

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmyltaght, Bee as Eirinys

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator

Corporate Services Directorate, Thie Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St John's, Isle of Man, IM4 3AS Tel no (01624) 685854 Fax no (01624 685851

Email: defa@gov.im www.gov.im

Quoting Ref: IM65502I

Your Ref:

2nd November 2016

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2015 (FoIA) Ref: IM65502I Farmer Payments

Thank you for your request dated 25th October 2016

You asked:

The amount of money paid to farmers as provided for by the Country wide scheme

Response to your request:

The most important agricultural support scheme administered by the Department is the Agricultural Development Scheme 2015 (ADS), so we presume this is the scheme you refer to and have answered your request on this basis. In short, in 2015, farmers were paid £6,448,739 under the terms of the ADS.

The information for the 2016 scheme year (from 1st April 2016) is not yet complete and will be published next year. This is therefore qualified exempt information under section 41 of the FoIA.

This information, with payments banded into six levels, is already publicly available on the Department website here: https://www.gov.im/categories/business-and-industries/agricultural-development-scheme/payments/breakdown-of-payments/.

If the information that would answer a request is already publicly available, under Section 20 of the FoIA, we do not have to release it any further.

For your ease of reference however, I have copied most of the table over the page.

Payment band	Total payment based on Historic Entitlements (£)			Transition to Flat Rate (£)		% of budget	% of claimants	
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Greater than £50,000	2,507,148	2,837,332	2,502,467	2,198,198	1,863,365	28.90%	6.27%	
Between £25,000 and £50,000	2,347,705	2,254,595	2,322,046	1,985,159	1,905,267	29.54%	14.04%	
Between £10,000 and £25,000	1,588,653	1,602,900	1,679,128	1,830,303	1,855,100	28.77%	28.07%	
Between £5,000 and £10,000	377,794	390,318	396,317	466,743	545,299	8.46%	18.80%	
Between £1,000 and £5,000	181,112	198,530	188,904	218,008	256,212	3.97%	24.06%	
Less than £1,000	16,893	18,956	18,861	25,794	23,495	0.36%	8.77%	
total £	7,019,306	7,302,631	7,107,723	6,724,205	6,448,739			
total no. of claimants	341	349	350	392	399			

^{*£300,000} of the budget was transferred to support capital grants.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your Freedom of Information request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by completing a complaint form and submitting it electronically or by delivery/post to the sender of this letter at the address above. An electronic version of the relevant complaint form can be found by going to our website at https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/access-to-government-information/freedom-of-information-complaint/. If you would like a paper version of the complaint form to be sent to you by post, please contact us and we will be happy to arrange for this. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made as soon as practicable. We will respond as soon as the review has been concluded.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner for a decision on;

- 1 Whether we have responded to your request for information in accordance with Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act; or
- Whether we are justified in refusing to give you the information requested. In response to an application for review, the Information Commissioner may, at any time, attempt to resolve a matter by negotiation, conciliation, mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution and will have regard to any outcome of this in making any subsequent decision.

More detailed information on your rights to review is on the Information Commissioner's website at: https://www.inforights.im/

Should you have any queries concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Co-ordinator.

Further information about Freedom of Information requests can be found:

 $\underline{\text{https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/access-to-government-}}$

information/#Freedom of Information Act 2015