**Direct Payment Schemes – 2024 Q&A**

**Force Majeure or Exceptional Circumstances (FM/EC)**

Cases of FM/EC are determined against their particular circumstances and on an individual basis.

**My woodland has been grant aided under the Forest Protection Scheme and has been adversely affected by a FM/EC event. Does this form apply to this particular scheme?**

Yes. This FML1 form is applicable to all forestry schemes and when completed should be forwarded to Forest Service.

**My EFS Wider/Higher Options/NPIs grant aided under the Environmental Farming Scheme have been adversely affected by a FM/EC event. Does this form apply to this particular scheme?**

Yes. This FML1 form is applicable to Environmental Farming Schemes.

**How do I apply?**

If you become aware of a FM/EC event which has prevented your farm business from meeting the conditions of the scheme(s) **before** 15 May, you should tell us **within 15 working days** of the date of being in a position to do so.

Email

You or your agent can email the electronic FML1 form [FML1 - Force Majeure and Exceptional Circumstances | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/fml1-force-majeure-and-exceptional-circumstances) together with supporting documentation to areabasedschemes@daera-ni.gov.uk **no later than 15 May 2024.**

If you become aware of a FM/EC event **after** 15 May, you should tell us **within 15 working days** of the date of being in a position to do so.

Email

You or your agent can email the electronic FML1 form [FML1 - Force Majeure and Exceptional Circumstances | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/fml1-force-majeure-and-exceptional-circumstances) together with supporting documentation.

Post

You or your agent can also post the FML1 form and supporting documentation to:

Area-based Schemes Payment Branch, Orchard House, 40 Foyle Street, Londonderry, Derry/Londonderry BT48 6AT.

If your FM/EC relates to a **Forestry Scheme** please email the electronic FML1 form to grants.forestservice@daera-ni.gov.uk. You or your agent can also post the FML1 form and supporting documentation to:

Forest Service Grants Branch, Inishkeen House, Killyhevlin, Enniskillen, BT74 4EJ.

Single Application (SA) Advisory Service

If you do not have access to email or an agent, contact our Advisory Service on 0300 200 7848 during office hours (9am – 5pm). A staff member will complete the FML1 form on your behalf.

Make sure you have all your information to hand and that it is accurate before ringing our Advisory Service as their role is purely to input data on the form.

**What evidence do I have to supply?**

There are a number of different circumstances under which FM/EC will be considered therefore the evidence will be varied depending on the circumstances. You should read Section 10 of the Guide to Basic Payment Scheme, Section 8 of the Forest Expansion Scheme Information Booklet or Section 17 of the EFS Terms and Conditions for more advice.

**My land has been taken out of production due to something out of my control, when and how do I apply?**

If, for reasons of FM/EC, some, or all, of your land is not available to you on 15 May, or is ineligible for BPS or any other area-based scheme, you should tell us when you submit your single application no later than 15 May 2024, or if you have already submitted your application you should tell us within 15 working days of the date of being in a position to do so.