

PRESS RELEASE



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Cuts to rural funding ahead?

The rural world is anxiously waiting to hear how the wholesale budgetary cuts the coalition government has now announced will filter down to them. Principal concerns at the present time centre on jobs generally in rural based government advisory bodies and also with regard to some of the grant schemes that are currently on offer.

Andrew Bays of BCM comments: "As with many industries, we are only really now beginning to see the real effects of the cuts the coalition government have announced. As far as our clients are concerned the effect looks as though it is going to be two fold. Firstly, in terms of grant availability it appears that there is a fairly significant question mark hanging over some of the land based schemes currently on offer. This may have particular relevance to Higher Level Stewardship, Entry Level Stewardship and other government funded schemes. The best advice at present is if farmers are considering entering these schemes they should press ahead and do so as swiftly as possible. That said, with the cuts about to be announced it may well be that it is already too late to get one of these schemes signed up. Secondly, the reduction in government head count may well provide significant challenges to the delivery of these schemes."

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