

**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

Our reference: DAERA/26-312

Cllr Sheamus Greene
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

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AESD Information Management Team
Ballykelly House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
Derry / Londonderry
BT49 9HP
Telephone: 028 7744 2242

E-mail: aesd.foi@daera-ni.gov.uk

Date: 29 May 2026

Dear Cllr Greene,

Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Thank you for your email correspondence received by the Department on 3 May 2026, in which you have requested statistical information held in respect of what the average farm business receives under the current support system in comparison to the previous one. You have also asked how much these support schemes cost to administer.

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.

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1.The average annual direct farm support payment per farm business for the final year of the previous scheme, and the most recent available average annual payment per farm business under the current scheme. Alongside this, provide the monetary difference between the two figures and the percentage change.

The current support payments paid to farm businesses changed in the financial year 2025/26 from the Basic Payment Scheme to the Farm Sustainability Transitional Payment. The table below sets out the average annual payment in 2024/25 as opposed to 2025/26 under the new scheme.

Financial Year	2024/25	2025/26	Difference
Schemes operating	Basic Payment Scheme Young Farmers, Protein Crop, Beef Carbon reduction scheme, Environmental Farming Scheme	Farm Sustainability Transitional Payment, Young Farmers, Protein Crop, Beef Carbon reduction scheme, Environmental Farming Scheme Suckler Cow Scheme, Farming with Nature	
Average payment* per farm business	£13,006.00	£12,899.00	-£107.00 (-0.82%)

*Payment includes items that were actually paid or due to be paid for that year. Some of the new larger schemes for 2025/26 are only being paid now in June 2026. Included are other items that are in the process of being paid but have been delayed due to probate and incorrect banking details.

2.The total annual administrative cost to the Department of delivering the final year of the previous farm support scheme, and the most recent total annual administrative cost of delivering the current support framework. Again, please include the monetary difference and the percentage change between those figures

The total annual administrative cost to the Department of delivering the current and prior farm support scheme years is set out in the table below.

Financial Year	2024/25	2025/26	Difference
Total admin. costs	£28,887,092	£30,742,229	+£1,855,137
% change			+6.42%

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 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,



Sharon O'Neill
Head of Divisional Services Branch

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