P&L AgriConsulting

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Re. Agricultural requirement for an additional dwelling.

I am writing to support the need for an additional residential property at Rudyard Hall Farm, ST13 8PT.

The business farms some 350 acres, which supports a dairy herd of 200 cows plus followers, and over the last number of years has made significant financial investments into the business

Like every business in this time of austerity, there is a continued need to ensure the business proposers during this time of hardship for dairy industry. To this end the business needs to ensure that it not only meets all the welfare needs of the stock, but ensure the business meets all the additional requirements to ensure that it remains on the "Tesco Muller ".milk contract. (currently 7 ppl higher than many standard milk contracts)

With changes to the Tesco milk contract, over recent months, means that each farmer has to produce milk that meets "Tesco Livestock code of Practice" , which monitors areas such as lameness , cleanliness , mortality , and cow Health . With the worst performing herds asked to improve or they will have to leave the contract.

As farming is a 24/7 operation , there is a need to ensure that this farm is not in the bottom 25% of the in any area of the Livestock code of Practice , and one of the areas of concern , at Rudyard Hall Farm , surrounds calving , which can happen as much outside normal working hours , as within .

With many of the calving tasks requiring two people to undertake them safely if this falls outside the normally working day (working day 5.30 am to 6.30 pm), it only leaves Mr. Robinson Senior to deal with any problems, a task which is not only unsafe, but is almost impossible with this size of unit, given that on average there are 4 to 5 calvings per week .

This is why there is a need for a second dwelling, so another member of the family can be permanently on hand.

For these reasons I believe that this business requires a second residential house, without it, it would be detrimental to the future success of the business.

Yours sincerely

Peter Long
Director. P&L AgriConsulting Ltd.