



Agriculture Act 2020

2020 CHAPTER 21

PART 1

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CHAPTER 1

NEW FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POWERS

4 Multi-annual financial assistance plans

- (1) The Secretary of State must from time to time prepare a document (a “multi-annual financial assistance plan”) giving information about the expected use of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by section 1 during the period to which the plan relates (the “plan period”).
- (2) A multi-annual financial assistance plan must (as a minimum)—
 - (a) specify the plan period,
 - (b) set out the Government’s strategic priorities for giving financial assistance during the plan period, and
 - (c) describe, in such manner and giving such detail as the Secretary of State considers appropriate, each financial assistance scheme that—
 - (i) is in operation, or
 - (ii) the Secretary of State expects to come into operation during the plan period.
- (3) The plan period for the first plan is the period of seven years beginning with 1 January 2021.
- (4) The plan period for a subsequent plan may not be shorter than five years.
- (5) The Secretary of State must ensure that the plan period for a plan does not expire without a new plan being in place for a plan period beginning the day after the last day of the expiring plan period.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (6) A plan prepared under this section must be laid before Parliament, and published, by the Secretary of State—
- (a) in the case of the first plan, as soon as practicable before the beginning of the plan period for the plan, and
 - (b) in the case of a subsequent plan, at least 12 months before the beginning of the plan period for the plan.
- (7) Where, before the end of the plan period for a plan—
- (a) the Government’s strategic priorities for giving financial assistance change, or
 - (b) it appears to the Secretary of State that any information given in the plan by virtue of subsection (2)(c) has ceased to be accurate and complete,
- the Secretary of State must amend the plan accordingly as soon as it is practicable to do so.
- (8) A document setting out amendments being made to a plan must be laid before Parliament, and published, by the Secretary of State, as soon as practicable after being prepared.
- (9) The Secretary of State must have regard to the strategic priorities set out in the plan by virtue of subsection (2)(b) when determining—
- (a) what financial assistance to give;
 - (b) the overall budget for, or for any period of operation of, a financial assistance scheme.
- (10) In this section “the Government” refers to Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom.