of time that people have often talked about. Whilst we haven't made a decision on that, what we're trying to do over that transition period is bring everyone into the scheme and have them operating over that period effectively in the new scheme. We're not looking for a cliff edge here, we're looking for a managed approach to transitioning from a system that's been in place for decades into something new so that will take multiple years.

137

If transition does not start until 2024 and some farmers may want to improve the environment on their farm before then, will they be rewarded for this retrospectively or penalised by not being paid?

We wouldn't be making retrospective payments for a scheme we haven't introduced. I go back to the point about we are going to be paying for the action that's taken on land, so if that action is already taken by farmers then it's going to be a heck of a lot easier for them to demonstrate entry to the scheme, getting into the scheme and being up and running as soon as it's available. It's not about saying "because you already do it we're not going to pay you", it's about continuing that existing good practice so that we can deliver the environmental outcomes we're seeking.

138	How long do you anticipate the cross-over period would be between the two schemes to allow farmers to adapt where they need to?	We understand farmers will need time to adapt to new ways of working and the consequences of the UK's transition from the EU may exacerbate people's concerns. Once we have clarity about the level of future funding for agricultural support, we will work with stakeholders to develop an appropriate model for transition from BPS to the proposed scheme.
139	How long do you expect transition to last?	See question 138
140	When you say transition will start in 2024, when in 2024 will that be and over how many years do you expect full transition to be achieved?	We have not made a decision on that and it would be something for the next Senedd to decide.
141	Is it the case that individual BPS payments this year (2021) are set to reduce by about 5%?	The total direct payment ceiling of £238 million will provide the same level of direct payments to farmers in 2021, as was provided in 2020.
142	Can you assure us that there won't be a hiatus between the schemes please?	There will be a managed transition between the current schemes and any future support.
143	We were considering the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme which is multi-year. Should we still get involved given that forestry is not in this scheme and that grants will likely be terminated in the next few years?	Longer-term, the new Sustainable Farming Scheme will play a key role in this by supporting farmers who choose to plant new woodlands and improve management of existing woodlands. The current process for funding and approving new woodland creation can be complex, which puts people off planting trees. We plan to improve the current process, and these changes will be carried forward to the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

144	<p>Welsh Government wants to include primary powers for Welsh Ministers to create and amend organic regulations in Wales and the ability to set standards. How does this relate to the internal market in the UK and why did Welsh Government see it as appropriate to insert such a clause?</p>	<p>This will allow Welsh Ministers to decide the future direction of organic production in Wales, in line with the principles of such production, reacting to the evolving needs of the sector.</p>
145	<p>What is the difference between the English Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) and what's planned for Wales? If devolution is being implemented here in Wales, why is it so similar to England rather than developing a bespoke scheme for Wales?</p>	<p>I would probably say imitation is the most sincere form of flattery. I think if you followed our policy development process over the last few years, and England's policy development process over that time, you might see that the Welsh proposals were actually out far earlier than anything that came out around ELMS. Having said that, it's not for me to stand here and talk about English policy, it's for me to talk about Welsh policy. I think we're very proud about the ambition we have for farming in Wales, working in harmony in that land sharing approach alongside sustainable food production, but playing a vital part into the nation's response to the climate and nature emergency's that we face.</p>
146	<p>Is the licensing of agricultural hemp being devolved to Welsh Government?</p>	<p>Industrial hemp is licenced by the Home Office if they have low tetrahydrocannabinol content. We are not aware of any plans to devolve this.</p>

147	What process ensures that Welsh White Paper proposals don't disadvantage farmers trading in the UK single market compared to farmers from the other UK nations?	We have agreed a non-legislative framework for UK collaboration, coordination and co-operation on agricultural support. The framework provides a mechanism where cross border issues can be raised, impacts of new policy discussed and the potential for a forum to be established as a voice for cross border issues across the governments.
148	How will land in England farmed by Welsh farmers be treated under cross border rules?	See question 147
149	Will the rules on production be the same as the rest of the UK so no extra paperwork is needed to sell animals or farm products across the border?	See question 147
150	In asking Welsh farmers to undertake options that will be in the scheme, will you be integrating farm woodland management and forestry/ new planting/hedgerow establishment and restoration into the same scheme as other farming options or will they be segregated?	They will not be segregated. We will be taking a holistic approach to farm woodland creation/management and agroforestry.

