

AGRICULTURAL DWELLING HOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEES IN ENGLAND

Publication Scheme

Introduction

1. Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees (ADHACs) are established under the Rent Agriculture Act 1976. Committees are convened locally and hear about 40 – 50 individual cases each year. Members are drawn from membership panels maintained by the Defra offices at Crewe and Bristol. Committee meetings are set up on an ad hoc basis according to the business to be conducted. Committees consist of:

- 1 member representing agricultural worker interests - nominated by the Transport and General Workers' Union (now Unite)
- 1 member representing agricultural employer interests - nominated by the National Farmers' Union
- 1 independent member who acts as Chairman and who is appointed from a panel of persons approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

ADHACs are appointed by the Chairman of the Agricultural Wages Committee for the area.

2. Agricultural workers living in tied cottages generally have security of tenure. However a farmer may apply to the Local Housing Authority to have a protected worker re-housed if he / she needs the cottage for a replacement agricultural worker in the interests of efficient agriculture. In such situations the Local Housing Authority, the farmer or the cottage occupier can ask an ADHAC to give advice on the case made by the applicant concerning the interests of efficient agriculture and the urgency of the application.

3. As the issues dealt with by ADHACs are personal in nature, meetings are held in private in order to protect the interests of the individuals concerned.

Publication of Information

4. The ADHACs, along with every other public authority have from November 2002, a legal duty under Section 19 of the Freedom of

Information Act 2000 to:

- adopt and maintain a scheme which relates to the publication of information by the authority and to have that scheme approved by the Information Commissioner
- publish information in accordance with that scheme
- review the scheme from time to time.

The Freedom of Information Act creates a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities, sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities. The ADHACs are public authorities under this legislation and are therefore bound by its provisions. The general right of access will be introduced in January 2005.

5. This publication scheme specifies:

- the classes of information which the public authority publishes (or intends to publish);
- the manner in which information in each class is, (or is intended to be), published and;
- whether the material is (or is intended to be) available free of charge or on payment of a fee.

6. The ADHACs will publish information in accordance with this scheme and will monitor and review its operation. Please note:

- The ADHACs intend that this will be a living document, which will be modified and developed in the light of public comment and feedback.
- Sometimes, the ADHACs may still have to withhold information if it considers that it is necessary for reasons such as confidentiality, unwarranted invasion of privacy, commercial sensitivity, national security or for some other legitimate reason. When considering whether or not to withhold information, the ADHAC will take into account the grounds listed in the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act. It will also consider whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. In any event, if an ADHAC does have to withhold information, the Chairman will explain why it has done so.

- This scheme is not retrospective, and the ADHACs do not undertake to publish information held by it which was generated before [30 November 2002], the date the scheme came into force.
- Information retention periods can vary from class to class. If you have an enquiry about a specific information class, please contact:

For Avon, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hereford and Worcester, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Isles of Scilly, Kent, London Boroughs (North of the River Thames except Richmond), London Boroughs (South of the River Thames including Richmond), Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, West Midlands, West Sussex, Wiltshire

ADHAC Secretary, Bristol Defra Office

DEFRA
Zone 2/18, Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6EB
Tel: 0117 372 3510

For Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Durham, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Tyne and Wear, West Yorkshire

ADHAC Secretary Crewe Defra Office

DEFRA
Room 109, Hornbeam House
Electra Way, Crewe
Cheshire CW1 6GJ
Tel: 01270 754236

7. This Publication Scheme is intended to help you find ADHAC information easily and quickly and to improve the flow of information into

the public domain. The ADHACs are committed to monitoring, reviewing and updating the scheme, and would welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about improving the Scheme. If you have any comments, write to or email the appropriate ADHAC Secretary (see paragraph 6 above).

Information Classes

Class Annual Report on Wages in Agriculture

Description Report to Parliament on the operation of the Agricultural Wages Board, Agricultural Wages Committees and the Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees. Each report covers a calendar year.

Availability This is a priced publication available from The Stationery Office Ltd.

Class Agricultural Wages / Housing Legislation

Description Agricultural Wages Act 1948
Rent (Agriculture) Act 1976
Housing Act 1988
Regulations made under these and other related acts

Availability These are priced publications available from The Stationery Office Ltd.