



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 15/24

# Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS): Introducing new Flat Rate for EHC related costs from 1 May 2024

Date issued: 22 April 2024

## Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians and Certifiers on the Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS) of a policy change that comes into effect from 1 May 2024, changing reimbursements for EHC- related costs from capped to a flat rate.

## Background

Under the Movement Assistance Scheme, the Government currently reimburses certifiers for an EHC up to a set amount (cap).

From 1 May 2024, Defra is simplifying the reimbursement process for the Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS) by introducing a new **flat rate for EHC costs** which aims to streamline the reimbursement process, reduce administrative burden, and expedite payments. What is changing:

- **Non-Equine Expenses:** The maximum payment cap of £150 (plus testing costs) will be replaced by a **flat rate payment of £150** (plus testing costs).
- **Equine Expenses:** The maximum payment cap of £500 will be replaced by a **flat rate payment of £325**.

The new flat rate amounts effectively represent current average payments for both categories (non-equine claims almost always reach the cap). The overall budget for MAS remains the same.

These adjustments are designed to simplify invoicing and payment processes, particularly in relation to travel and associated costs which have become increasingly complex and prone to error or mistake over time. This makes it easier for certifiers to invoice and for

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payments to be processed more effectively. Flat rate payments also encourage efficiency, so this is fairer to the taxpayer.

## Details

- Move from cap to flat rate payments for EHC related costs only, for equine and non-equine reimbursements.
- EHCs certified with a signed date of 30 April 2024 or earlier will be reimbursed up to the cap if invoiced within 90 days of the certification date.
- MAS will continue to accept claims for reimbursement / waiving of qualifying costs incurred on movement of goods up to 30 June 2025.
- You can continue to invoice the trader for the balance of your charges should the total cost exceed these limits.

## Action

You should continue to use the guidance and procedures outlined within GOV.UK and the APHA Vet Gateway.