



Rural Payments Agency

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**9 December 2023**

**Our ref: RFI 6762**

Dear [REDACTED],

### **Environmental Information Regulations – Information Request**

We refer to your request for information dated 24 November which we have dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Please find answers to your questions below.

**1. What was the amount of the total funds made available to the UK within the terms of its RDPE growth programme?**

The indicative budget for the RDPE Growth Programme was £179m (excluding the Rural Broadband Infrastructure Scheme).

**2. What happened to the funds after Brexit? Did they expire? Or endure? Or did the continued availability of EAFRD funding depend on any other circumstance in order to continue to be available in the UK?**

Growth Programme funds remained available to the UK after 31 January 2020.

**3. How many projects were offered grants under the programme and with what total value?**

As of 28 November 2023, 1,145 Growth Programme projects were awarded £183m (inclusive of any approved variations to uplift initial grant awards).

The Growth Programme committed the last of its available funding in 2020.

**4. What is the total of funds actually paid to projects that have succeeded?**

As of 28 November 2023, £152m has been paid to Growth Programme projects.

Any underspend across socio-economic schemes (including the Growth Programme) has been re-cycled under RDPE agri-environment schemes to ensure all RDPE programme funds have been fully utilised.

**5. How many of the projects which were offered grant have completed, and how many have failed?**

As of 28 November 2023, 965 Growth Programme projects were complete, 23 were in progress and 157 had either withdrawn from the scheme/been terminated or had claims rejected.

**6. How much of the total funds received by or available to RDPE were disbursed and how much remains in the hands of RDPE?**

As of 31 March 2023 £3,963m has been spent across the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development - RDPE. As such the overall EAFRD (Euro) budget was exhausted by end of March 2023.

**7. In regard to any such surplus, what is to be the purpose to which they will be applied?**

There are no surplus funds, the EAFRD budget was exhausted by 31st March 2023.

**8. What, if any, is the deadline for re-allocation of unspent monies?**

The RDPE has no unspent budget.

We also attach Annex A below, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

**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](mailto: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 by following the link to the Information Commissioner's website [here](#).

They can also be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted RPA's own complaints procedure.

**If you need further information**

If you have any questions about this email, you can contact us by email [irt@rpa.gov.uk](mailto: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

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