



Rural Payments Agency

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**05 February 2024**

**Our ref: RFI 6796**

Dear [REDACTED],

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

We refer to your request for information dated 8 January which we have dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You have asked for the total financial value paid out by Defra/RPA, through Agri-environment schemes, in the 2022-23 financial year, for Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England.

Please find the information you have requested:

The total financial value paid by DEFRA/RPA, on any land parcel containing Sites of Special Scientific Interest, between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 was £97,855,937. This total is correct as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

The calculation of the total value paid was determined by identifying parcels of land that:

1. were registered on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022
2. contained Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and
3. received payment between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, from either the Countryside Stewardship scheme or Environmental Stewardship scheme.

The number of parcels, that were subject to payments under the Countryside Stewardship scheme, was 312,040 hectares, of which 200,560 hectares contained Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The number of parcels, that were subject to payments under the Environmental Stewardship scheme, was 850,888 hectares of which 566,409 hectares Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Please be advised, that payments made under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Environmental Stewardship scheme, may be subject to Post Payment Adjustment. Consequently, payments made between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023, may subsequently have been adjusted by way of increase or decrease, in the form of

additional payment(s), or recovery of payment(s) made. Our calculations do not include any potential adjustments made.

### **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.

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

### **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**

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

**Tel:** 03300 416502 | **Email:** [IRT@rpa.gov.uk](mailto:IRT@rpa.gov.uk)

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