



Ms Lesley Griffiths
Minister for Rural Affairs
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



07541711107



@CarolynThomasMS



@CThomasMS

Friday 10th December 2021

Dear Lesley Griffiths MS,

Re: Farm Payment Caps in Wales

I am writing to you as Minister for Rural Affairs in relation to farm payments caps as part of the upcoming Sustainable Farming Scheme. As you will be aware, the existing Basic Payment System in Wales includes a cap on payments.

A number of farming communities have raised concerns with me that there has yet to be a commitment from the Welsh Government to retain payment caps under the new system. Currently, there is no cap on farm payments in England and this has led to exorbitant sums of taxpayers' money being funnelled into the pockets of rich landowners and members of the aristocracy.

In 2020, the following payments were made under the uncapped English farm payment system:

Beeswax Dyson Farming Ltd.	£2,844,779
Owned by: Sir James Dyson	
Dyson's net worth: £16.3 billion	
UK rich list: No. 4	

Elveden Farms Limited	£1,091,960
Owned by: The 4 th Earl of Iveagh, Edward Guinness	
Guinness' net worth: £934 million	
UK rich list: No. 175	

Grosvenor Farms Ltd.	£511,348
Owned by: The Duke of Westminster	
Duke's net worth: £10.05 billion	
UK rich list: No. 12	

The examples provided above are just a few of many, with large numbers of already very rich landowners swallowing up huge amounts of taxpayers' money through the English farm payment system.

The existing Welsh farm payment system has a cap of £300,000, which means that these sorts of obscene amounts of money are not paid out currently in Wales. There are additional benefits to a cap; they help to ensure that payments are distributed fairly and given to hard working family farms, rather than large landowners.

The examples provided above show that any steps taken to remove farm payment capping in Wales would be a retrograde step for the Welsh farming community and a gift to the rich. I would welcome your commitment to including farm payment caps within the new Sustainable Farming Scheme to prohibit the hoarding of payments by rich landowners and to provide a fair distribution of payments to those most in need.

Yours Sincerely,



Carolyn Thomas
Member of the Senedd for North Wales