

Date: 3 November 2011
Our ref: RF1292



Customer Services
Block B
Government Buildings
Whittington Road
Worcester
WR5 2LQ

Tel: 0300 060 1616

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 – request no 1292

Thank you for your request for information on the Funding of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme. You asked for:

1. How much EU money is there for Environmental Stewardship type schemes across Europe?
2. How much is Britain's allocation?
3. How much has been spent so far on all Environmental Stewardship agreements?
4. How much is the total value of all Environmental Stewardship agreements?

We received your request on 17 October 2011. Your request has been dealt under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

1. How much EU money is there for Environmental Stewardship type schemes across Europe?

This is information that Natural England does not hold, Therefore, EIR Regulation 12(4)(a) applies.

However, Details of European budgets are published at <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/agrista/rurdev2010/ruraldev.htm>. These tables show current budgets in Euros for each member state, with details in the tables to Chapter 3. The budgets cover the years in the current Rural Development Programme (2007 – 2013). The Total Public Expenditure column represents the European and the Member state contributions combined.

For the United Kingdom Environmental Stewardship Land Management payments come under Measure 214, and Capital Payments (ie one off payments for the completion of capital works) come under Measure 216. Other countries Land Management schemes may not come necessarily under the same Measures, due to their implementation of the Land Management Schemes.

2. How much is Britain's allocation?

4,795m Euros, which as of July 2011 equates to £3,563m. This covers England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This comes from tables stated in our response above. Environmental Stewardship Land Management payments come under Measure 214, and Capital Payments (ie one off

payments for the completion of capital works come under Measure 216. The closed English Agri-Environment Schemes (Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme, Organic Farming Scheme, Habitat Scheme) against which legacy payments are made within the programme period also come under Measure 214.

Natural England's indicative allocation for the Measures 214 and 216 schemes as listed above is £2,715m.

3. How much has been spent so far on all Environmental Stewardship agreements?
Spend on all (closed and live) Environmental Stewardship agreements as of 20 October 2011 is £1,144m.

4. How much is the total value of all Environmental Stewardship agreements?
The total value of all (closed and live) Environmental Stewardship agreements is £3,052m.

This includes all Environmental Stewardship spend up to 20 October 2011 plus all future commitments ie all closed and live agreements. Commitments extend beyond the end of the current Rural Development Programme because agreements are multi-annual (ELS and OELS agreements last for 5 years, and HLS agreements normally last for 10 years).

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If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. As you may be aware, under the legislation should you have any concerns with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please contact me and I'll arrange for a colleague to conduct an internal review. Under Regulation 11(2) this needs to be done no later than 40 working days after the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Natural England. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700, www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Darren Green
Team Leader – Information Access
darren.green@naturalengland.org.uk