

ARC Addington Fund Strategic Rural Housing Scheme

Guidelines for applications to the scheme

The Scheme exists to help farmers who have made a living from full time farming and have to leave their farm and by doing so will therefore lose their home and cannot find suitable housing without our help. These are the only circumstances where we are able to help. Meeting the criteria does not automatically ensure a successful application.

If successful, the Fund will purchase a house in the location of the applicant's choice and then let it to them at a rent that will cover all maintenance and administrative costs. This is currently approximately £350 per month for each £100,000 of the purchase price. There is also an option for shared equity if that is appropriate. Many of our tenants have been eligible for housing benefit. You may find the Citizens' Advice Bureau a good source of advice on benefits. Please do not be put off from asking.

Please find below the stages your application will have to go through. We must emphasise that every part of the process must be completed before a final approval can be reached.

1. Initial interest in the scheme either by direct approach from prospective applicant or contact made from a third party. Initial registration form is sent out. Either third party or applicant returns initial registration form. If it is likely that the application is 'out of remit' it will be referred to the next panel meeting for approval to proceed or rejection.
2. A member of Farm Crisis Network will be asked to contact you in order to complete a financial assessment form. This will be done in the privacy of your home and if a third party referred you to us, he/she may also be present if you wish. The financial assessment form requires a very thorough look at your business and will be completed with the utmost confidentiality and respect. We will also require 3 years' accounts. This detailed report will then be looked at during one of our Panel meetings. A decision will be made then whether the application is
 - approved to the next stage
 - or rejected – in which case you will be notified in writing
3. A home visit by members of the ARC Addington Fund will be arranged in order to meet you and discuss your application further. Again your third party and/or FCN representative may be present if you wish.
4. Following this visit a written report will be submitted to the Panel and Trustees for final approval. The Trustees' decision is final. The case may only be reviewed in the light of new information, if it becomes apparent that original information was not available at the time of consideration or if your circumstances have changed. The final outcome will be notified to you in writing. Copies of the letter will be sent to your initial third party and the FCN representative.

Submission of an application assumes you accept the above procedure.