

Food and Farming Group
Sustainable Agri-Food Division



Our reference: **DAERA/23-157**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Farm Business Improvement Scheme
6th Floor
Dundonald House
Belfast
BT4 3SD

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: Tier2@daera-ni.gov.uk

31 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 5 May 2023 which sought the following information:

Breakdown of monies paid to farmers under the Farm Business Improvement Scheme & the cost of administering the Scheme.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested, which can be found below:

Amount of money proposed under the farm business improvement grants per tranche:

Tier 1 Tranche 1 = £7.5m
Tier 1 Tranche 2 = £7.5m
Tier 1 Tranche 3 = £15m
Tier 1 Tranche 4 = £10m
Tier 2 Tranche 1 = £12.5m
Tier 2 Tranche 2 = £16.5m

- The amounts included above are what was proposed at the start of each tranche and underspend had been rolled forward to latter tranches to optimise the budget available overall

Amount of money paid to farmers in grants:

£40.76m grant paid to NI farm businesses under FBIS -C to date

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Amount of money paid to countryside services for administering scheme:
£3.58m has been paid to Countryside Services Limited to date

Amount of money spent overall on administration costs compared to amount available:

£6.8m costs have been incurred out of approval of £8.8m.

Number of refusals to farmers in administration mistakes and successful appeals:

To date 201 ineligible/rejected decisions were upheld, and 31 appeals were successful – none were overturned due to administrative error.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. Under UK copyright law you can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

FBIS scheme manager

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