

How R.A.B.I is helping during the Coronavirus pandemic

R.A.B.I has adapted its processes in order to continue providing support to the farming community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Office-based staff are working remotely, in line with Government guidance, whilst regional welfare officers – who provide the human link between the charity and those needing help – are manning the confidential Freephone Helpline 0808 281 9490.

R.A.B.I has welfare officers throughout England and Wales and much of their regular work involves making personal visits. Now, in addition to providing frontline telephone support, regional welfare officers are also working hard to contact the hundreds of people the charity already assists to make sure they are OK.

Trish Pickford, R.A.B.I Head of Welfare, said: “For some, just having someone to talk to is a huge help during this time of social distancing and isolation. Those we support long-term really appreciate receiving a call and knowing that we’re here to help.”

R.A.B.I is receiving many calls from people affected by the Coronavirus, both directly and indirectly.

Trish added: “One issue we’re seeing as a result of the pandemic is that those who earn additional money off-farm have now lost their second income stream. Many farmers’ spouses have lost their jobs and can no longer provide that extra financial security.

“One couple who contacted us can no longer make meat deliveries as they both have underlying health conditions and have been forced to self-isolate. They have no other means of generating income.

“People are still coming to us with the same problems they had before the outbreak, but some of those everyday issues are being exacerbated by Coronavirus.”