

Our reference: DAERA 23 - 42

[REDACTED]

Farm Business Improvement Scheme  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk

22 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

### Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 25 January 2023.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information requested as follows:

**Question:** During the last 3 financial years could you please state the amount of financial grant aid paid to producers during each of these years.

**Answer:** During the last 3 financial years the amount of financial grant aid paid to pig producers was as follows:

FBIS - C – Grant to Pig Producers	
2019/20	£247,221
2020/21	£91,312
2021/22	£421,323
2022/Feb23	£137,474

Covid payments were made in response to the unprecedented disruption and impact of the pandemic upon the agri-food sector in NI and the wider supply chain.

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COVID Income Support Scheme – Pig & Poultry		
2020/2021	Figures provided are only for those payments made to pig producers	£1,945,592.84

COVID Income Support Scheme Culled Sows and Wool		
2021/2022	Figures provided are only those payments made to pig producers	£1,286,463.50

COVID Income Support Scheme Pig Support		
2022/2023		£1,276,873.81

**Question:** During the last 3 financial years were there any producers paid grant aid who had pig rearing units that were not compliant with all planning and statutory regulations.

**Answer:** No

**Question:** Can you confirm that compliance with the above planning and statutory regulations is checked and confirmed before any grant aid is payable?

**Answer:** Yes

**Question:** Finally, can you confirm the number of animals lost as a result of outbreaks of fire in the pig rearing units in NI during the last 3 years.

**Answer:** The Department does not gather information on the number of animals lost as a result of fire related incidents. However, it does hold information received from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) in November 2021 that 2030 pigs died as a result of 2 fires in pig units in that year. You may wish to contact NIFRS on this matter who may hold more information.

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](mailto: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, Ballykelly 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,

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Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Pillar II Capital Investment Branch**

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