Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme (SFIS)

Instructions for Scheme Portal – Application and Letter of Offer

Updated: 27 November 2026

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1. Access the Scheme Portal

The Scheme Portal is available at: Start here | Sustainable Farming | DAERA



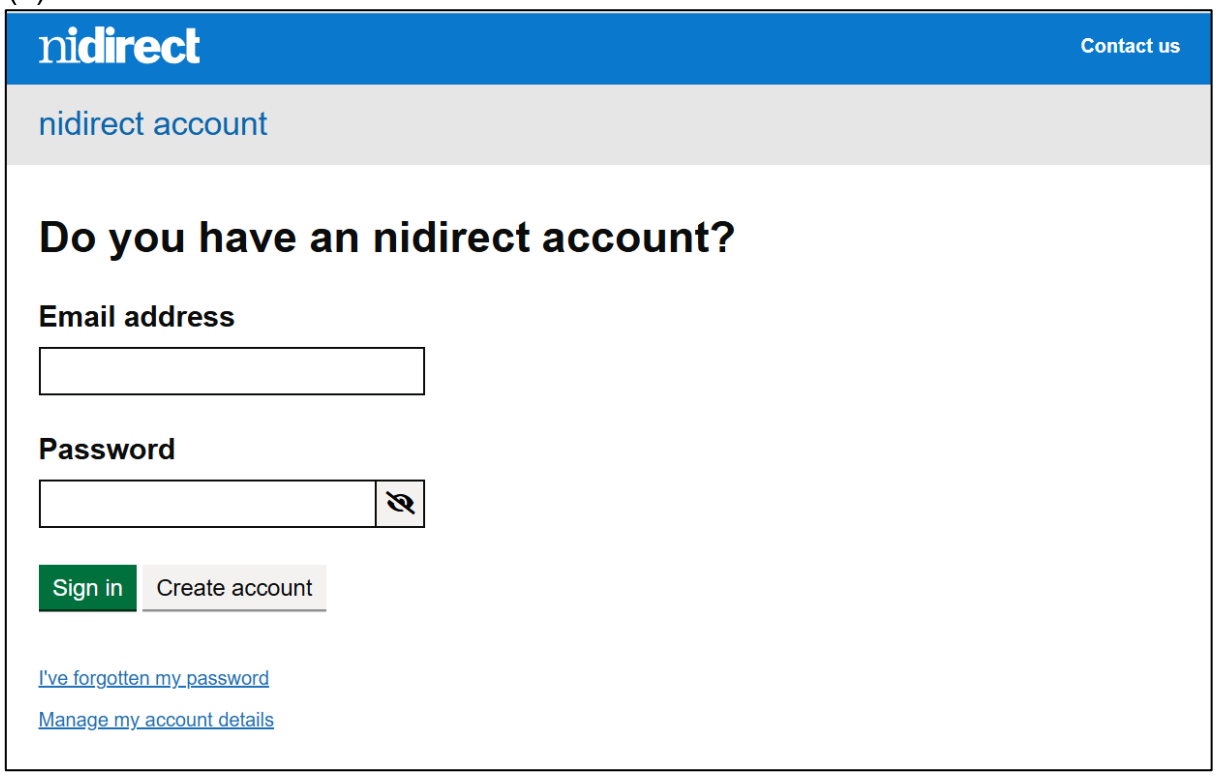
Select Login and then choose which service (nidirect or Government Gateway) you wish to use to access Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme:



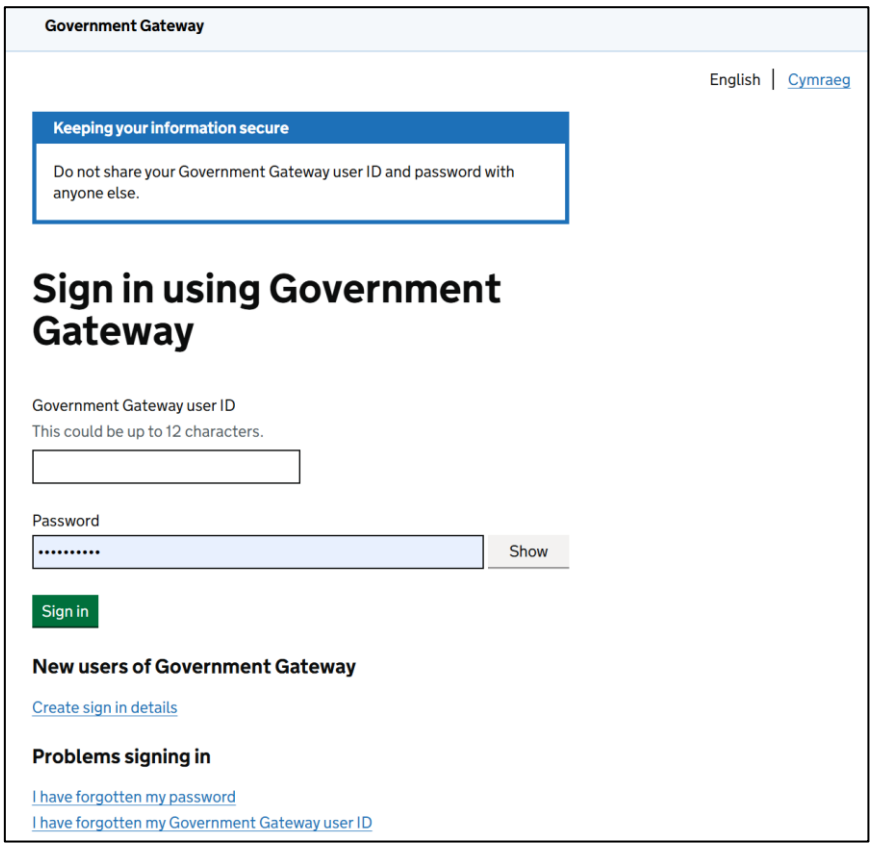
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Sign in or sign up to:

(1) NIDA



Or (2) Government Gateway

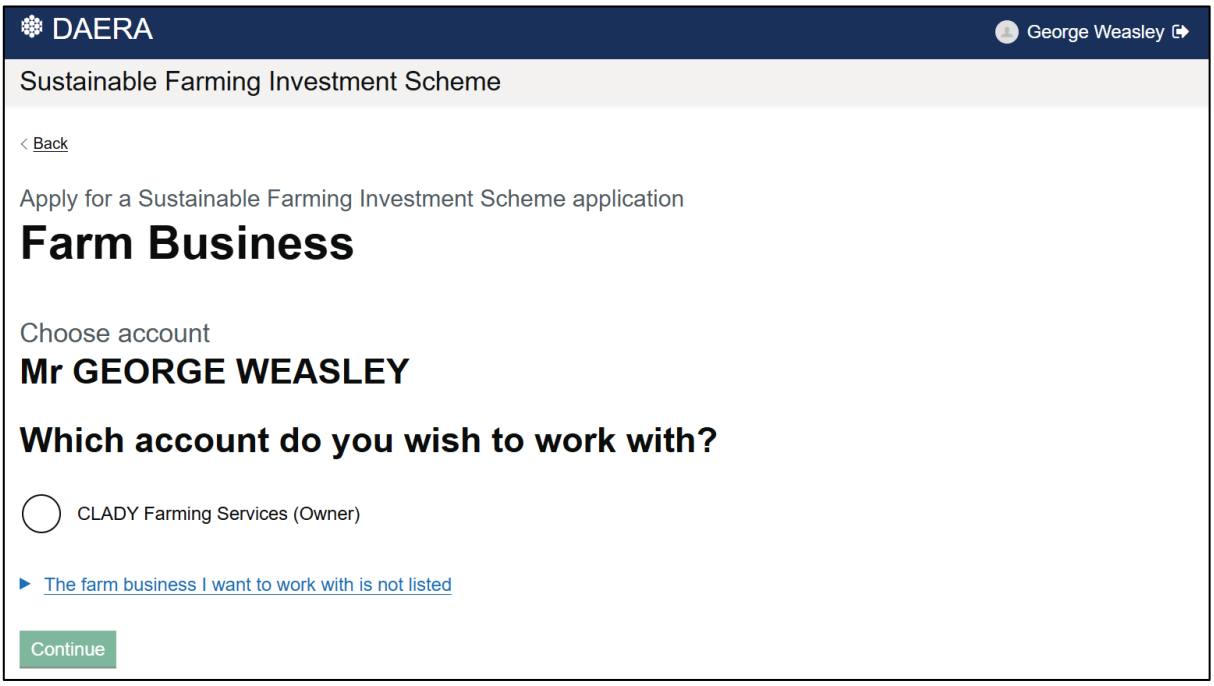


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2. Select the account

If you have more than one business associated with your Government Gateway or NIDA account, please select the farm business you want to apply for by clicking on the circle beside the business. Then click ‘Continue’.

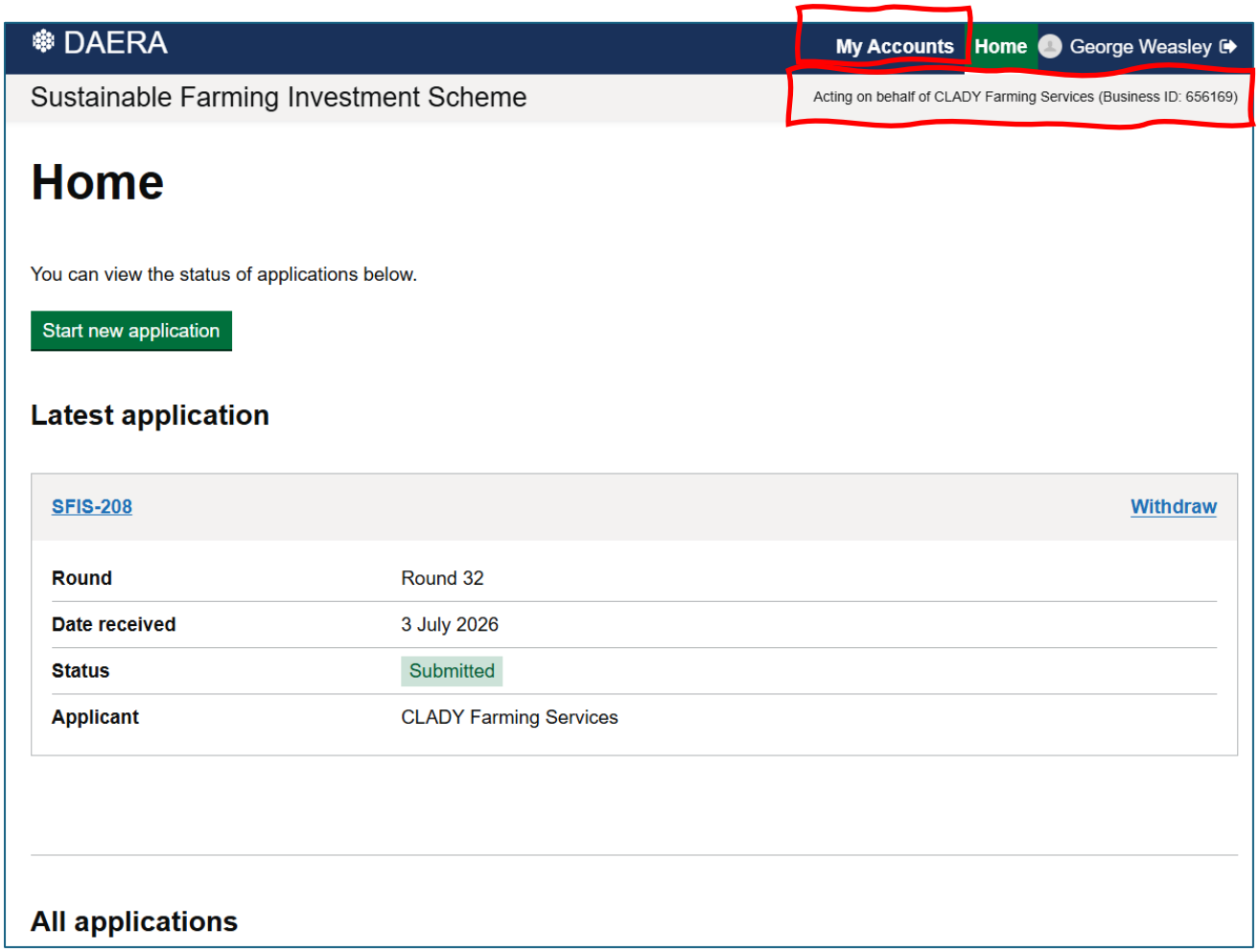


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3. Start a new application

After selecting the business, you will arrive at the Home page on the Scheme Portal. Please note the account you are working on is displayed on the top right hand corner.



If you wish to apply for the scheme, then click the green button ‘Start new application”.

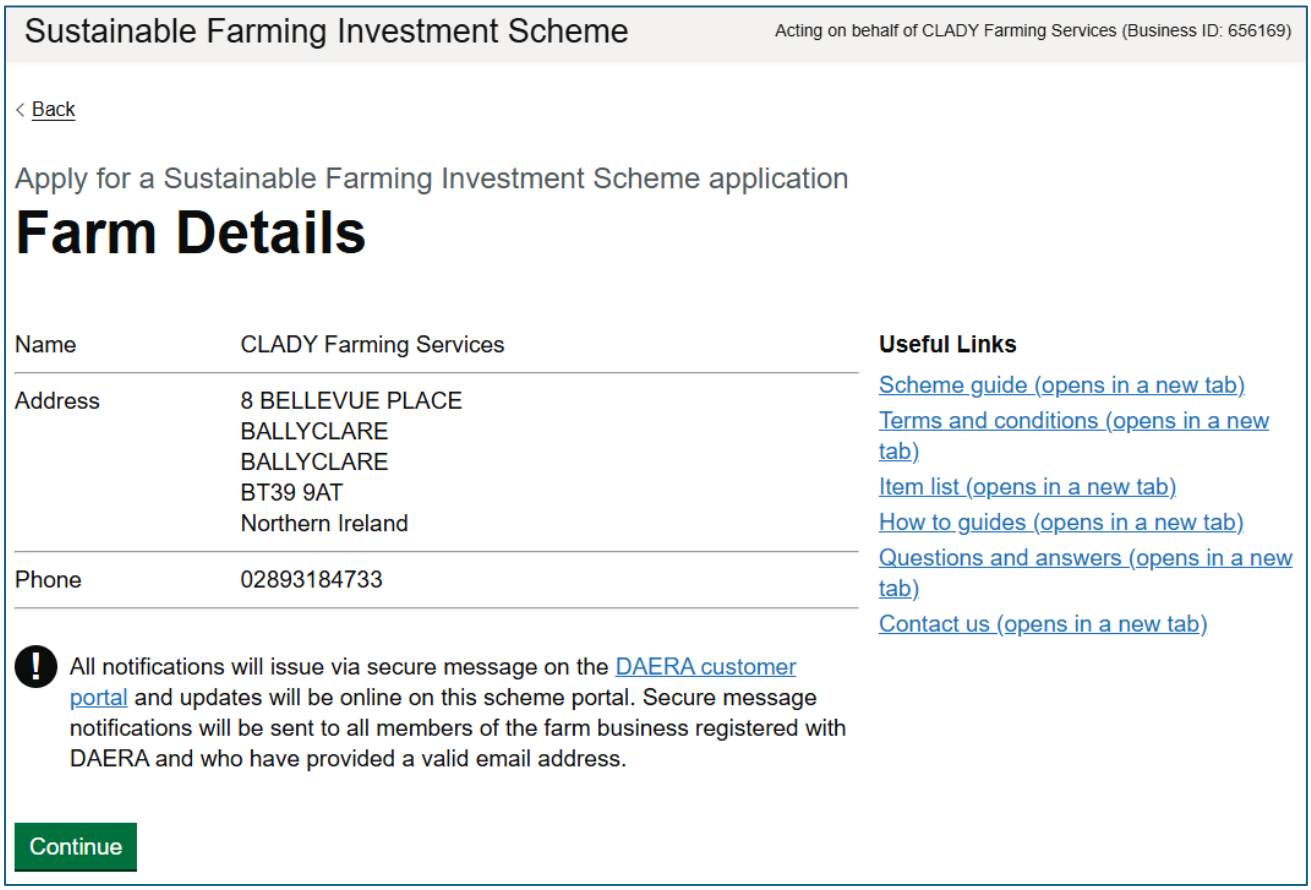
If you have already started an application (saved or submitted) and the Scheme is still open your application will be available under ‘Latest Application’ – the blue SFIS-208 in the grey heading in box above .

If you applied to previous rounds of SFIS you will see the LESSE and / or Non-LESSE listed under ‘All Applications’. The reference NL is for Non-LESSE applications and LE are LESSE applications. See Section 14.

