

FARMING AND PROPERTY BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 2020

Harvest 2020

The intermittent rain has prevented significant progress in the 2020 harvest in many parts of the country with the cereal harvest looking set to be one of the worst for 30 years. UK wheat production is expected to be less than 10million tonnes for 2019-20.

Planning Reform Proposed

The government is proposing that the planning system in England undergo its biggest reform since 1947. It released a Planning White Paper and Consultation, 'Planning for the Future', on 6th August 2020. This reform is aimed to free-up constraints on development in order to drive economic growth whilst, at the same time, protecting important areas and delivering 'sustainable, beautiful, safe and useful development'.

The full consultation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future> The closing date for the consultation responses is the 29th October.

Environmental Targets

The Government has set out how it will use 'ambitious, legally binding targets' to protect and enhance the natural environment under its landmark Environmental Bill. The proposed objectives for targets and the priority areas are as follows:

- **Water** – targets to tackle pollution from agricultural and waste water. Also, a target on water demand to reduce the amount abstracted.
- **Air Quality** – targets to reduce public exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5).
- **Resource Efficiency & Waste Reduction** – targets to increase resource productivity and reduce residual waste together with plastic pollution.
- **Biodiversity** – targets to restore and create wildlife habitats and increase species population on land and also in fresh water and the sea.

The policy paper can be found via <https://www.gov.uk/government/pulications/environment-bill-2020/august-2020environment-bill-environmental-targets>.

Residential Lettings and Coronavirus

The Government has announced that the ban on evictions from residential properties will be extended for a further four weeks, in both England and Wales, until Sunday 20th September 2020. This was originally due to end on Sunday 23rd August. Furthermore, the Government has announced, for England only, the notice period to evict a residential Tenant will be increased to six months.

The above measures have been introduced by the Government in order to give Tenants more protection from eviction due to the effects of Coronavirus, with the longer notice period designed to give the Tenant security over this winter.

It is worth noting that this ban does not apply to cases where the Landlord is seeking eviction because of anti-social behavior, domestic abuse or if they have not received rent for over a year from the Tenant. When these eviction hearings are resumed in courts such serious cases will be prioritised.

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