



Our Farming and Crofting Communities

The Basic Payment Scheme acts as a safety net for farmers and crofters by supplementing their main business income. This is one of the largest rural grants / payments that provide support to the farming industry and based on eligible criteria, the farming community can apply once a year and payments thereafter begin in December.

As with most business transactions, these are commonly attended to online where application forms are completed with personal details and on being submitted, result in various email updates in terms of how an application is progressing through to its conclusion.

We would encourage our partners within the farming and crofting communities to continue being vigilant with their business activities online and that they carefully observe all their financial transactions.

We ask this of you in relation to the common and widely experienced online crimes of Business Email Compromise (BEC) and Email Account Compromise (EAC) which are used by online criminals to convincingly scam people. These convincing scams can cause many issues from identity theft to financial loss.

If you are in any way unsure of an email you have received which asks you to take some form of action you would not normally take, or you are uncomfortable with a change of previously agreed arrangements, never just respond accordingly, always reconsider and if need be contact the sender by another means such as by phone to confirm what is being asked.

Below is a link to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSCC) and the Small Business Guide which is extremely informative with practical guidance on how to keep secure online.

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/small-business-guide>

You can report suspicious emails by forwarding the original message to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at report@phishing.gov.uk

If you have been a victim of crime, and it is not an ongoing emergency, you can report this to Police Scotland on 101. For all emergency calls, dial 999.

*This alert was sent out for your information by Police Scotland Safer Communities
Cybercrime Harm Prevention Unit - PPCWCyberHarmPrevention@scotland.pnn.police.uk
All information was correct at time of distribution. 19/11/2020.*