# Labour peers fiercely oppose severe cuts to farm payments in Lords debate



Labour peers in the House of Lords have expressed strong opposition to a draft bill introduced by the government that proposes significant cuts to farm payments. This legislation, officially known as the Agriculture (Delinked Payments) (Reductions) Bill, aims to reduce farmers’ delinked payments—an essential financial support system that succeeded the pre-Brexit Basic Payment Scheme—by 76% by 2025. Under the new proposals, payouts would be capped at £7,200, a drastic reduction that has raised considerable concern among agricultural stakeholders.

According to statistics provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), approximately 42% of UK farms are currently unprofitable without the support from the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). The impending cuts have been framed by the government as a necessary measure to reallocate funds towards environmental initiatives, including Environmental Land Management schemes aimed at promoting sustainable farming practices.

During a recent session in the House of Lords, two Labour peers spoke out vehemently against the proposed reductions. Lord Grantchester criticised the Treasury’s handling of the initiative, claiming it strangles "every good initiative at birth." He emphasised the need to recognise the important role that all farms play in achieving environmental and sustainability targets, arguing that the harsh financial measures could undermine these objectives.

In a separate contribution to the debate, Labour peer Lord Rooker made clear his discontent with the proposed regulations. He stated, “It is only my respect for this House and our procedures that prevents me walking out, because I have not the slightest intention of voting to support these regulations. I will abstain on both amendments. I will not hang around during the votes; I shall go.”

The proposed cuts have sparked a wider conversation about the balance between environmental stewardship and the financial viability of farming operations in the UK. Labour peers are reportedly feeling pressure from within their own ranks regarding this legislation, indicating a division within the party on how best to support farmers while pursuing environmental goals.

As the debate continues, it remains to be seen how the government will address the concerns raised by peers and the potential implications for the agricultural sector in light of these proposed changes.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/delinked-payments-replacing-the-basic-payment-scheme> - This official UK government guidance outlines the transition from the Basic Payment Scheme to delinked payments, detailing the reduction percentages and payment caps for 2025, which are central to the proposed cuts discussed in the article.
2. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/debate/2023-03-28/lords/lords-chamber/direct-payments-to-farmers-reductions-england-regulations-2023> - This Hansard record captures the debate in the House of Lords on the Direct Payments to Farmers (Reductions) (England) Regulations 2023, highlighting the concerns raised by Labour peers, including Lord Grantchester's criticism of the Treasury's handling of the initiative.
3. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/lord/lord-grantchester/debate/2023-03-28/lords/lords-chamber/direct-payments-to-farmers-reductions-england-regulations-2023> - This extract from the House of Lords debate features Lord Grantchester's speech, where he criticizes the government's approach to reducing farm payments and emphasizes the need to recognize the role of all farms in achieving environmental and sustainability targets.
4. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/debate/2023-03-28/lords/lords-chamber/direct-payments-to-farmers-reductions-england-regulations-2023> - This Hansard record includes Lord Rooker's statement expressing his discontent with the proposed regulations, where he indicates his intention to abstain from voting and not support the amendments, reflecting the strong opposition within the House of Lords.
5. <https://www.parallelparliament.co.uk/debate/2023-12-13/lords/lords-chamber/agriculture-delinked-payments-and-consequential-provisions-england-regulations-2023> - This Hansard record documents the debate on the Agriculture (Delinked Payments and Consequential Provisions) (England) Regulations 2023, providing insights into the legislative process and the discussions surrounding the proposed cuts to farm payments.
6. <https://www.fwi.co.uk/business/business-management/agricultural-transition/defra-data-reveals-sharp-cuts-in-delinked-payments> - This article from Farmers Weekly discusses the projected decline in delinked payments, as revealed by DEFRA data, highlighting the financial impact on farmers and the shift in funding for other farming and countryside programmes, aligning with the concerns raised in the article.
7. <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMimwFBVV95cUxQdEMxVHdDT2NCWGNnMGF3c1h4YWwtWWtEY3JkVGxONHJqVm1jT0JZZExlc0txY29sNktkMXBMNi1hVk5Fb2FPaE1nMHQ4Z1hYSWNjandvU3ZpSUZld1pLVnFPelZ3d2UyMVRBUFdwWVZDbVVGcEY4M1I5Z3d4UTBRZXl1RW1qckVVQ3pDZTNuenpRbXpyOWc1VDdlVQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data