



Rural Payments  
Agency

**Information Rights Team**

Rural Payments Agency  
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**16 March 2017**  
**Ref: RFI 4379**

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: Environmental Information Regulations – Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information dated 20 February 2017, which has been dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

To answer your questions:

- **Following the closure of the claims period for tranche one of the [Voluntary Milk Reduction] scheme on February 14, can you tell me how many claims were submitted overall in the UK and specifically in Northern Ireland.**

The total number of claim submitted to the RPA, in tranche one of the voluntary milk reduction scheme, was 1460. Of which 452 were from customers in Northern Ireland.

- **What will the value of claims in Northern Ireland be?**

The current value of claims from Northern Ireland is £1,765,067.76. Please note this is subject to the satisfactory conclusion of any outstanding inspections.

- **When can farmers expect to start receiving payments and what will the process be?**

RPA began crediting customer bank accounts on 28 February 2017. Some claims were subject to an inspection, and we are continuing to process those claims.

If you are not happy with the way we have handled your request, you can ask for an internal review. These requests should be submitted in writing within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be addressed to the Information Rights Team at the Rural Payments Agency, North Gate House, 21-23 Valpy Street, Reading, RG1 1AF or alternatively email your request for a review to [irt@rpa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:irt@rpa.gsi.gov.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted RPA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: [Information Commissioner's Office](#), Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this let us know.

Yours sincerely

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