If you wish to change account, click on the ‘My Accounts’ on the top navy bar and this will bring you back to Section 2. If you click on your name on the top navy bar, it will log you out.

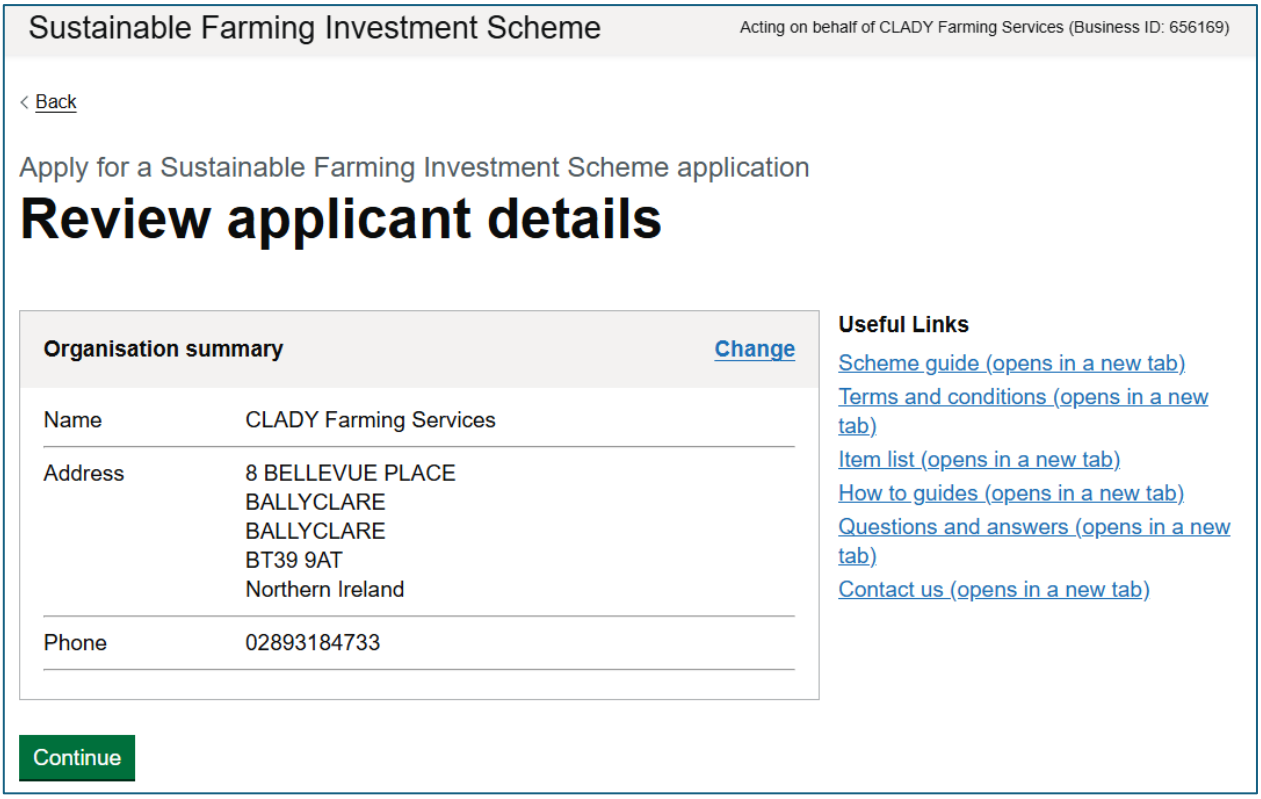
4. Check details

The details of the business can be checked on this screen. There are also useful links on the right-hand side to essential Scheme documentation. The useful links are available on subsequent screens.



The next screen provides a summary of the applicant.

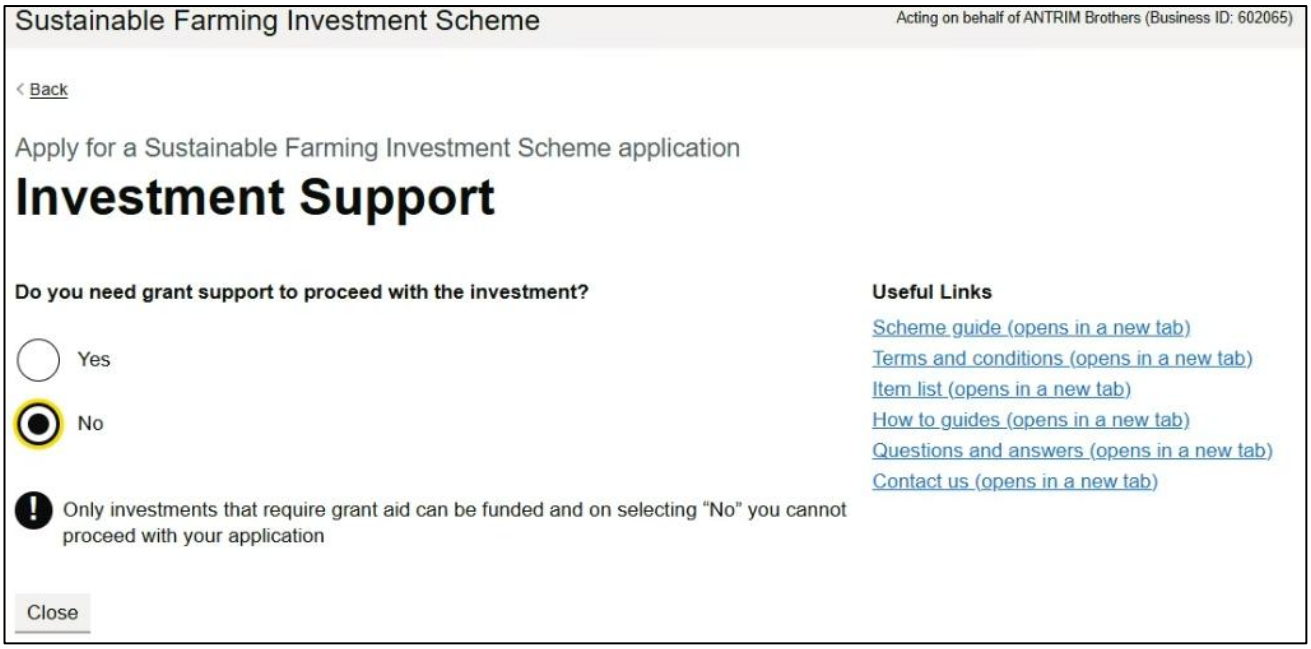
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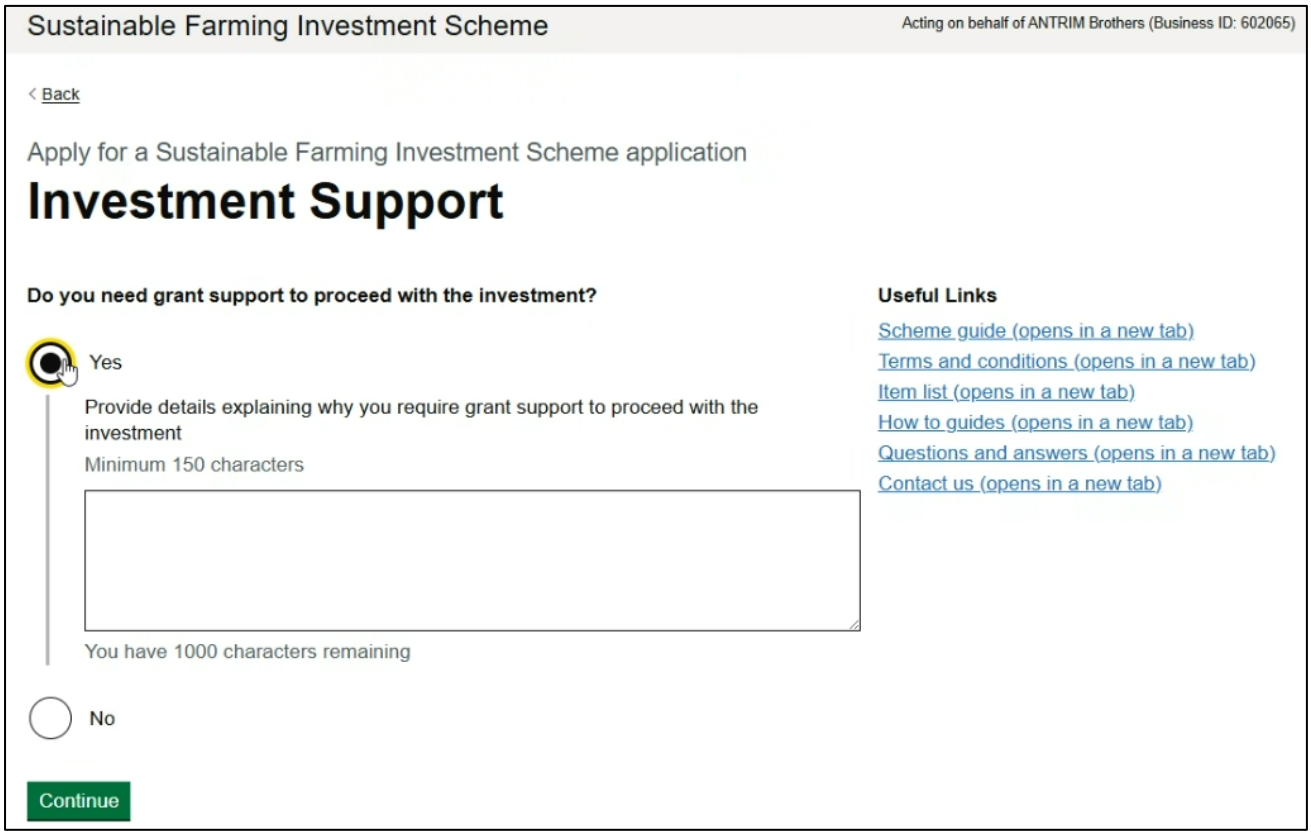
5. Investment Support

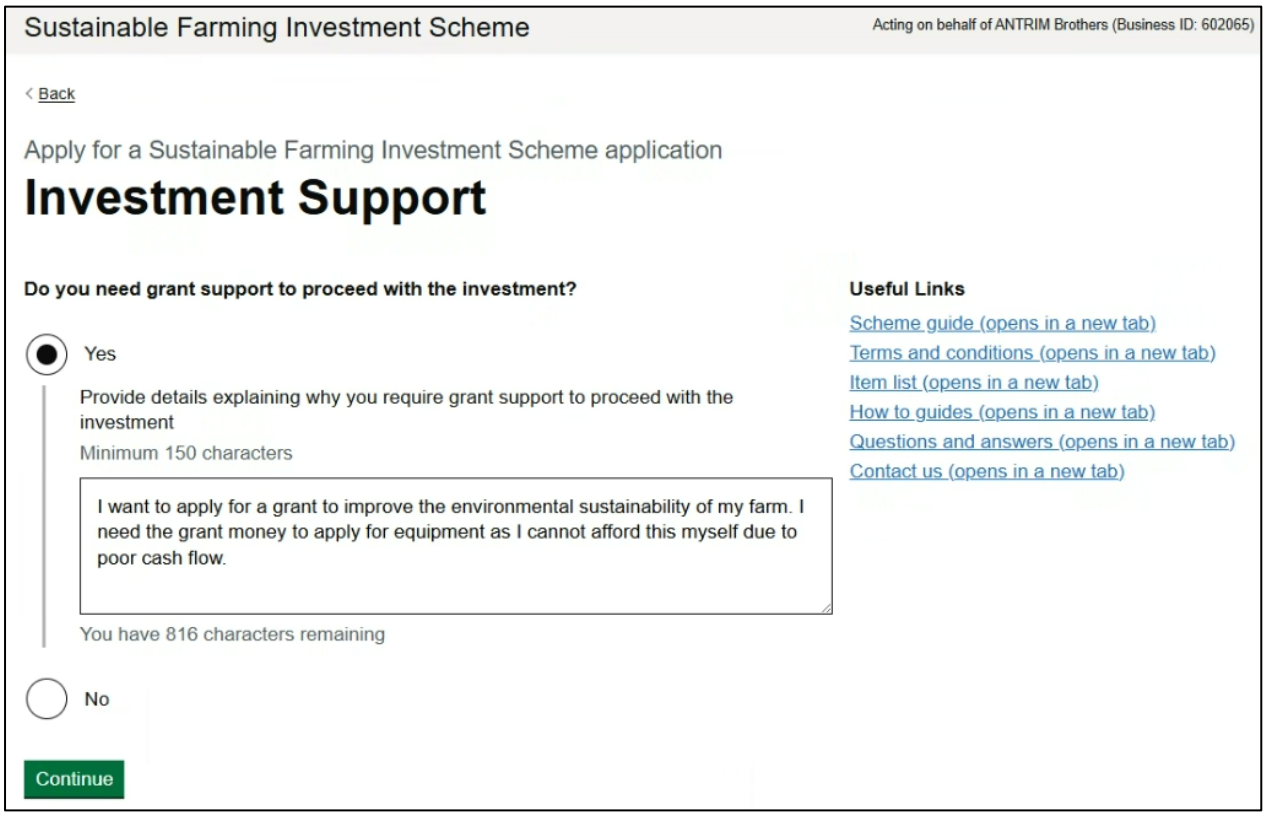
You are asked do you need grant support to proceed with the investment.

Please note if you select ‘No’ you cannot proceed with your application.



If you select ‘Yes’ you need to explain why you require grant support. You must enter at least 150 characters for the Continue button to proceed.

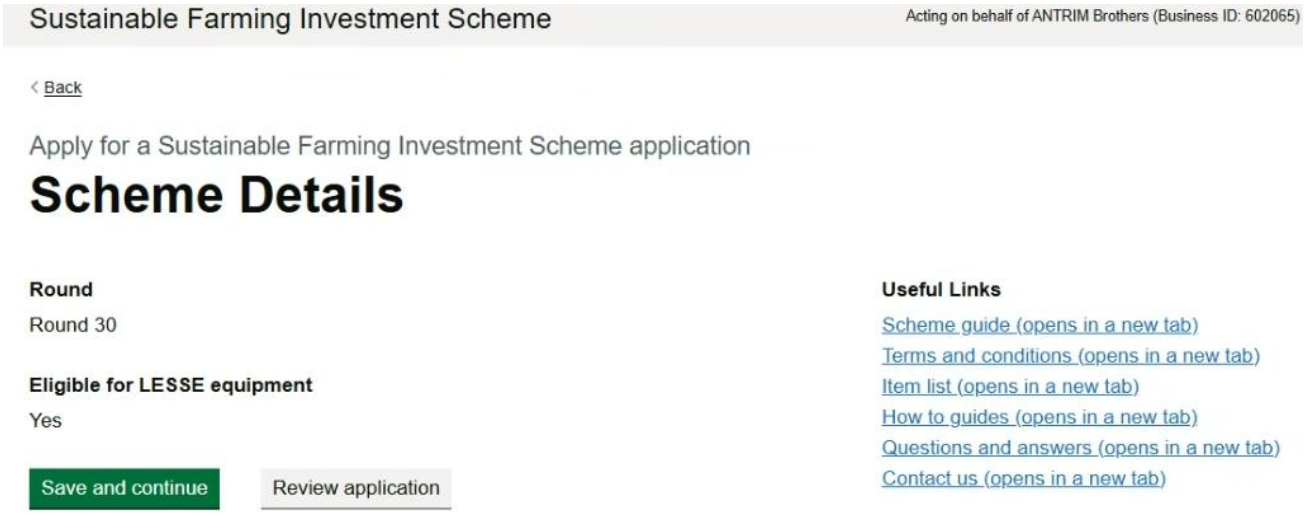

Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme
Acting on behalf of ANTRIM Brothers (Business ID: 602065)
Back
Apply for a Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme application
Investment Support
Do you need grant support to proceed with the investment?
Yes
Provide details explaining why you require grant support to proceed with the investment
Minimum 150 characters
You have 1000 characters remaining
No
Continue
Useful Links
Scheme guide (opens in a new tab)
Terms and conditions (opens in a new tab)
Item list (opens in a new tab)
How to guides (opens in a new tab)
Questions and answers (opens in a new tab)
Contact us (opens in a new tab)


Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme
Acting on behalf of ANTRIM Brothers (Business ID: 602065)
Back
Apply for a Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme application
Investment Support
Do you need grant support to proceed with the investment?
Yes
Provide details explaining why you require grant support to proceed with the investment
Minimum 150 characters
I want to apply for a grant to improve the environmental sustainability of my farm. I need the grant money to apply for equipment as I cannot afford this myself due to poor cash flow.
You have 816 characters remaining
No
Continue
Useful Links
Scheme guide (opens in a new tab)
Terms and conditions (opens in a new tab)
Item list (opens in a new tab)
How to guides (opens in a new tab)
Questions and answers (opens in a new tab)
Contact us (opens in a new tab)

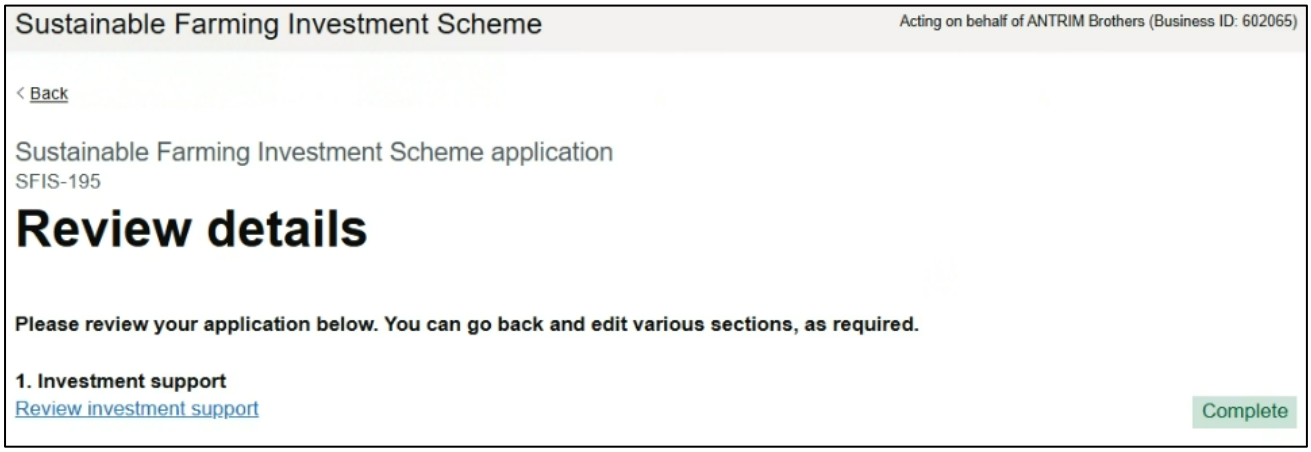
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6. Scheme Details – LESSE eligibility

This screen will state if you are eligible for LESSE. If you are not content with the eligibility displayed, you should refer to the Scheme Guide.



