

FARMING REGULATION TASK FORCE

Chair: Richard Macdonald

London, 17th May 2011

Press notice

Two hundred ways to cut farmers' red tape

The Government could ease the burden of red tape our farmers and food producers face in more than 200 ways, according to a new report published today.

The recommendations, made by the independent Farming Regulation Task Force, follow an extensive review of all regulations that affect farmers and food producers. Richard Macdonald, the Chair of the Task Force, and Task Force members will present the report to Agriculture Minister Jim Paice today.

Farming Regulation Task Force Chair Richard Macdonald said:

“Our two hundred recommendations challenge Defra to change the way it approaches regulation for the farming and food processing industries.

We’ve listened to what farmers and food producers have to say about how regulations and processes could be improved without reducing standards; things like a simpler livestock movements regime, reducing paperwork associated with Nitrate Regulations and improving bureaucracy around the Common Agricultural Policy. We’ve also looked at the big picture and recommend a new approach to regulation based on trust, responsibility and partnership between Government and industry.

Our recommendations won’t all be easy but they are credible and, I believe, now is the time for change. The farming and food processing industries need to contribute to economic recovery and produce more food in a sustainable and safe way. To make this happen, the Government needs to change the way it deals with them. By accepting our recommendations Defra will show that it is prepared to do this. It is now for Defra, its agencies and delivery partners, and industry to respond to the challenge.”

Notes to editors

- *To contact: Richard Macdonald, chair of the Farming Regulation Task Force (07768 448351) or Rebecca Kenner, Task Force Secretariat (020 7238 1066).*
1. The Farming Regulation Task Force was announced by Jim Paice at Cereals 2010 on 9 June 2010.
 2. The Task Force report and a summary of recommendations can be found at www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/farm-manage/farm-regulation/.