



House of Commons
Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs Committee

**Farming in the
Uplands: Government
response to the
Committee's Third
Report of Session
2010–11**

**Fourth Special Report of Session
2010–12**

*Ordered by the House of Commons
to be printed 27 April 2011*

HC 953
Published on 4 May 2011
by authority of the House of Commons
London: The Stationery Office Limited
£0.00

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its associated bodies.

Current membership

Miss Anne McIntosh (*Conservative, Thirsk and Malton*) (Chair)
Tom Blenkinsop (*Labour, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland*)
Thomas Docherty (*Labour, Dunfermline and West Fife*)
Richard Drax, (*Conservative, South Dorset*)
Bill Esterson (*Labour, Sefton Central*)
George Eustice (*Conservative, Camborne and Redruth*)
Barry Gardiner (*Labour, Brent North*)
Mrs Mary Glendon (*Labour, North Tyneside*)
Neil Parish (*Conservative, Tiverton and Honiton*)
Dan Rogerson (*Liberal Democrat, North Cornwall*)
Amber Rudd (*Conservative, Hastings and Rye*)

Nigel Adams (*Conservative, Selby and Ainsty*) and Mr David Anderson (*Labour, Blaydon*) were members of the Committee during this inquiry.

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No. 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at

www.parliament.uk/efracom

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Richard Cooke (Clerk), Lucy Johnson (Second Clerk), Sarah Coe (Committee Specialist—Environment), Rebecca Ross (Committee Specialist—Agriculture), Clare Genis (Senior Committee Assistant), Jim Lawford and Anna Browning (Committee Assistants), and Hannah Pearce (Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5774; the Committee's e-mail address is: efracom@parliament.uk. Media inquiries should be addressed to Hannah Pearce on 020 7219 8430.

Fourth Special Report

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee reported to the House on *Farming in the Uplands* in its Third Report of Session 2010–11, published on 16 February 2011. The Government response to the Report was received on 19 April 2011.

Government response

Introduction

The Government is grateful to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee for its Report 'Farming in the Uplands' (February 2011) and for its recognition of the economic and social challenges, and opportunities, faced by hill farmers and wider upland communities.

The Government has carefully considered all of the recommendations made by the Committee, and this document sets out its response to the Committee's Report. In view of the wide ranging nature of these policy areas, this response has been compiled with important contributions from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK).

The English Uplands are nationally and internationally important for the value of their landscapes, biodiversity, agriculture, recreational opportunities, archaeology, and cultural and natural resources. The uplands face all the challenges that characterise much of rural England, such as a lack of ready access to services (including transport and broadband) and affordability of housing and energy. The Government has recently completed a review of policy affecting the uplands in order "to identify the framework conditions which will enable the English Uplands to become more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable".

The *Uplands Policy Review* was launched by the Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP on 10 March 2011. This landmark statement sets a new course for the Government's approach to the English Uplands, which will involve a very wide range of partners across society: farming and other businesses, local government, statutory bodies like National Parks, or voluntary bodies such as the National Trust and the RSPB. The 23 commitments to action set out in the *Uplands Policy Review* can only be delivered by all these partners continuing to work together to help create a sustainable future for the uplands.