Select ‘Save and continue’ to proceed. After this, you will have ‘Review application’ buttons available at the bottom of each subsequent screen. This will enable you to go to a screen which is like a content page and all the application sections visited are listed and state whether complete or incomplete.

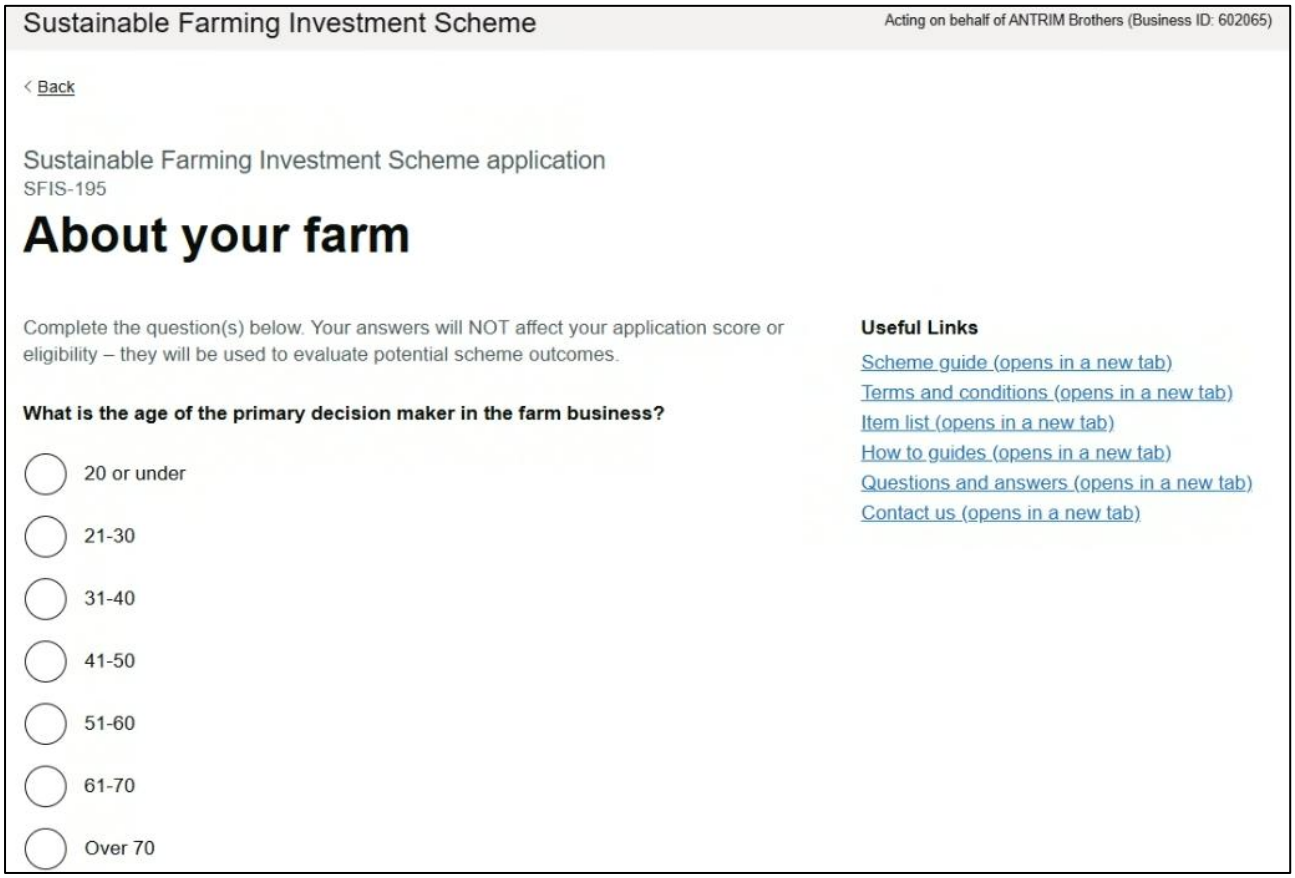


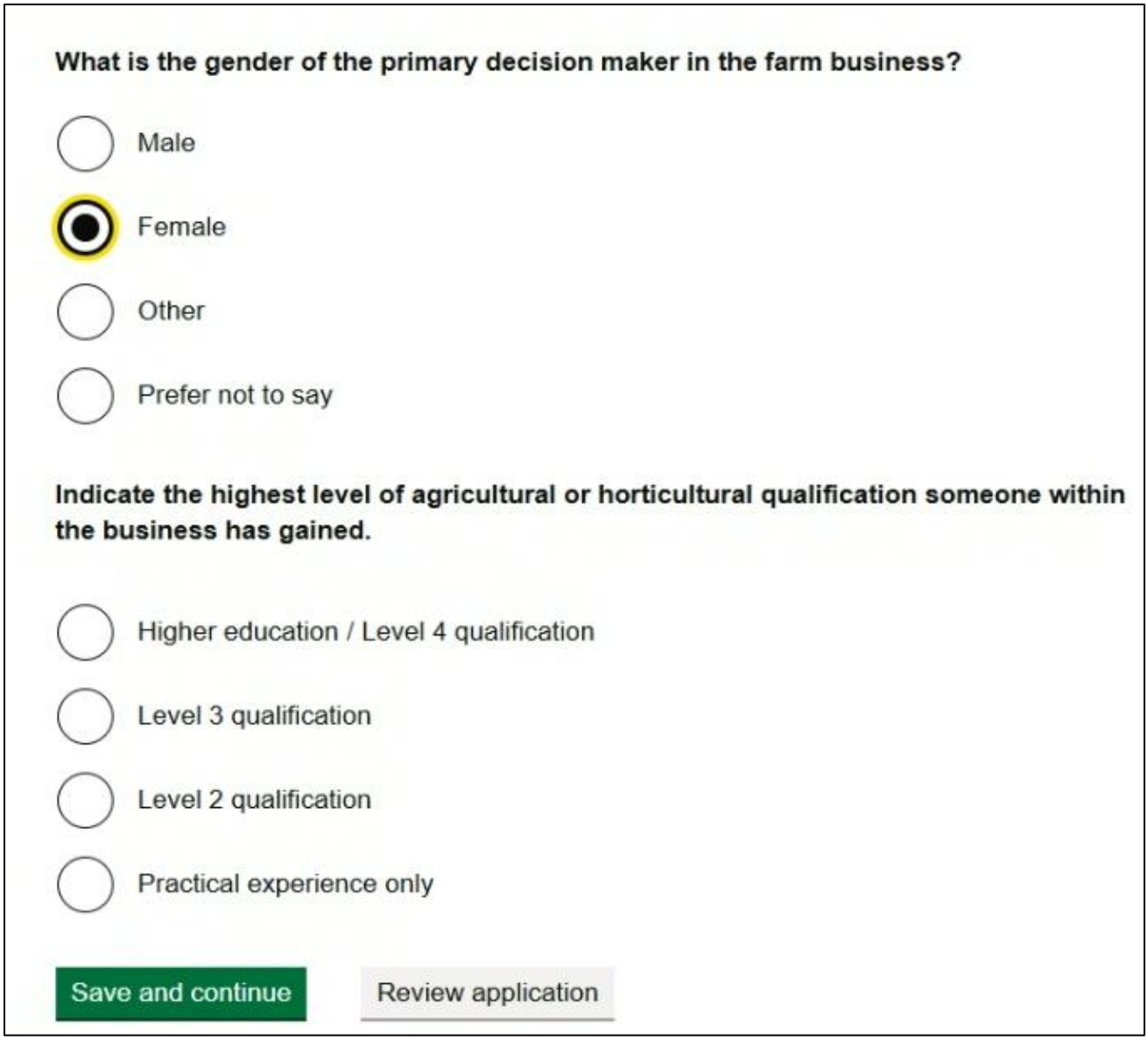
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7. About your farm

Please select one answer to the following questions. Please note, the answers to these questions will not affect your application score. They are for monitoring and evaluation only.

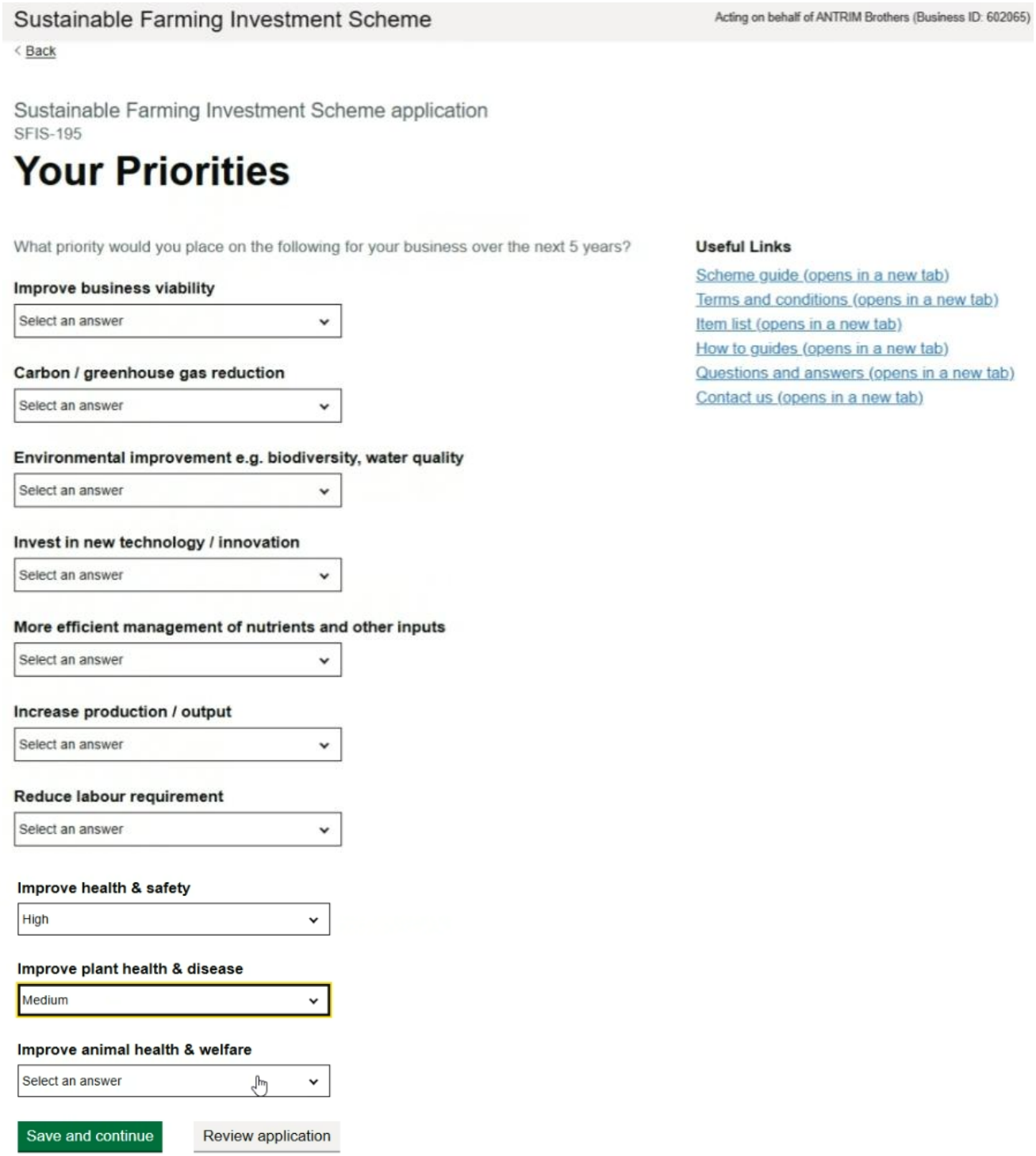




If you are unsure about what level of qualification to select, click on the options and it will expand and provide further information.

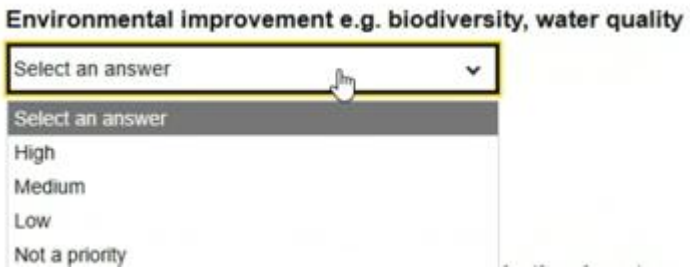
8. Your priorities

This screen asks you to rank your 10 priorities before selecting ‘Save and continue’. Please note, the answers to these questions will not affect your application score. They are for monitoring and evaluation only.



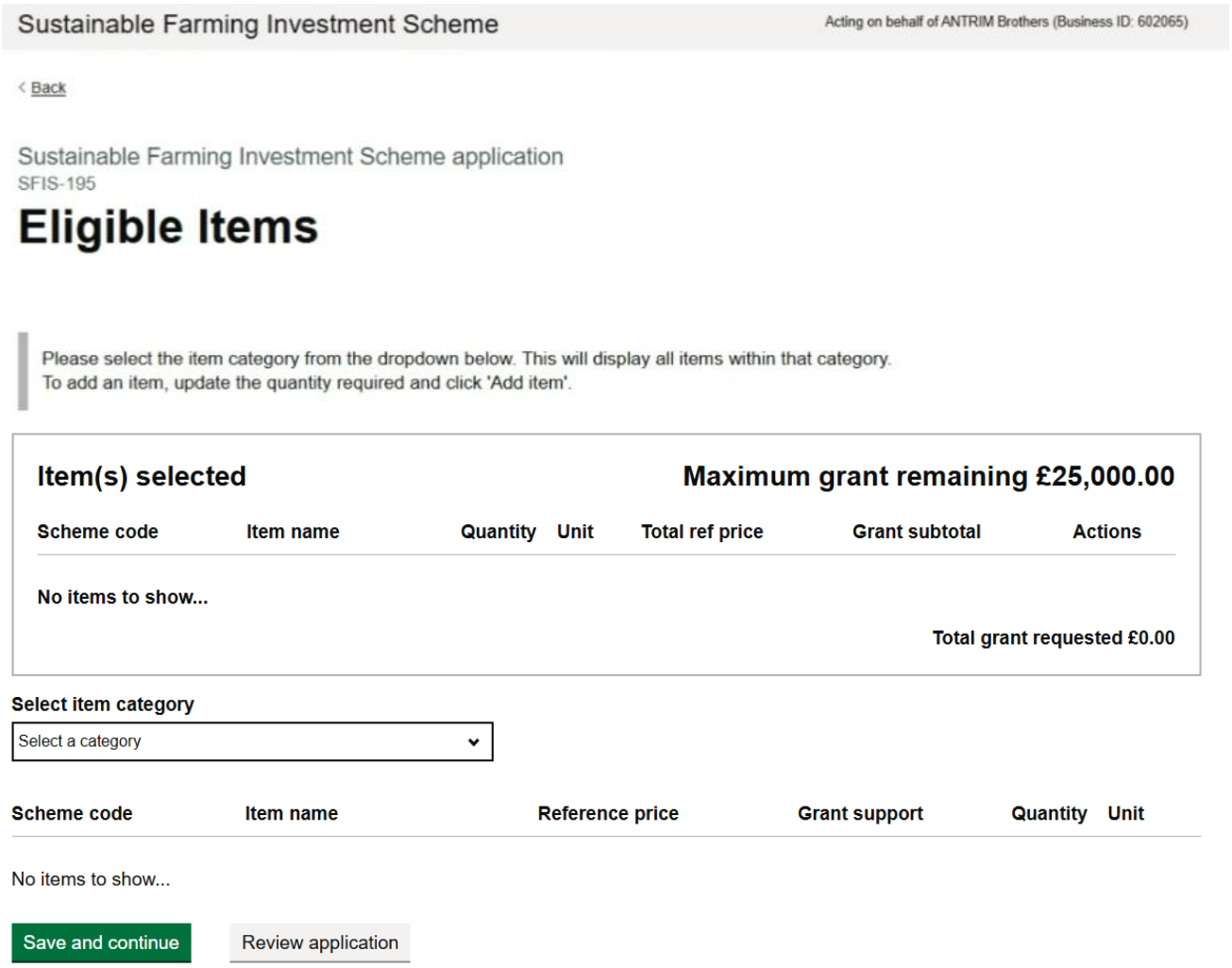
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For each question select from the drop down list available.



