



Rural Payments Agency

29 January 2025
Our ref: RFI 7259

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations – Information Request

We write further to our email of 13 January following your request for information dated 6 January, which we have dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You refer to amendments made to the Agriculture Act 2020, specifically the additions in Chapter 1: 'New financial assistance powers' and requested confirmation of the following, please note we have numbered for ease of reference:

1. How much public funding has been given to 'ancillary activities' since the amendments took place in 2024?
2. Of this funding for 'ancillary activities', how much has been given to slaughterhouses?
3. Of this funding for 'ancillary activities', how much has been given to processing plants (that do not slaughter on site)?
4. As part of the funding, how many individual slaughterhouses have been given public funds?

We respond as follows:

1. The relevant schemes relating to 'ancillary activities' are the Smaller Abattoir Fund and Farming Investment Fund Adding Value.

The total grants awarded for the Smaller Abattoir Fund amounts to £1,131,570.90, of which £159,289.66 has been paid.

The total grants awarded for the Farming Investment Fund Adding Value amounts to £10,457,374.44, of which £5,629,350.24 has been paid.

2. We do not have a breakdown of the figures solely for slaughterhouses. Therefore, this information is 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.

Please be advised, however, that we can confirm the combined total of grants awarded, and paid, to both slaughterhouses and processing plants

The total grants awarded to slaughterhouses and processing plants under the Smaller Abattoir Fund amounts to £1,131,570.90, of which £159,289.66 has been paid.

The total grants awarded to slaughterhouses and processing plants under the Farming Investment Fund Adding Value amounts to £493,801.32, of which £360,358.00 has been paid.

3. We do not have a breakdown of the figures solely for processing plants. Therefore, this information is not held. The information you have requested is therefore exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(4)(a) EIR 'Information not held'.

We would, however, refer you to the information provided in our response to question 2.

4. Please be advised that we are unable to provide a separate breakdown of the figures for each of slaughterhouses and processing plants. Therefore, this information is not held. The information you have requested is therefore exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(4)(a) EIR 'Information not held'.

Please be advised, however, that we can confirm the combined total of both slaughterhouses and processing plants that have been awarded a grant and received payment.

There have been 47 grants awarded to slaughterhouses and processing plants under the Farming Investment Fund Adding Value, of which 11 have been paid.

There have been 4 grants awarded to slaughterhouses and processing plants under the Smaller Abattoir Fund, of which 2 have been paid.

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

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.

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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