

7 February 2024 Our ref: RFI 6800

Dear

Environmental Information Regulations – Information Request

We refer to your request for information dated 11 January which we have dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You have requested the following information relating to Countryside Stewardship (CS) payments:

- 1) How many claims were settled each month of the Dec 22/June 23 payment window this can be in total numbers or as a percentage.
- 2) How many claims have been settled in the 1st month of payments this year?

As already agreed, we have interpreted your wording 'how many claims have been settled' to mean how many claims received a full payment in the date ranges specified in your request.

Please find the information you have requested below. This represents the number of claims where a full payment was made in each month:

	December	January	February	March	April	Мау	June
2022 Paid Volume	17,907	1,602	2,023	1,653	395	209	192
2023 Paid Volume	19,943						

To advise further, the '2022 paid volume' relates to the 2022 CS scheme year and the date range covered is December 2022 to June 2023. The '2023 paid volume' relates to the 2023 CS scheme year and the date range covered is December 2023.

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 <u>IRT@rpa.gov.uk</u>

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 <u>here</u>.

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.

You can find more information on how we handle personal data in our <u>Personal</u> <u>Information Charter</u> and <u>RPA Customer Privacy notices</u> on <u>GOV.UK</u>

Yours sincerely

Information Rights Team

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