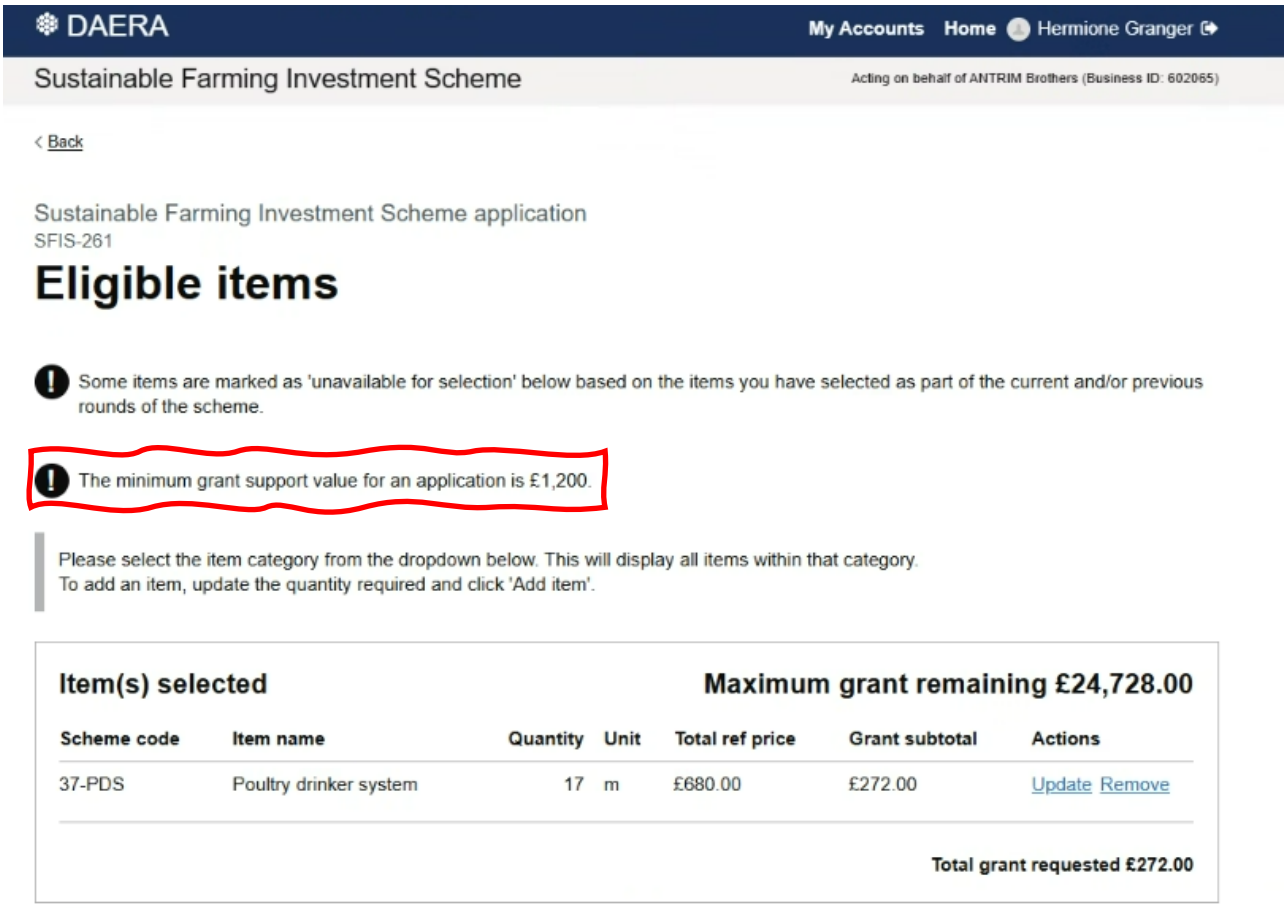
9. Item selection

This page is the shopping screen where you can select the items you wish to apply for. The top box is the basket which is populated as you select items from below. Please note there is a running total of the grant remaining which will count down from the £25,000 limit.

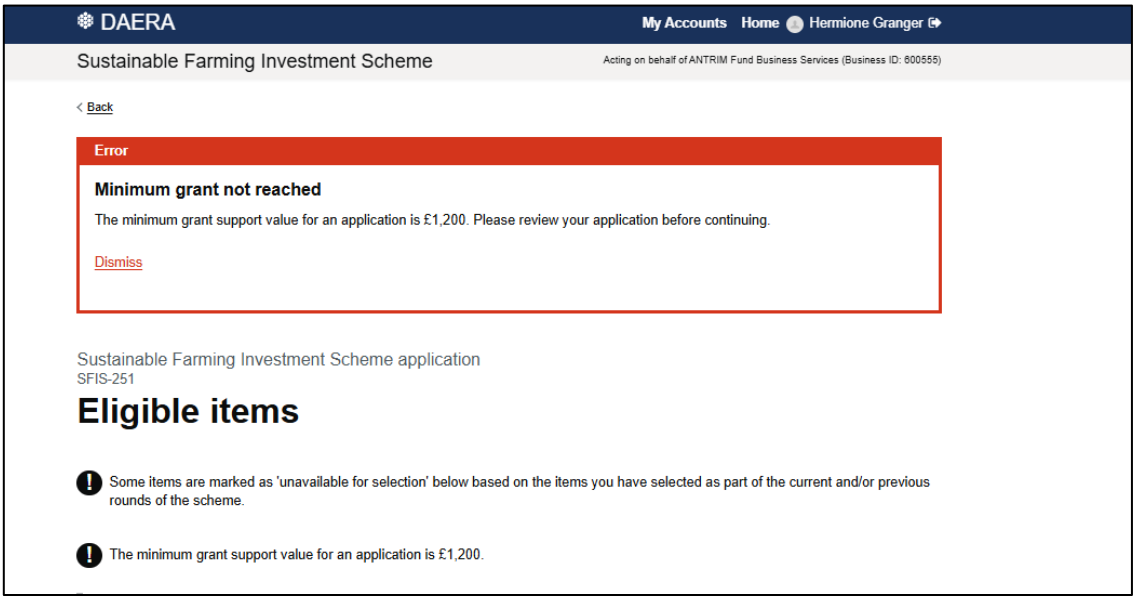


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If you select item(s) that have a total grant support of less than £1,200 then a message will be displayed.



If you then click ‘Save and Continue’ a message will be displayed in a red box, “Minimum grant not reached’. To proceed you **must select items for at least £1,200 grant support**.

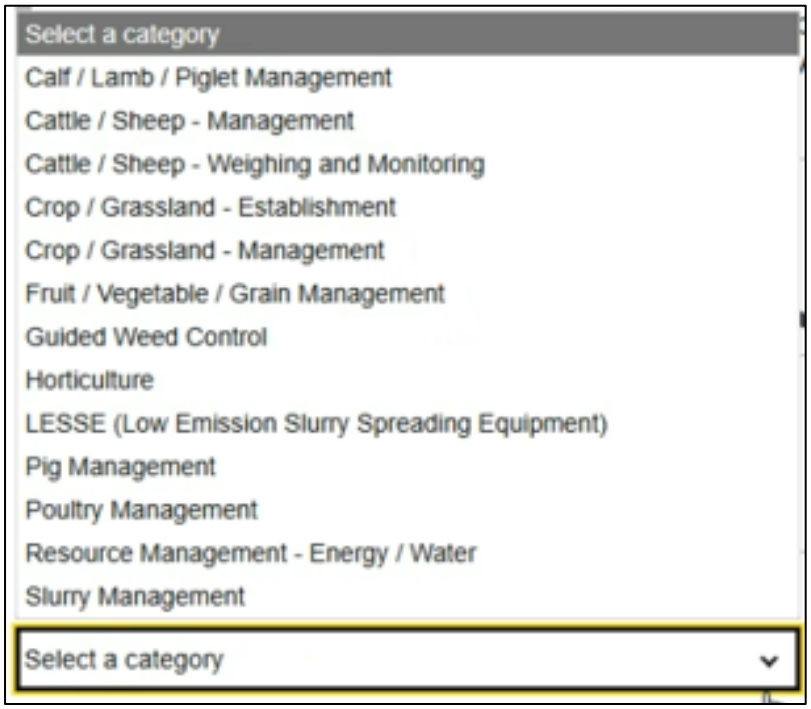


a. Selecting category

All the items are under the 13 categories which are available on the Item list at:

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/sustainable-farming-investment-scheme-item-list

If you click on the dropdown arrow under ‘Select a category’ they will all, be displayed.



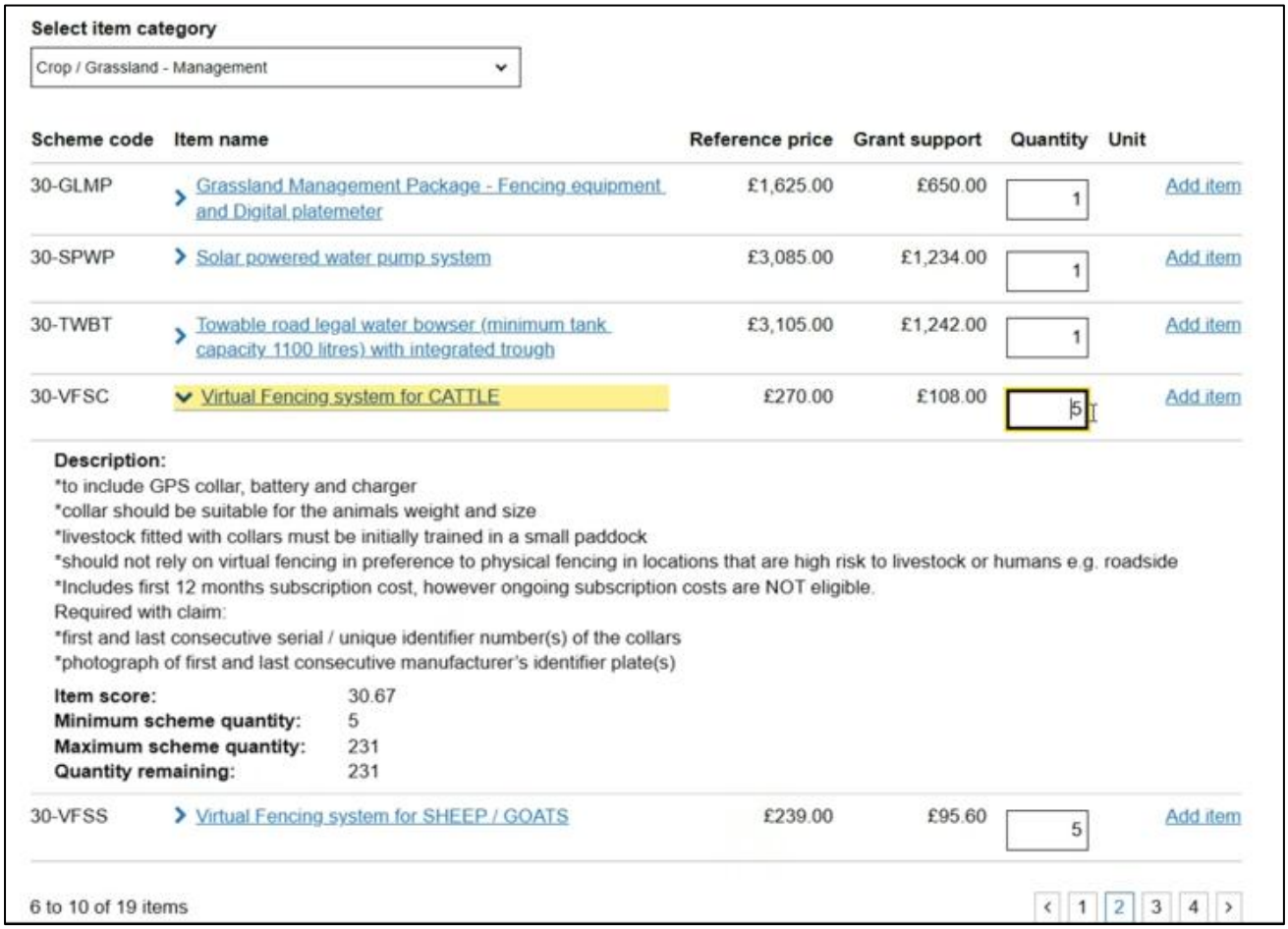
Please note that if your business is not eligible for LESSE then this category will not be on the dropdown list.

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b. Item selection

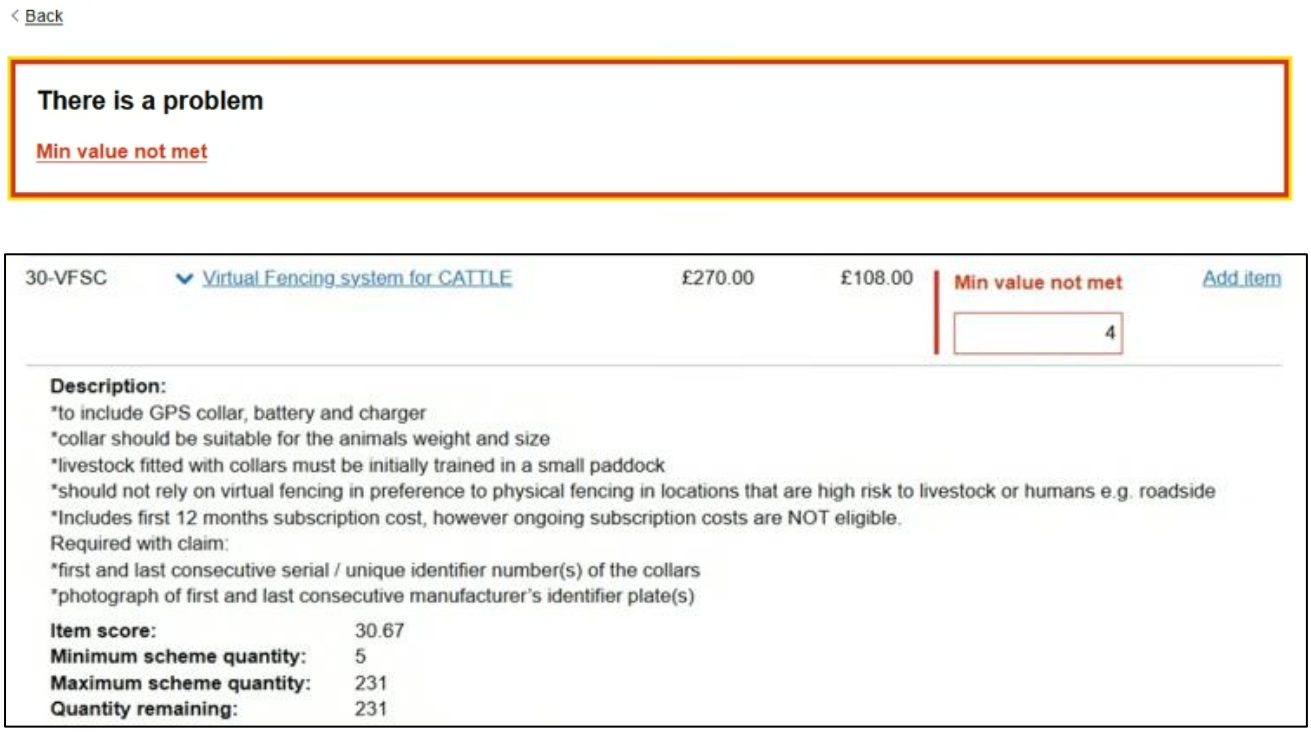
To find an item, select the category it is under, for example, select ’Crop / Grassland Management’ from the drop down. The first page of items for this category will then be displayed. Please note this category has 4 pages of items. Click the arrows or on a number to select another page. Click on ‘Add Item’ on the right-hand side to select an item.

