



**Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency**

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Plant Varieties and Seeds  
Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Rd,  
Cambridge  
CB2 8DR  
[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

June 2023

VL and PBR 4\_2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **NOTIFICATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND VARIETY LISTING (GB/NI VL) AND PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS (PBR) NEW FEES 2023**

On Monday 17th October 2022, I wrote to notify you of a six-week engagement period on a number of planned changes to GB/NI VL & PBR fees. The notification letter for GB/NI VL & PBR was sent to around 500 stakeholders across Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with a total of 5 responses received. The six-week engagement period has now ended, and the new fees will come into effect from Saturday 1 July 2023.

The main points raised in response to the notification letter were:

### **Proposal for phased implementation of GB/NI VL & PBR fee changes**

Responses proposed a phased implementation of the GB/NI VL & PBR changes to allow time for the retendering of contracts for the delivery of variety listing and the start of implementing a new VTS system.

The proposal has been considered; however, phased implementation would lead to an under-recovery of costs which is not in line with government policy (Managing Public Money, HM Treasury, March 2022). Plant Varieties and Seeds services, including GB/NI VL & PBR, operate in line with this principle of full cost recovery to relieve the general taxpayer of costs, so that they are properly borne by users who benefit from a service. The current fees create a subsidy to users of the service and a cost to the taxpayer.

### **Improved timing and regularity of fee changes**

Some responses asked for GB/NI VL & PBR fees to be reviewed more frequently.

A full review of GB/NI VL & PBR fees in England and Wales is planned in the next two years, through which businesses and stakeholders will have the opportunity to further engage and provide feedback on changes to this service.

Following this full fees review, we plan to regularly examine GB/NI VL & PBR fees (currently reviewed every two years in similar policy areas) to ensure fees remain reflective of service delivery costs.

### **SASA's Potato DUS Fee Increases**

The potato DUS fee has shown little increase even in the years before the last revision of the Revised Fees for GB/NI VL and PBR services which came into effect 1st April 2014. The new fee is a more accurate evaluation of the charge when considering current staff and operational

costs whilst also meeting the target of full cost recovery. The potato DUS fee is competitive when compared to, for example, [CPVO](#) and the [Board of Plant Varieties in the Netherlands](#).

A full breakdown of SASA's DUS and potato VCU fee calculations is available upon request. Any enquiries should be sent to [VarietyTesting@sasa.gov.scot](mailto:VarietyTesting@sasa.gov.scot).

Yours sincerely

Michael Brown

***Plant Varieties and Seeds Team, APHA***

• **See Appendix I (following pages) - New fees with effect from Saturday 1 July 2023**

**1. Administration fee for GB/NI VL and PBR.**

	<b>New Fee (£)</b>
<b>Joint GB/NI VL and PBR administration fee</b>	598

**2. Administration fee for VCU.**

	<b>New Fee (£)</b>
<b>VCU administration fee</b>	173

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

	<b>New Fee (£)</b>
<b>DUS Fee</b>	1091
<b>Annual Charge for herbage</b>	584

**4. SASA's DUS fees and potato VCU fees.**

<b>Test</b>	<b>Crop</b>	<b>New Fee (£)</b>
DUS	Vegetable	1,525
	Vegetable Pea	1,515
	Field Pea	1,575
	Swede	1,050
	Turnip Rape	1,560
	Potato	1,080
VCU	Potato	2,058

## 5. NIAB's DUS fees.

	<b>New Fee (£)</b>
Winter cereals	1,016.52
Spring cereals	1,016.52
Field beans arrangement fee*	3,080.52*
Field beans published fee (50% arrangement fee)	1,540.26
WOSR, fodder rape + fodder kale	1,811.16
Sugar beet	619.20
Ornamentals (glasshouse)	2,322.00
Ornamentals (outdoors)	2,012.40

\* 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.