151

Why allow pre-emptive felling of ash? Older trees, which are those that would present a hazard, develop die back relatively slowly, so there is time to monitor and make decisions about tree safety after it shows signs of ill-health. Your prediction of 96% mortality is way too high. We need to focus more on tree health; unstressed trees that are pruned professionally and have their root area respected by heavy machinery and cultivation are more healthy.

Ash dieback is not specifically a forestry or arboriculture challenge as it affects multiple land-use sectors across rural and urban parts of Wales. Welsh Government is currently drafting guidance for different scenarios aimed at practitioners and regulators, regarding how collaboratively we can best manage our ash trees in light of ash dieback, maintaining the important forest resource for future generations while improving the resilience of our woodlands in light of environmental change.

The figure of 96% mortality comes from a published article which had contributors from Woodland Trust, Fera, Sylva Foundation and Oxford University.
<https://www.fera.co.uk/news/ash-dieback/> How woodlands are managed in Wales is the responsibility/liability of the owner/managers. It is not always practical for all woodland owners to follow your suggestions below regarding pruning and management regimes. Woodland owners/managers with ash elements that are regularly managed for multiple-purposes, might remove the ash in these woodlands to reduce the risk of danger from falling branches and trees to both the operators and the public. We are still learning about the disease and other factors which might rapidly impact the structural integrity of the trees, e.g. secondary diseases. You can read more out ash dieback disease on the Forest Research website here:
<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/>





FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

152	Thank you James for this introduction. You have talked about farmers but there is no mention of foresters. Having read the White paper, there is no support being offered to foresters and owners of forest land. The only mention is of more regulation for forests. Have I read this correctly?	There are proposals in the White Paper about forestry particularly about giving Ministers powers around environmental impact assessments for example. Naturally, the focus of these proposals are around agriculture and replacing the Common Agricultural Policy. But if you look at the wider Welsh Government policy landscape and our proposals for a national forest and support for sustainable timber production in Wales there is much more beyond in terms of the Government's proposals around supporting forestry in the future.
153	Welsh Government has set a target of increasing woodland by at least 2,000 hectares a year. How will this run alongside sustainable food production?	Farming can play an important role in the tree planting target and can do so in a way where we will not need a major shift in how farmland is managed. For example, through managing farm woodlands, hedges and through in-field trees, either on their own or as part of a shelter belt or buffer strip.
154	What obligation will be placed on farmers to contribute to tree planting targets where there land is identified as suitable for planting on the opportunities map?	Woodland planting will be incentivised in the scheme but will be a voluntary action.
155	We, as farmers, need to be able to tell the nation that we are helping solve the nature and climate crises that we face, can you reassure us that the future scheme will support us to do that?	Farmers play a vital part in the economic, environmental and social well-being of Wales. We want to support them in evidencing their sustainable food production credentials, which will not only help secure the value of Welsh food in Wales and beyond but also demonstrate the contribution they are making to solving some of our most pressing environmental problems.
156	Where can we see the proposals as they are now?	Here is the link to the Agriculture in Wales Paper which sets out the proposals to date https://gov.wales/agriculture-wales-bill



FARMING
connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

157

I would like to know what will happen to 'Active Farmers' who don't have any stock but who completely manage their farms (mine is only 18ha) themselves, and make all meaningful decisions and completely maintain it themselves please in the future? I have entitlements and receive the BPS.

I let my farm out with Grazing Licenses now which I print myself, for 9 months of the year.

The proposed scheme is different to current BPS. The fundamental change will be the level of payment will be linked to the actions which a farmer undertakes. We have been clear that payments should be rewarded to those undertaking the actions and therefore delivering the outcomes we are seeking.