There is a blue arrow at each title. By selecting the arrow, the specification for the item will be listed, along with the item score, min/maximum scheme quantity and also a running balance of the remaining quantity.



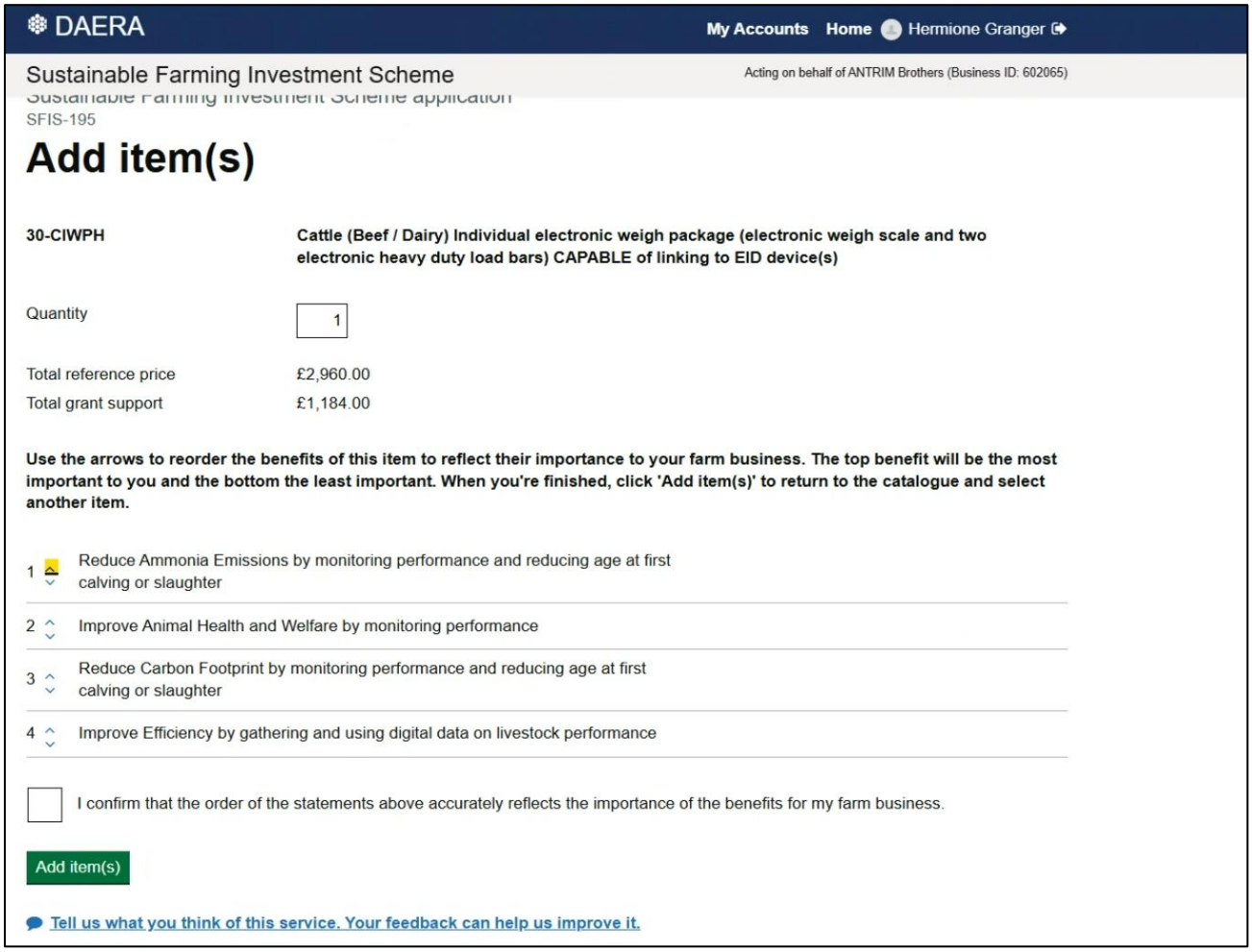
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The majority of items have a minimum quantity of 1 but some are higher. Likewise maximum scheme quantities are in place. The system will produce an error message at the top of the page if you select below the minimum or above the maximum. By clicking on the error written in red in the box e.g. Min value not met' the icon will move down the screen to where the incorrect value is entered.



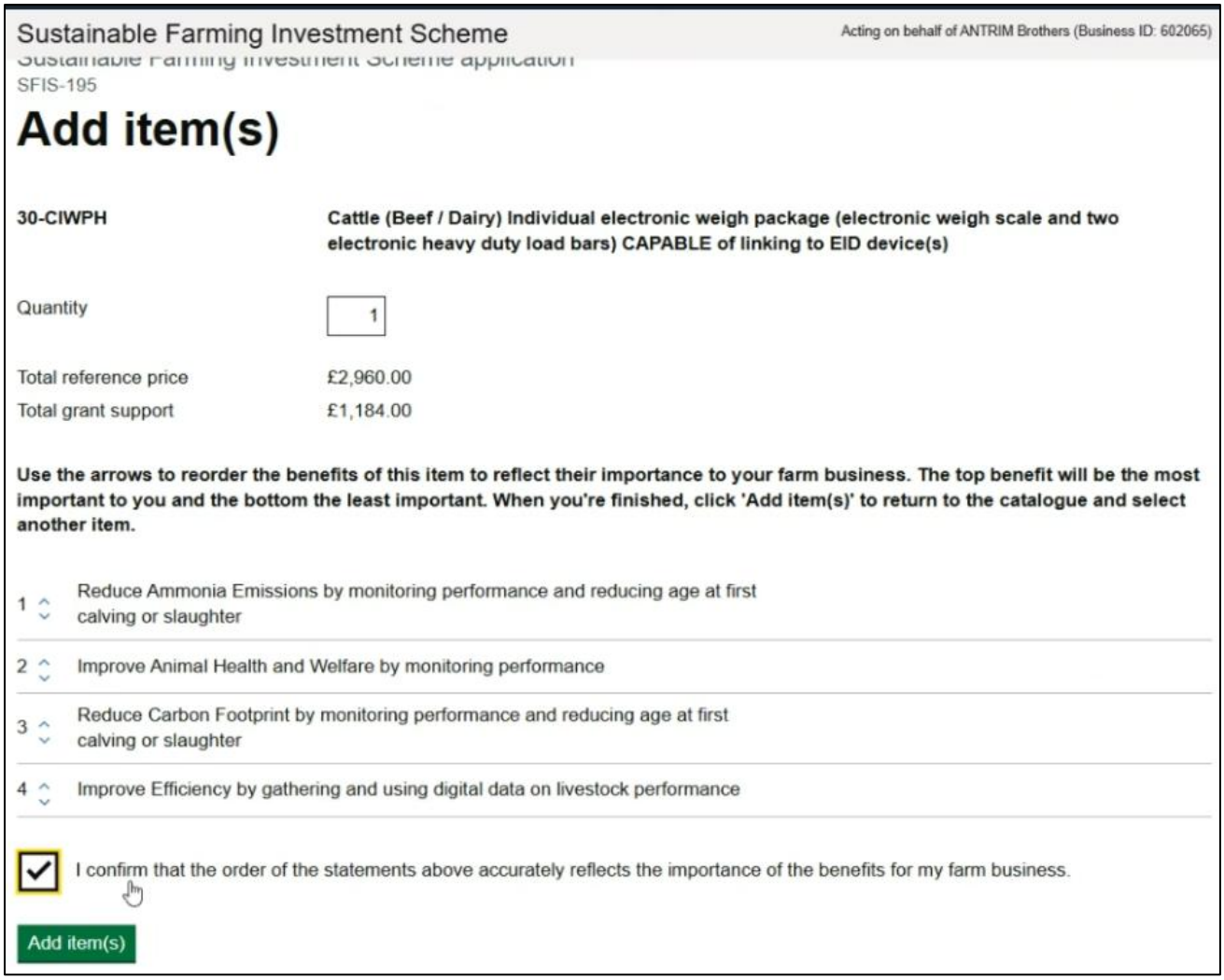
c. Item benefit ranking

After clicking ‘Add item’ you will be asked to rank the benefits of the item by using the arrows to re-order. Please ensure you consider carefully and order the benefits in terms of importance to your farm, as this information is valuable for future scheme development.



Once ranking is complete then click on the box to confirm you are content and click ‘Add item(s)’.

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Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme

Acting on behalf of ANTRIM Brothers (Business ID: 602065)

Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme application

SFIS-195

Add item(s)

30-CIWPH **Cattle (Beef / Dairy) Individual electronic weigh package (electronic weigh scale and two electronic heavy duty load bars) CAPABLE of linking to EID device(s)**

Quantity 1

Total reference price £2,960.00

Total grant support £1,184.00

Use the arrows to reorder the benefits of this item to reflect their importance to your farm business. The top benefit will be the most important to you and the bottom the least important. When you're finished, click 'Add item(s)' to return to the catalogue and select another item.

1 Reduce Ammonia Emissions by monitoring performance and reducing age at first calving or slaughter

2 Improve Animal Health and Welfare by monitoring performance

3 Reduce Carbon Footprint by monitoring performance and reducing age at first calving or slaughter

4 Improve Efficiency by gathering and using digital data on livestock performance

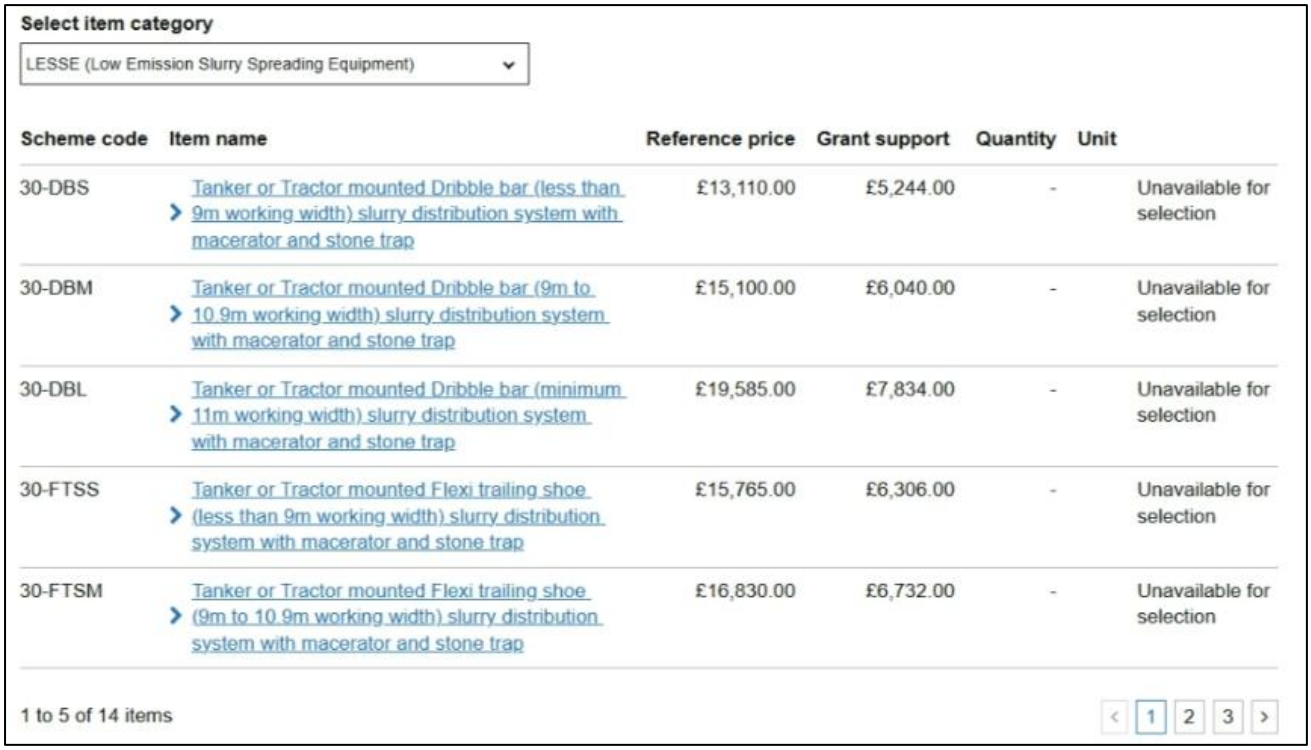
☑ I confirm that the order of the statements above accurately reflects the importance of the benefits for my farm business.

Add item(s)

d. Item ‘Unavailable’

Some items will become ’Unavailable for selection’ if the number selected (or previously funded) are over the scheme maximum for that item. See the Scheme Guide for more information.

For example, if you are eligible for LESSE, you can only select one LESSE item, leaving the rest of this category unavailable.



Select item category

LESSE (Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment)

Scheme code	Item name	Reference price	Grant support	Quantity	Unit	
30-DBS	Tanker or Tractor mounted Dribble bar (less than 9m working width) slurry distribution system with macerator and stone trap	£13,110.00	£5,244.00	-		Unavailable for selection
30-DBM	Tanker or Tractor mounted Dribble bar (9m to 10.9m working width) slurry distribution system with macerator and stone trap	£15,100.00	£6,040.00	-		Unavailable for selection
30-DBL	Tanker or Tractor mounted Dribble bar (minimum 11m working width) slurry distribution system with macerator and stone trap	£19,585.00	£7,834.00	-		Unavailable for selection
30-FTSS	Tanker or Tractor mounted Flexi trailing shoe (less than 9m working width) slurry distribution system with macerator and stone trap	£15,765.00	£6,306.00	-		Unavailable for selection
30-FTSM	Tanker or Tractor mounted Flexi trailing shoe (9m to 10.9m working width) slurry distribution system with macerator and stone trap	£16,830.00	£6,732.00	-		Unavailable for selection

