



Rural Payments Agency

20 December 2022

Our ref: RFI 6374

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations – Information Request

We refer to your request for information dated 4 November which we have dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in providing a full response.

You have asked for:

1. *A breakdown on all payments made in 2021 and 2022 (to date) by NUTS region, under:*
 - a) *The new Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)*
 - b) *Countryside Stewardship (CS)*
 - c) *Local Nature Recovery*
 - d) *Existing Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreements*
2. *The total number of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments made under each existing scheme in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date), together with the total amount of payments made under each scheme in each year broken down by payment band (i) under £30,000 (ii) £30,000-£50,000 (iii) £50,000-£150,000 (iv) more than £150,000.*
3. *The total number of farm businesses that are signed up to participate in Environmental Land Management schemes (ELM) in each year in total and for each ELM programme.*

Please find some of the information you have requested in the attached annexes.

This is correct as of 6 December when it was collated.

You will note that there is a category entitled 'Unknown'. To advise further, one of the search criteria we used was the business address given by the payment beneficiary. For these payments, the business address we hold does not correlate to any NUTS

region. For example, the address we hold may not be in England or there may be a typographical error in the address information provided.

To clarify, any payments made will not be affected by this because we have verified the land, upon which the subsidy claim has been made, is in England, and further checks are made to ensure all scheme rules are met.

With regard to Point 1, the Local Nature Recovery scheme does not start taking applications until 2023. Therefore this information is not held.

With regard to Point 3, Environmental Land Management schemes (ELM) covers the following three schemes:

- Sustainable Farming Incentive
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape Recovery

The Local Nature Recovery scheme and the Landscape Recovery scheme have not started taking applications, so this information is also not held.

The information you have requested is therefore exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(4)(a) EIR 'Information not held'. This is a qualified exemption, which usually means that a public authority is required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. However, the Information Commissioner (IC) takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose. Therefore, in line with the IC's view RPA has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

What you need to do

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. You should email your request for a review to IRT@rpa.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 need further information

If you have any questions about this email, you can contact us by email irt@rpa.gov.uk.

You can find more information on how we handle personal data in our [Personal Information Charter](#) and [RPA Customer Privacy notices](#) on [GOV.UK](#)

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Team

Rural Payments Agency | Eden Bridge House | Lowther Street | Carlisle | CA3 8DX

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