



# News Report

## from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*For Staffordshire*

Release: Immediate  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
Brussels: 00 322 284 7407  
UK: 01676 530 621

### **Farm payments report is “Classic example of waste and incompetence”**

Euro MP for Staffordshire, Philip Bradbourn has spoken out in anger after a report from the National Audit Office has once again revealed the blundering of the British government in paying EU subsidies to farmers.

The report said the administration of the Single Farm Payments scheme did not provide value for money for taxpayers, and it accused Defra of showing scant regard for protecting public money.

The review also claimed that the cost of processing claims has risen to around £1,743 per claim under the complex system used. Meanwhile the cost per claim under the simpler Scottish system is £285.

The Single Farm Payment was introduced by Margaret Beckett in 2005. At the time, she went against all warnings and created an overly complex system for administering the payments, which resulted in substantial delays for farmers.

Speaking from Brussels, Mr. Bradbourn said:

**"The government, ignoring all advice and common sense, created an overly-complex, incredibly bureaucratic system for administering the payment of EU subsidies to farmers in rural areas such as Staffordshire.**

**The Single Farm Payment is yet another poster-child of waste and incompetence from this Labour government who continue to fail to support British farmers. Ministers who have overseen this debacle owe Staffordshire farmers an apology.**

**This system does not offer value for money or efficiency and must come under further scrutiny and reform so that farmers within my constituency can receive the subsidies that they are entitled to, and depend upon."**

**ENDS**

For more information please contact Alastair Little in Brussels on 00 322 284 7407 or Paul Brannon in the UK on 01676 530 621.