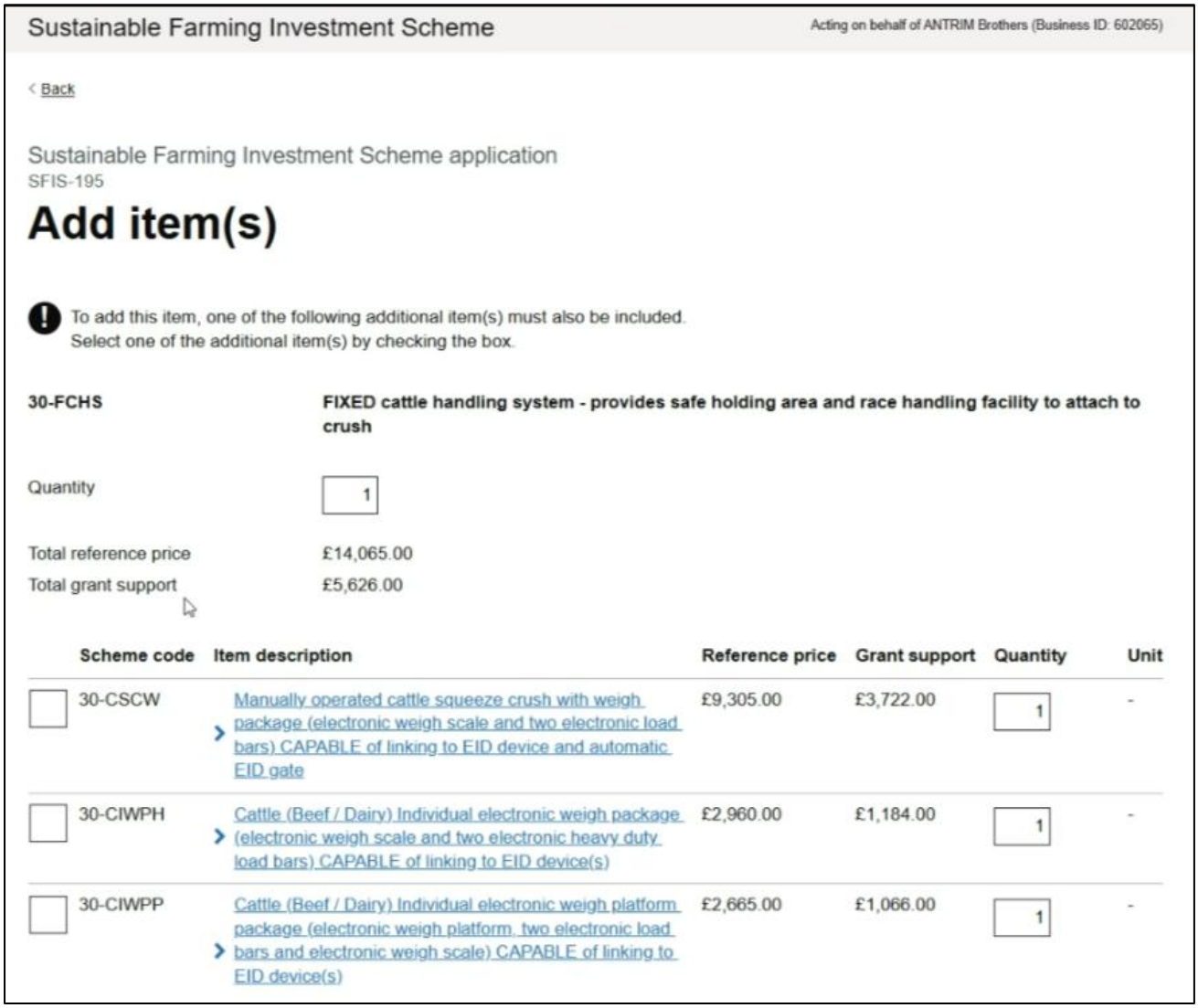
1 to 5 of 14 items

< 1 2 3 >

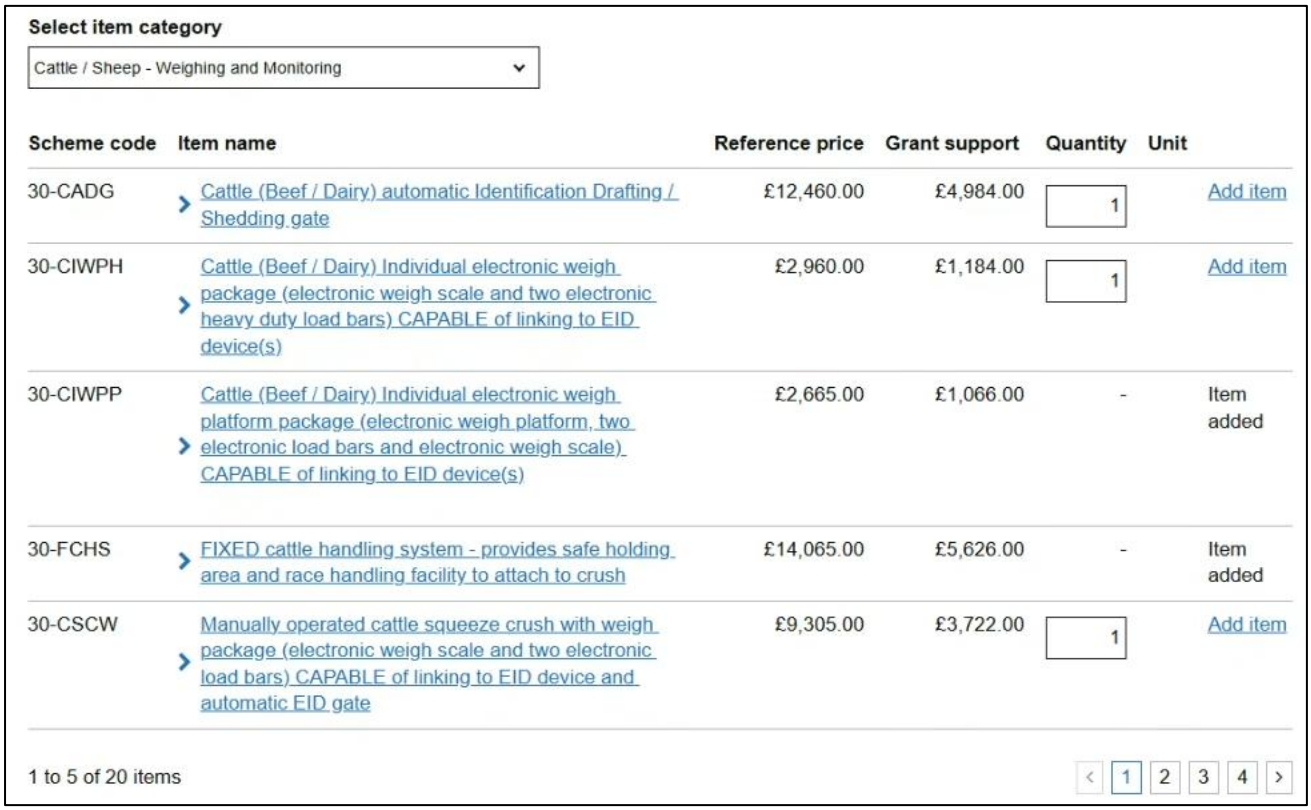
e. Item only available if select another item

Some items are only available when selected with another item and the online application ensures this rule is adhered to. See the guide for the list of items this relates to.

For example, if you want to select the Fixed cattle handling system you must also either select the crush, weigh package or the weigh platform package.



Once the fixed and the other selected item is added they are no longer available in the bottom table as added to the grocery basket.



Select item category

Cattle / Sheep - Weighing and Monitoring

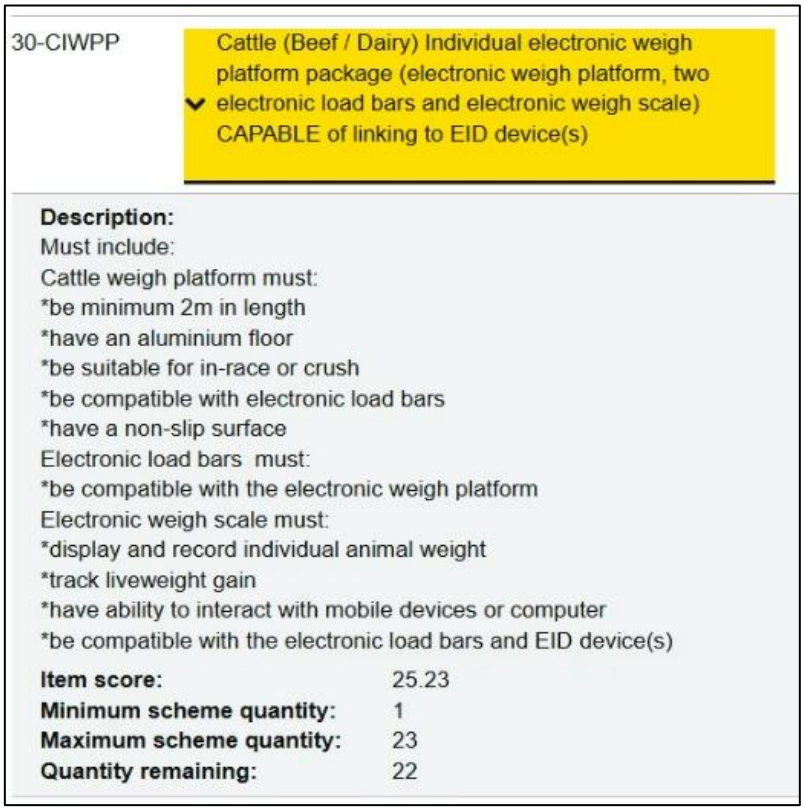
Scheme code	Item name	Reference price	Grant support	Quantity	Unit	
30-CADG	Cattle (Beef / Dairy) automatic Identification Drafting / Shedding gate	£12,460.00	£4,984.00	1		Add item
30-CIWPH	Cattle (Beef / Dairy) Individual electronic weigh package (electronic weigh scale and two electronic heavy duty load bars) CAPABLE of linking to EID device(s)	£2,960.00	£1,184.00	1		Add item
30-CIWPP	Cattle (Beef / Dairy) Individual electronic weigh platform package (electronic weigh platform, two electronic load bars and electronic weigh scale) CAPABLE of linking to EID device(s)	£2,665.00	£1,066.00	-		Item added
30-FCHS	FIXED cattle handling system - provides safe holding area and race handling facility to attach to crush	£14,065.00	£5,626.00	-		Item added
30-CSCW	Manually operated cattle squeeze crush with weigh package (electronic weigh scale and two electronic load bars) CAPABLE of linking to EID device and automatic EID gate	£9,305.00	£3,722.00	1		Add item

1 to 5 of 20 items

< 1 2 3 4 >

f. Item Specification

Please read the specifications carefully. Note some items are packages and there are multiple components you must purchase.

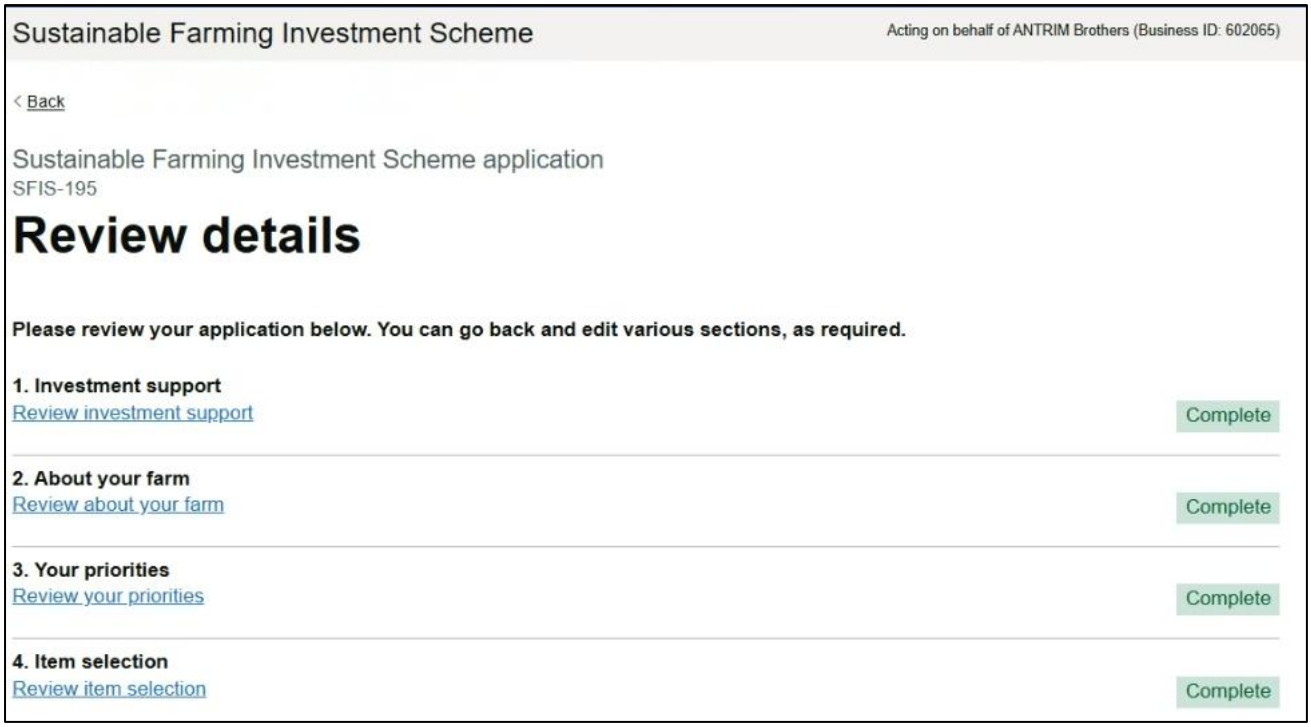


g. Save selection and review application

If content with item selection or wish to save the application and come back to it click ‘Save and continue’ at the bottom of the screen.



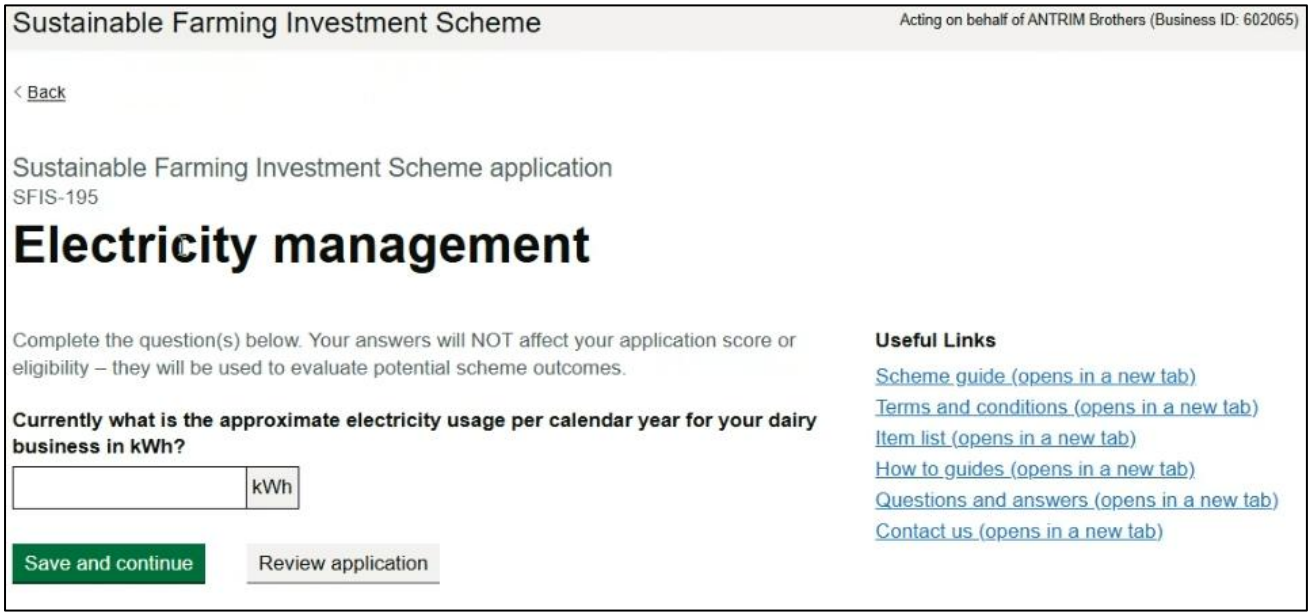
If you wish to review your progress in the application to date, then click ‘Review application’.



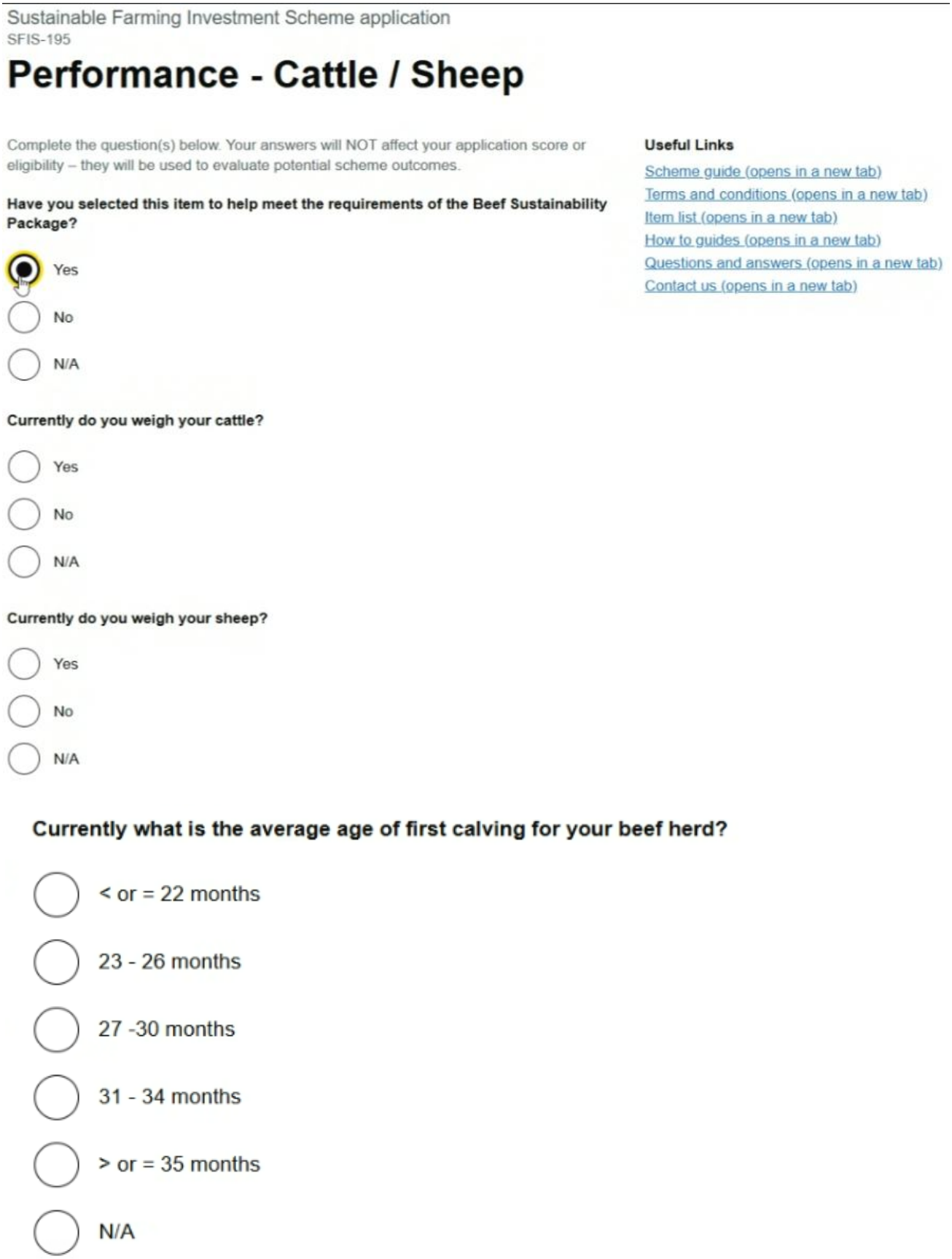
10. Item questions

For certain items there are some simple short questions that must be answered to proceed. Please see the Guide for more information regarding the questions and the items they relate to.

