

AHDB VuB Report scheme

(Reference DMA 009/2015¹)

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) is the organisation that helps to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of various agriculture and horticulture sectors in the United Kingdom. AHDB's horticulture team has responsibility for achieving this in relation to horticulture in Great Britain.

AHDB has obtained rights to provide the Annual Reports of Versuchs- und Beratungsring Baumschulen e.V. Schleswig-Holstein ('VuB') to persons paying horticulture levy to AHDB. AHDB Horticulture recommends that horticulture levy payers participate in this scheme and receive these reports. AHDB does not have rights to supply these reports to any other person.

Because of this selective provision, AHDB needs to satisfy EU State aid rules by providing these reports under this '*de minimis*' scheme, which imposes obligations on AHDB and those of its horticulture levy payers who choose to receive the reports. Those levy payers will receive State aid under this scheme having a nominal value of £50 per year.

This scheme will run from 1 December 2015 until 31 December 2020, and will be limited to a maximum total payment of £50,000.

AHDB reserves the right to:

- reduce the total funding available under this scheme.
- discontinue or postpone the scheme at any time without notice.

A form is annexed to enable you as a payer of horticulture levy to AHDB to participate in this scheme.

We look forward to receiving your application.

¹ This document is available at <http://www.ahdb.org.uk/procurement/>.

Legal Matters

The award of a grant under this AHDB VuB Report scheme will constitute 'State aid'. The aid will be provided as agricultural *de minimis* aid under Commission Regulation (EU) 1408/2013², which prohibits any undertaking from receiving more than €15,000 of agricultural *de minimis* aid over a rolling three year period. Any agricultural *de minimis* aid granted over the €15,000 limit may be subject to repayment with interest.

AHDB must check whether an award under this scheme will breach that limit. The application form therefore requires you to inform AHDB if you have received any agricultural *de minimis* aid over the last three years (from any source). You would have been told that the aid was *de minimis* aid granted under Regulation (EU) 1408/2013 or Regulation (EC) 1535/2007. No other type of funding counts towards this maximum.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs ('Defra') requires AHDB to record and provide Defra with the identity of recipients of agricultural *de minimis* aid, together with the amounts granted and date(s) of grant. The data may be provided to any organisation granting *de minimis* aid and will be passed to UK or Union authorities on request. AHDB and Defra may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

² Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid in the agriculture sector; OJ L352, 24 December 2013, p.9. An electronic copy will be provided on request.

**AHDB VuB Report scheme
Participation Form**

To participate in this scheme, please complete and send this form to:

**AHDB (VuB Report Scheme), Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2TL; or
electronically to Hort.Funding@ahdb.org.uk**

Name of Applicant:

Name of Business:

Business Address:

.....

..... Post Code:

Telephone:

Mobile phone:

E-Mail:

I wish to participate in the AHDB VuB Report scheme.

My business grows horticultural products in Great Britain and pays horticulture levy to AHDB.

My horticulture levy reference number is

I understand that AHDB will maintain records of any aid granted to me under the scheme and will provide this information and relevant information about my business including personal data if required to do so by British or Union authorities or for the proper management and operation of this scheme and the associated research scheme.

Declaration:

In my current fiscal year and the previous two fiscal years:

I have not received any agricultural *de minimis* aid³

I received a total of £ of agricultural *de minimis* aid

(* delete/complete as appropriate)

I will inform AHDB of any future grant of agricultural *de minimis* aid that I may receive from any source prior to AHDB making any grant under this scheme

Signed Date:, 20.....

Position in the business:

³ The only funding that you need to include when you are making this declaration is *de minimis* aid provided under Regulation (EU) 1408/2013 or Regulation (EC) 1535/2007. It may or may not have been described as agricultural *de minimis* aid.

AHDB and the relevant UK and EU authorities reserve the right to examine the recipient's records to ensure the accuracy of this declaration.