

Press Release

**From Councillor Barry Stamp
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
Stafford Borough Council**

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MP Challenged to Support Vote of No Confidence in Rural Payment Scheme

On the eve of this of this year Staffordshire County Show a leading Stafford Liberal Democrat has challenged David Kidney, the towns MP, to back his call for a vote of no confidence in the Governments handling of the single farm payments to local farmers.

Speaking at a meeting of Liberal Democrat supporters Cllr Barry Stamp said it was appalling that the majority of local farmers were still waiting for payments under the scheme which was trumpeted by the Government as being simpler and quicker to operate.

“Living as I do in the heart of the rural community which surrounds Stafford, and knowing many local farmers, I am acutely aware of the finance hardship many are facing as they wait for their long promised payments under the Single Farm Payment Scheme. While the Government is keen to paint a rosy picture that all is well in the countryside many local farmers are struggling to make ends meet. Time and time again I am being told that something must be done as matter of urgency before many businesses are forced to close. What is clear is that the current system is just not working and the Government is just floundering under the sheer weight of the bureaucracy it has created. I would challenge David Kidney to support me in my call for a vote of no confidence in the way this situation has been handled. However if he fails to rise to this challenge perhaps he would agree that the Government should now make substantial interim payments, and that he will use his influence as the Parliament Private Secretary to David Miliband the new Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ensure this happens. Many small farmers already struggle to keep their businesses afloat and for many this lack of action on rural payments will be the straw that breaks the camels back,” said Barry Stamp.

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