



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Dear Sir/Madam,

INFORMATION ON GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND VARIETY LISTING (GB/NI VL) AND PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS (PBR) FEE CHANGES AND ENGAGEMENT PERIOD

I am writing to notify you of a number of planned changes to GB/NI VL and PBR fees. These changes will take effect from 9 January 2023. A six-week engagement period has been launched ahead of these changes taking effect.

It is UK Government policy to charge for many publicly provided goods and services. The standard approach is to set fees to recover the full costs of service delivery. This relieves the general taxpayer of costs, so that they are properly borne by users who benefit from a service. This allows for a more equitable distribution of public resources and enables lower public expenditure and borrowing.

Plant Varieties and Seeds services, including GB/NI VL and PBR, operate in line with this principle of full cost recovery. Plant Varieties and Seeds fees are reviewed regularly and adjusted to ensure no under, or over, recovery of costs.

Please send any comments on the planned fee changes to pvs.helpdesk@apha.gov.uk by 28 November 2022.

Comments provided in response to this letter and the Variety Listing and Plant Breeders' Rights Fees Refresh Information Paper, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you submit your comments. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation.

However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

The changes to fees are set out below.

1. Increase in the administration fee for GB/NI VL and PBR.

	Existing Fee (£)	New Fee (£)	% Increase
Joint GB/NI VL and PBR administration fee	450	598	32.9%

2. Increase in the administration fee for VCU.

	Existing Fee (£)	New Fee (£)	% Increase
VCU administration fee	165	173	4.8%

3. Increase in AFBI's DUS fees and annual charge for herbage.

	Existing Fee (£)	New Fee (£)	% Increase
DUS Fee	788	1091	38.5%
Annual Charge for herbage	422	584	38.4%

4. Increase in SASA's DUS fees and potato VCU fees.

Test	Crop	Existing Fee (£)	New Fee (£)	% Increase
DUS	Vegetable	1,294	1,525	17.9%
	Vegetable Pea	1,334	1,515	13.6%
	Field Pea	1,394	1,575	13.0%
	Swede	1,010	1,050	4.0%
	Turnip Rape	1,325	1,560	17.7%
	Potato	451	1,080	139.5%
VCU	Potato	1,064	2,058	93.4%

5. Increase in NIAB's DUS fees.

	Existing Fees (£)	New Fee (£)	% Increase
Winter cereals	985.00	1,016.52	3.2%
Spring cereals	985.00	1,016.52	3.2%
Field beans arrangement fee*	2,985.00*	3,080.52*	3.2%
Field beans published fee (50% arrangement fee)	1,492.50	1,540.26	3.2%
WOSR, fodder rape + fodder kale	1,755.00	1,811.16	3.2%
Sugar beet	600.00	619.20	3.2%
Ornamentals (glasshouse)	2,250.00	2,322.00	3.2%
Ornamentals (outdoors)	1,950.00	2,012.40	3.2%

* For Field Beans, Defra will continue to support the difference between the agreed Arrangement Fee and the published DUS Test Fee, taking into account any volume changes. The DUS Test Fee for Field Beans will be approximately 50% of the Arrangement Fee.

These changes are immediate measures to ensure that the full costs of the services provided are reflected in the fees. A wider review of GB/NI VL and PBR fees in the UK is planned in the next few years to take account of the changing volumes of UK applications and work in these areas.

More details on the changes are provided in the attached information paper.

Yours sincerely

Michael Brown