For example, if you select a variable speed vacuum pump you will be asked a question regarding electricity usage.



For the fixed cattle handling you will be asked some questions regarding your stock.



Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme application
SFIS-195

Performance - Cattle / Sheep

Complete the question(s) below. Your answers will NOT affect your application score or eligibility – they will be used to evaluate potential scheme outcomes.

Useful Links

Scheme guide (opens in a new tab)
Terms and conditions (opens in a new tab)
Item list (opens in a new tab)
How to guides (opens in a new tab)
Questions and answers (opens in a new tab)
Contact us (opens in a new tab)

Have you selected this item to help meet the requirements of the Beef Sustainability Package?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) N/A

Currently do you weigh your cattle?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) N/A

Currently do you weigh your sheep?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- ( ) N/A

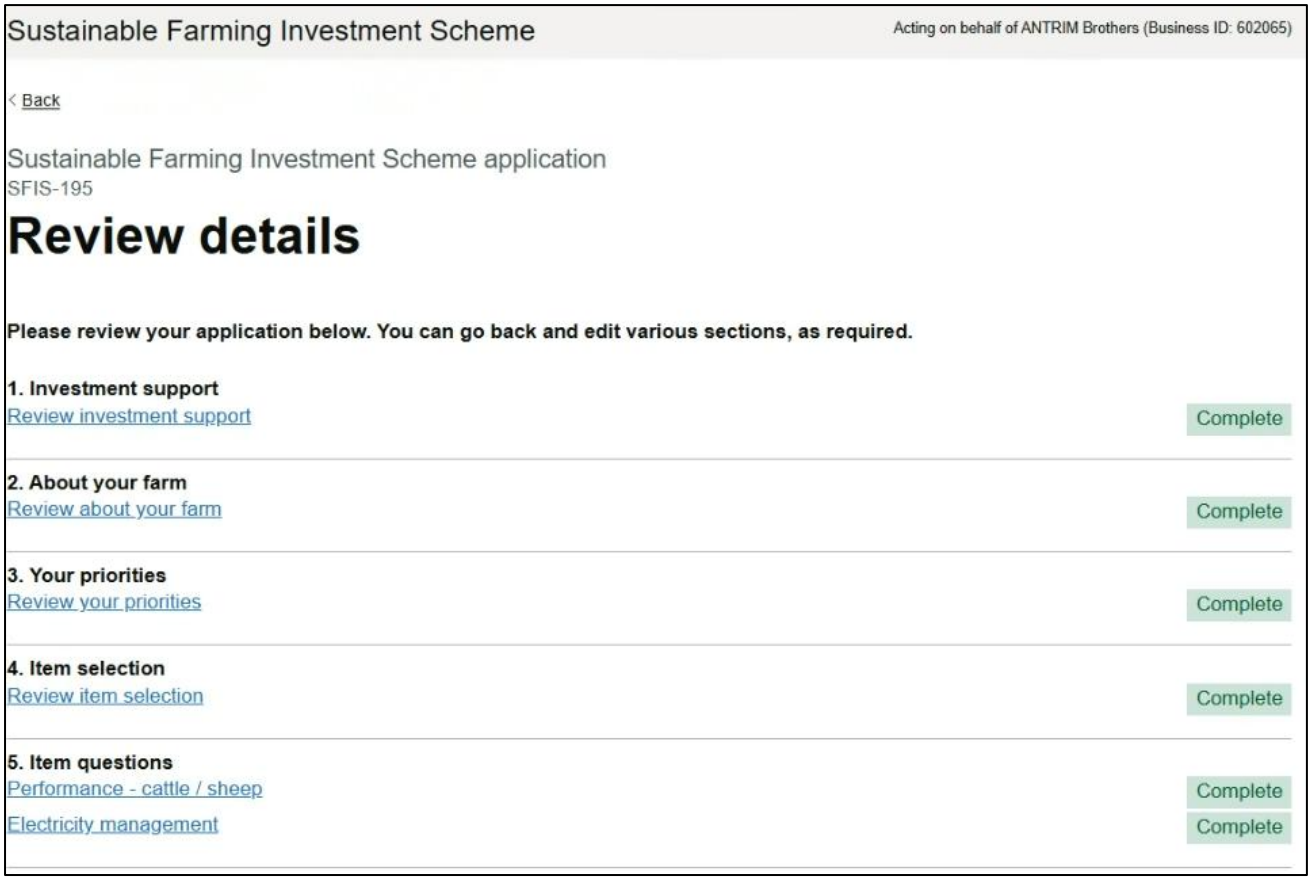
Currently what is the average age of first calving for your beef herd?

- ( ) < or = 22 months
- ( ) 23 - 26 months
- ( ) 27 -30 months
- ( ) 31 - 34 months
- ( ) > or = 35 months
- ( ) N/A

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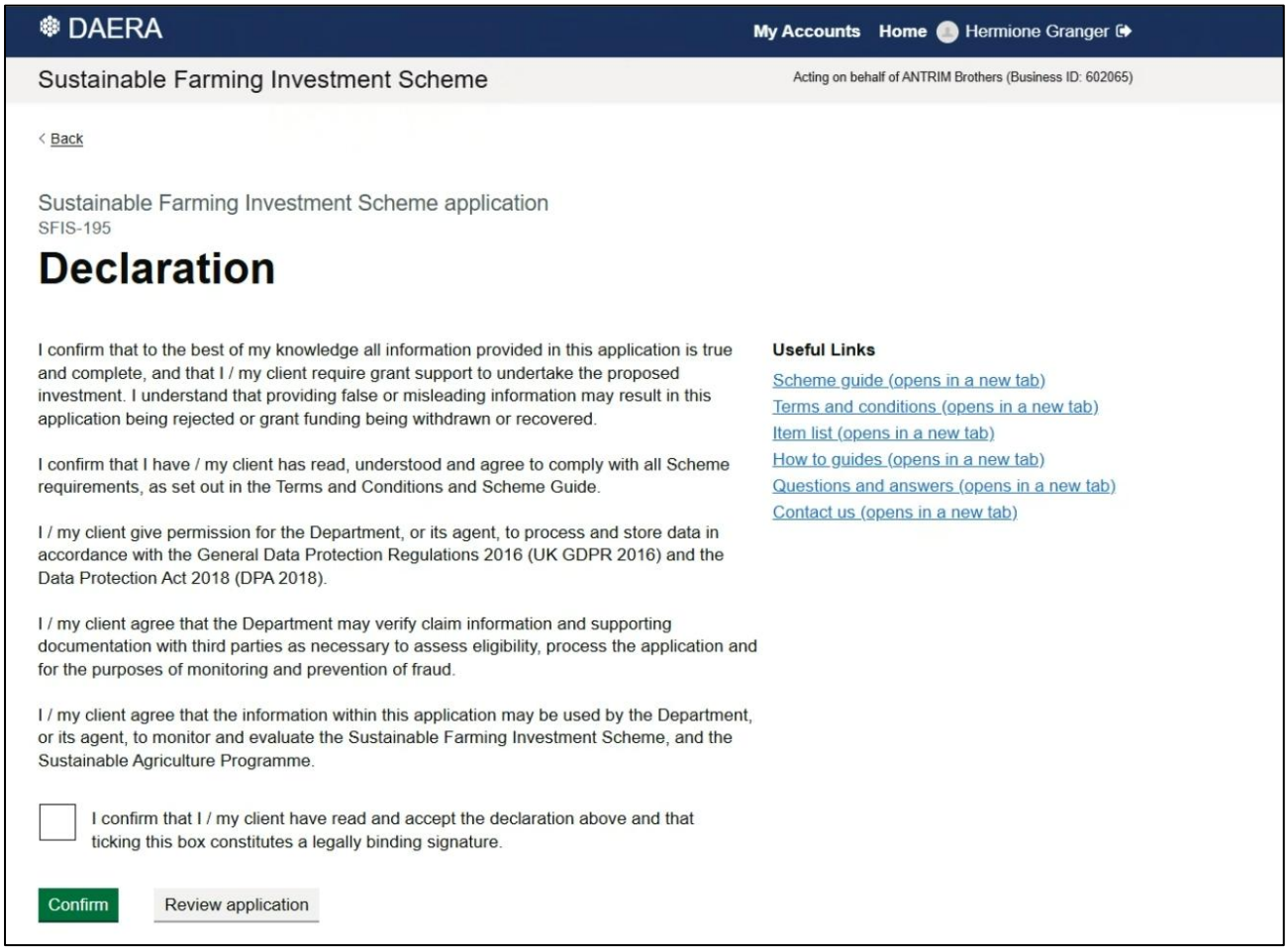


Once content with your answers click ‘Save and continue’. If you wish to review, select ‘Review application’.


Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme
Acting on behalf of ANTRIM Brothers (Business ID: 602065)
< Back
Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme application
SFIS-195
Review details
Please review your application below. You can go back and edit various sections, as required.
1. Investment support
Review investment support
Complete
2. About your farm
Review about your farm
Complete
3. Your priorities
Review your priorities
Complete
4. Item selection
Review item selection
Complete
5. Item questions
Performance - cattle / sheep
Complete
Electricity management
Complete

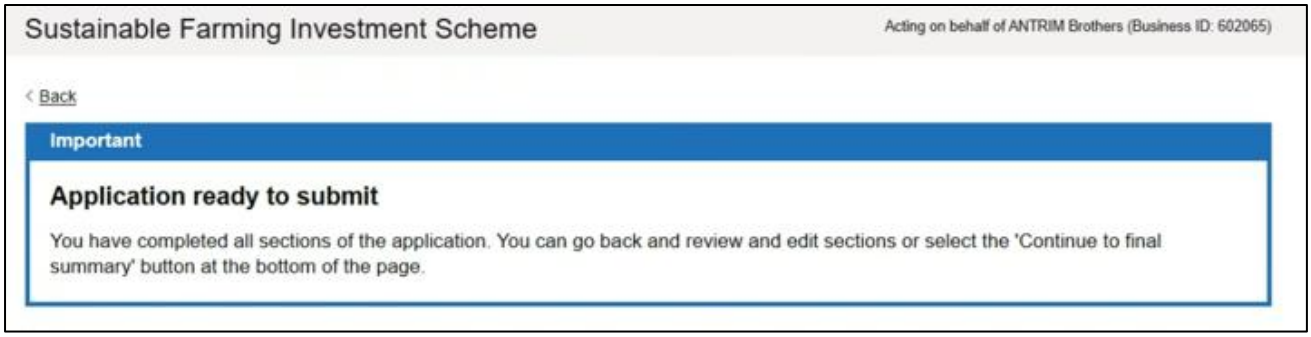
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11. Declaration



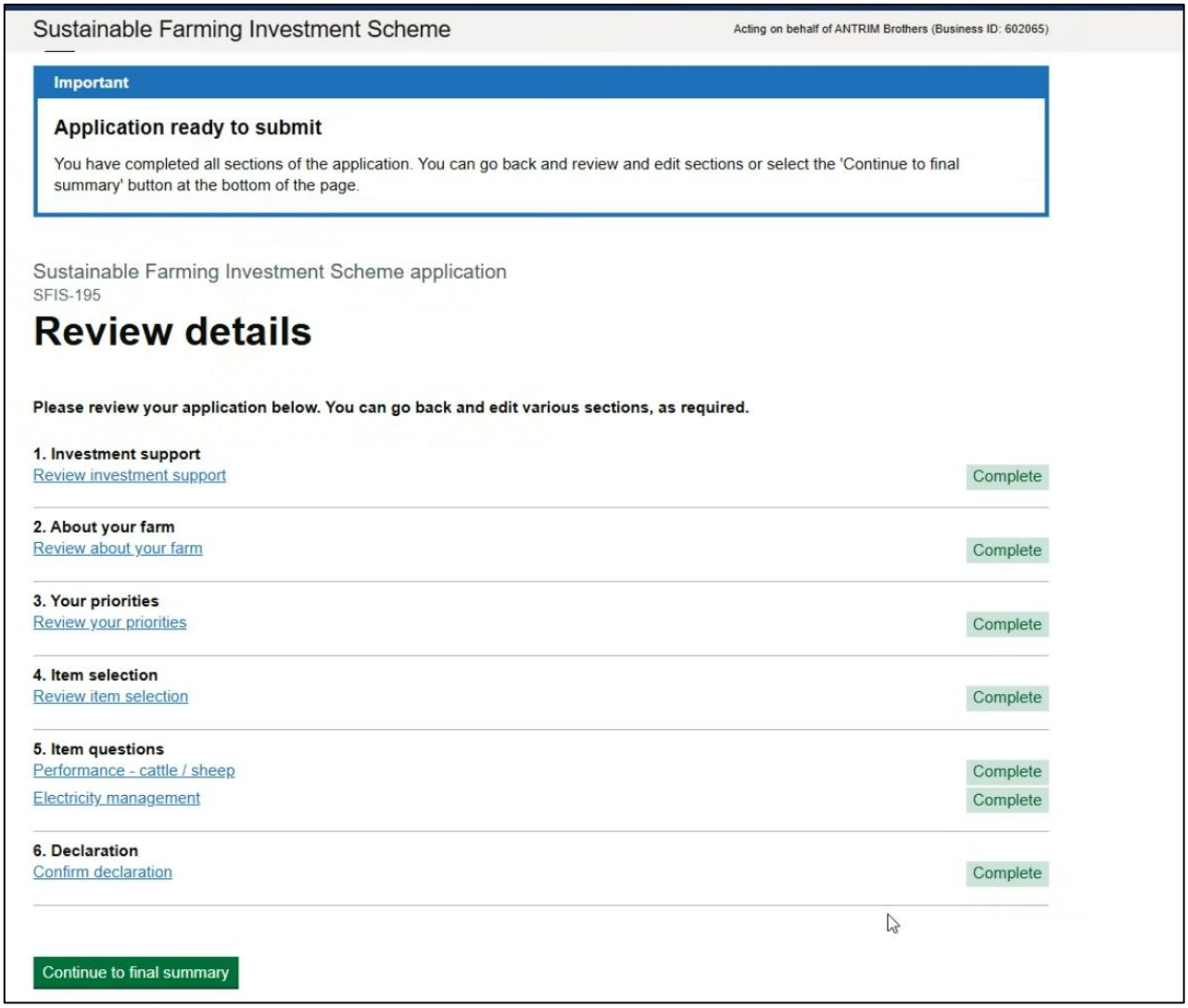
Please read the application declaration and if content, click on the box and then click the green button ‘Confirm’. The next screen will then ask if you are content to proceed.

If you want to check over your application, then click the back button at the top left of the screen.



Published 27 November 2026

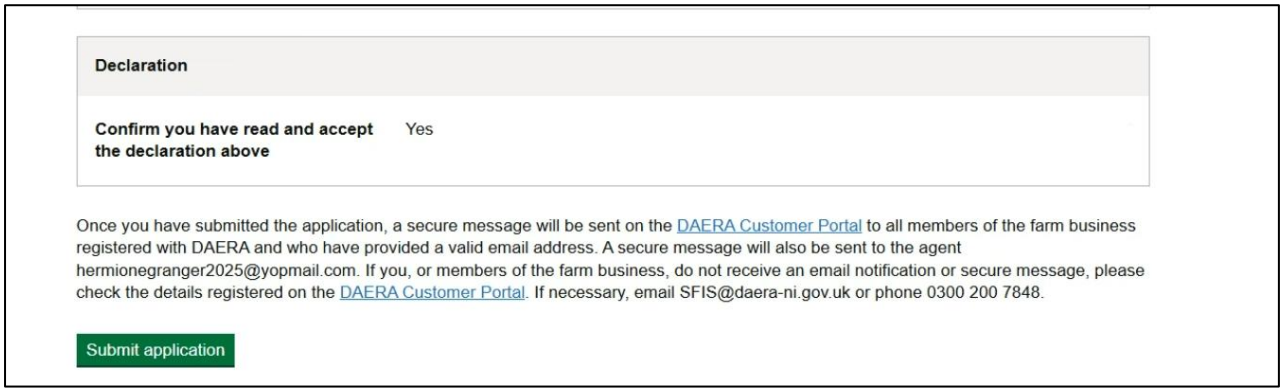
If you are content to proceed, click the green button ‘Continue to final summary’ at the bottom of the screen.



