

**Food Farming and Rural Affairs Group  
Agricultural and Environmental Schemes  
Division**



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Our reference: DAERA 26-123

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

AESD Information Management Team

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Date: 13 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

Thank you for your e-mail received by the Department on 19 February 2026 in which you requested information in relation to farm businesses that have ceased to hold Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) entitlements for the last 5 completed scheme years. The scheme years applicable would be 2021-2025 inclusive.

The Department has carried out a search of records and can confirm it holds some of the information related to your request.

I will respond to your questions in the order listed.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**  
We invest in people Standard

1. For each of the 5 years completed scheme years, the number of farm businesses within that scheme year ceased to hold 100% of their BPS entitlements by transfer confiscation or otherwise.

Scheme year – Zero Entitlements	No. of businesses who ceased to hold 100% of their BPS entitlements
2021	333
2022	367
2023	361
2024	358
2025	413

2. Of those businesses, provide a sectoral breakdown according to DAERA’s farm business classification e.g. dairy, beef, sheep, mixed, arable etc.

DAERA does not retain individual business classification information for farm businesses.

3. The total of BPS claimants in each of those years from 2021 to 2025 inclusive.

Scheme Year	Claimants	Scheme
2021	24,187	BPS
2022	24,102	BPS
2023	24,121	BPS
2024	23,973	BPS
2025	23,951	FSTP

N.B. BPS = Basic Payment Scheme  
FSTP = Farm Sustainability Transition Payment

4. If held, please also indicate how many of the businesses that ceased to hold 100% of their entitlements did not submit a BPS claim in the subsequent scheme year.

Scheme Year	Zero Entitlements held	Did not submit a BPS claim next scheme year
2021	333	306
2022	367	334
2023	361	337
2024	358	328
2025	333	2026 Data Unavailable

If you require any clarification or believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood, or misinterpreted, please contact the Agricultural and Environmental Schemes Information Management Team at the email address or telephone number above in the first instance, to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

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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, 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 block]

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