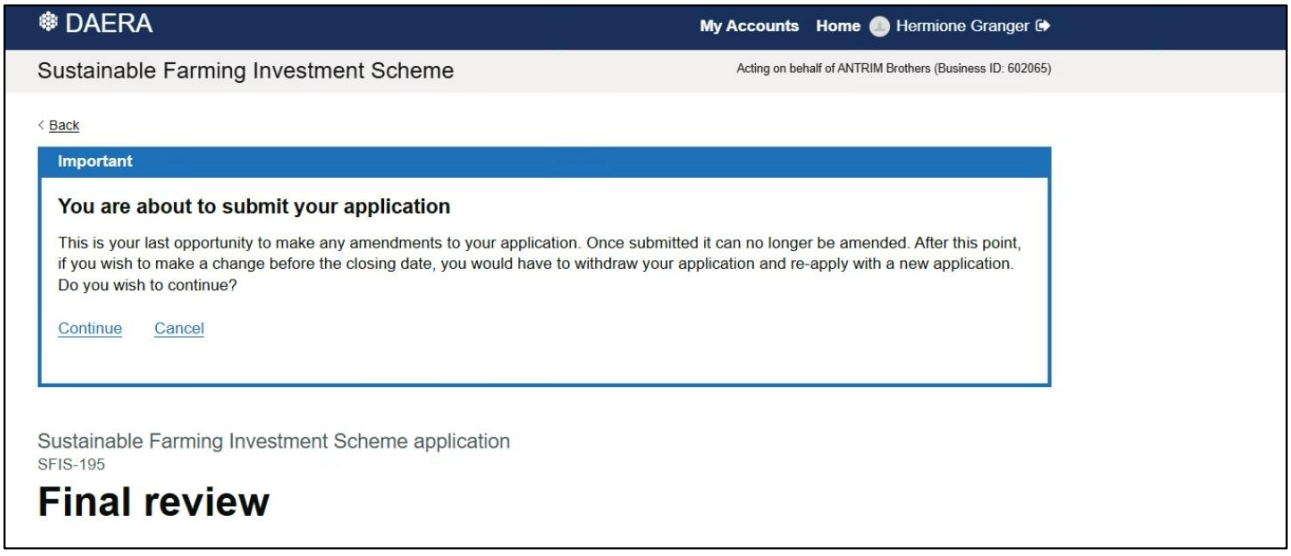
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12. Final summary

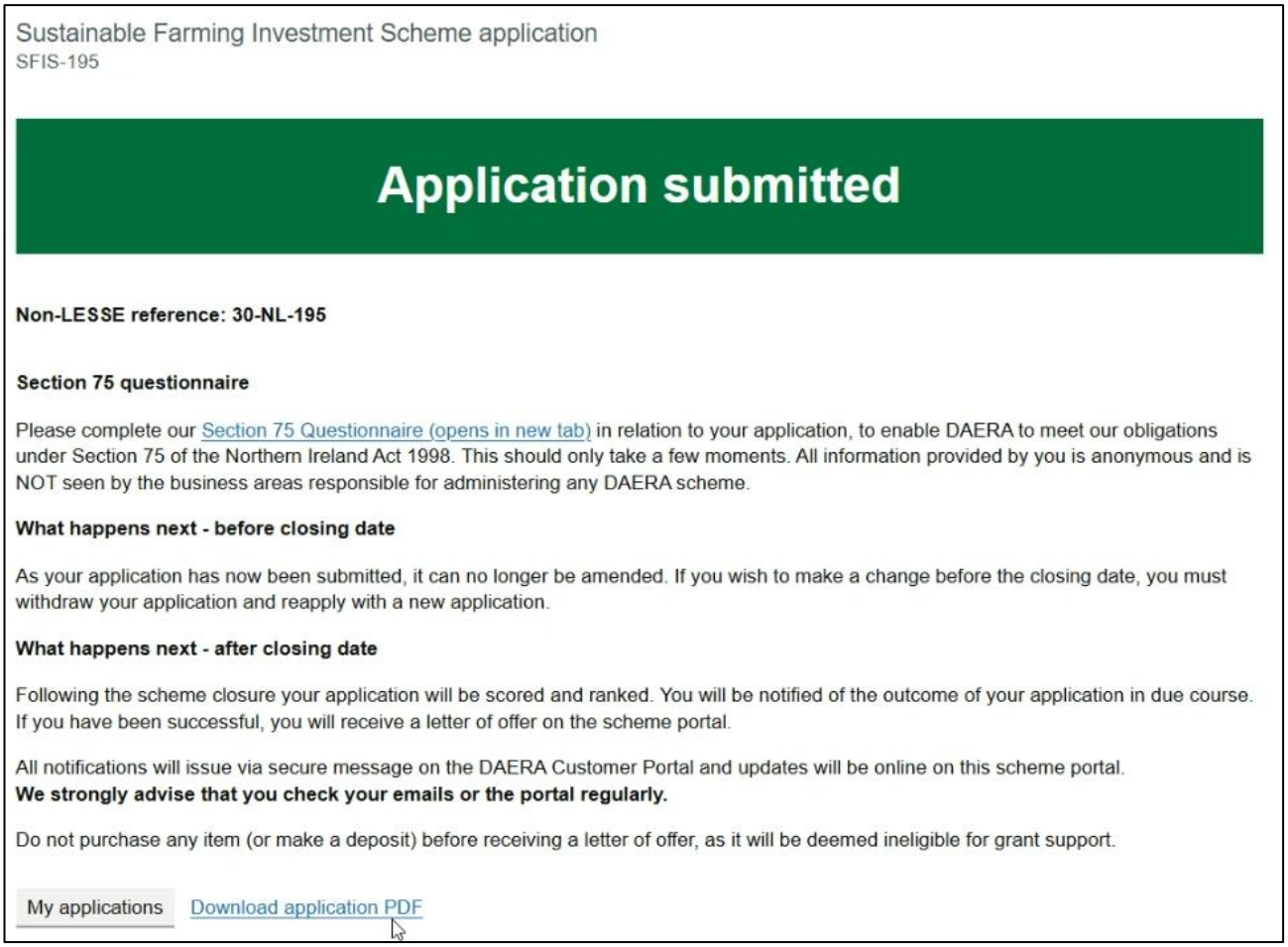
A final summary of the whole application will then be available on the screen to scroll down through and check each section. If you are content, then scroll to the bottom and click on the green button ‘Submit application’. Note you must click this button before the application closing date otherwise your application will not be considered.



Once you click Submit application, a message box appears at the top of the screen to inform you that you are about to submit your application. If you wish to go back then click ‘Cancel’ or the back button just above the blue box.



If you wish to proceed click ‘Continue’.


Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme application
SFIS-195

Application submitted

Non-LESSE reference: 30-NL-195

Section 75 questionnaire

Please complete our Section 75 Questionnaire (opens in new tab) in relation to your application, to enable DAERA to meet our obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This should only take a few moments. All information provided by you is anonymous and is NOT seen by the business areas responsible for administering any DAERA scheme.

What happens next - before closing date

As your application has now been submitted, it can no longer be amended. If you wish to make a change before the closing date, you must withdraw your application and reapply with a new application.

What happens next - after closing date

Following the scheme closure your application will be scored and ranked. You will be notified of the outcome of your application in due course. If you have been successful, you will receive a letter of offer on the scheme portal.

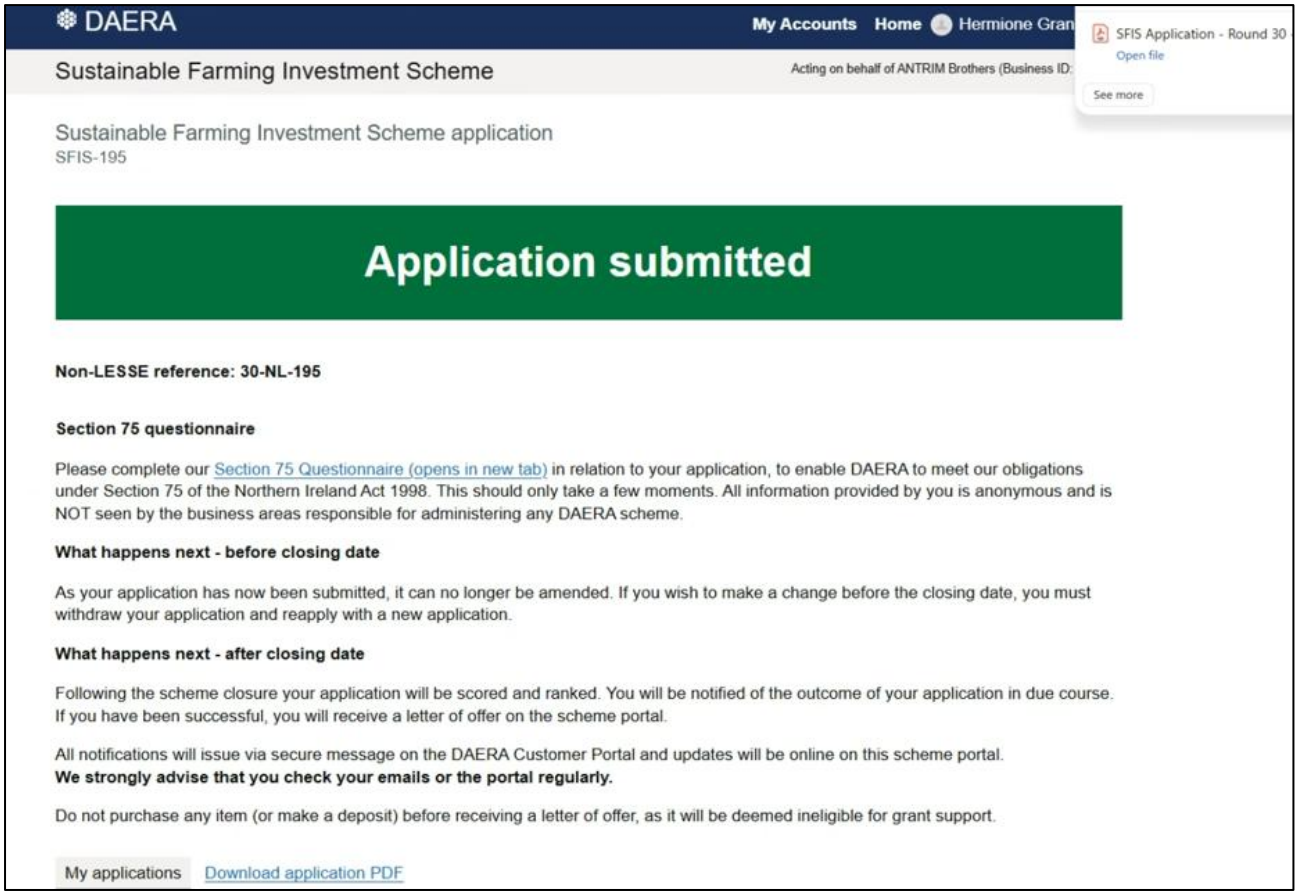
All notifications will issue via secure message on the DAERA Customer Portal and updates will be online on this scheme portal.
We strongly advise that you check your emails or the portal regularly.

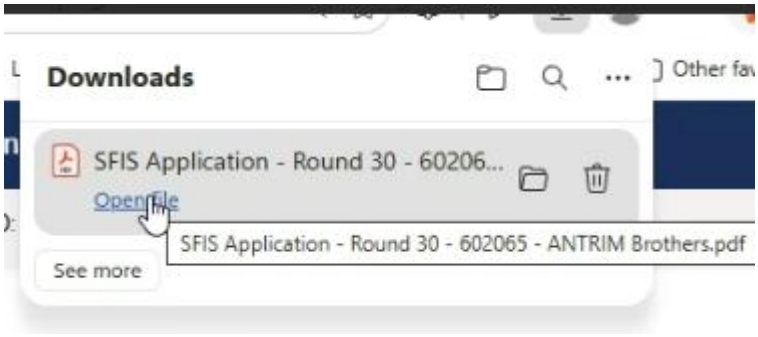
Do not purchase any item (or make a deposit) before receiving a letter of offer, as it will be deemed ineligible for grant support.

My applications Download application PDF

If you wish to save the application, then click on blue writing ‘Download application PDF’. Then click ‘Open file’

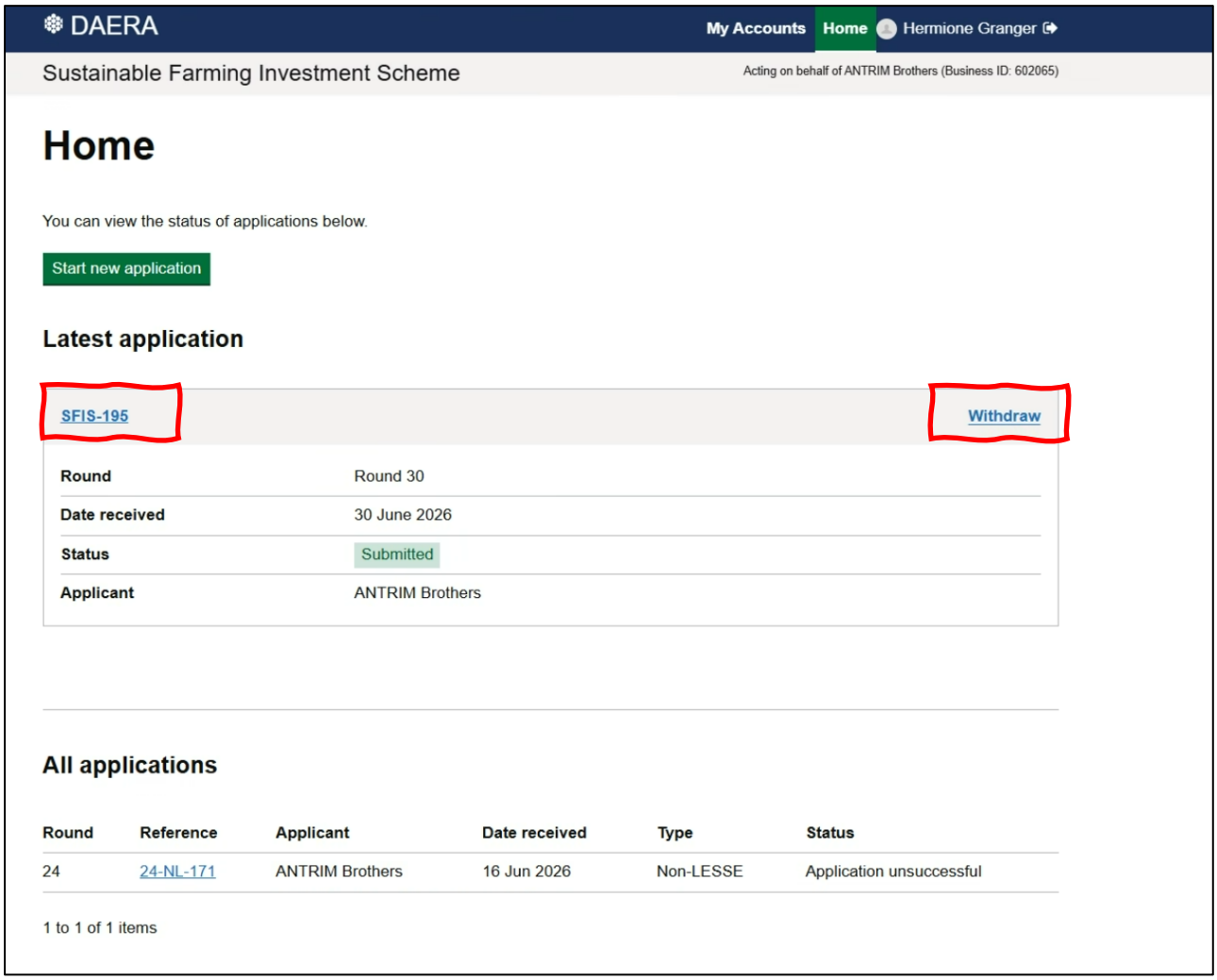
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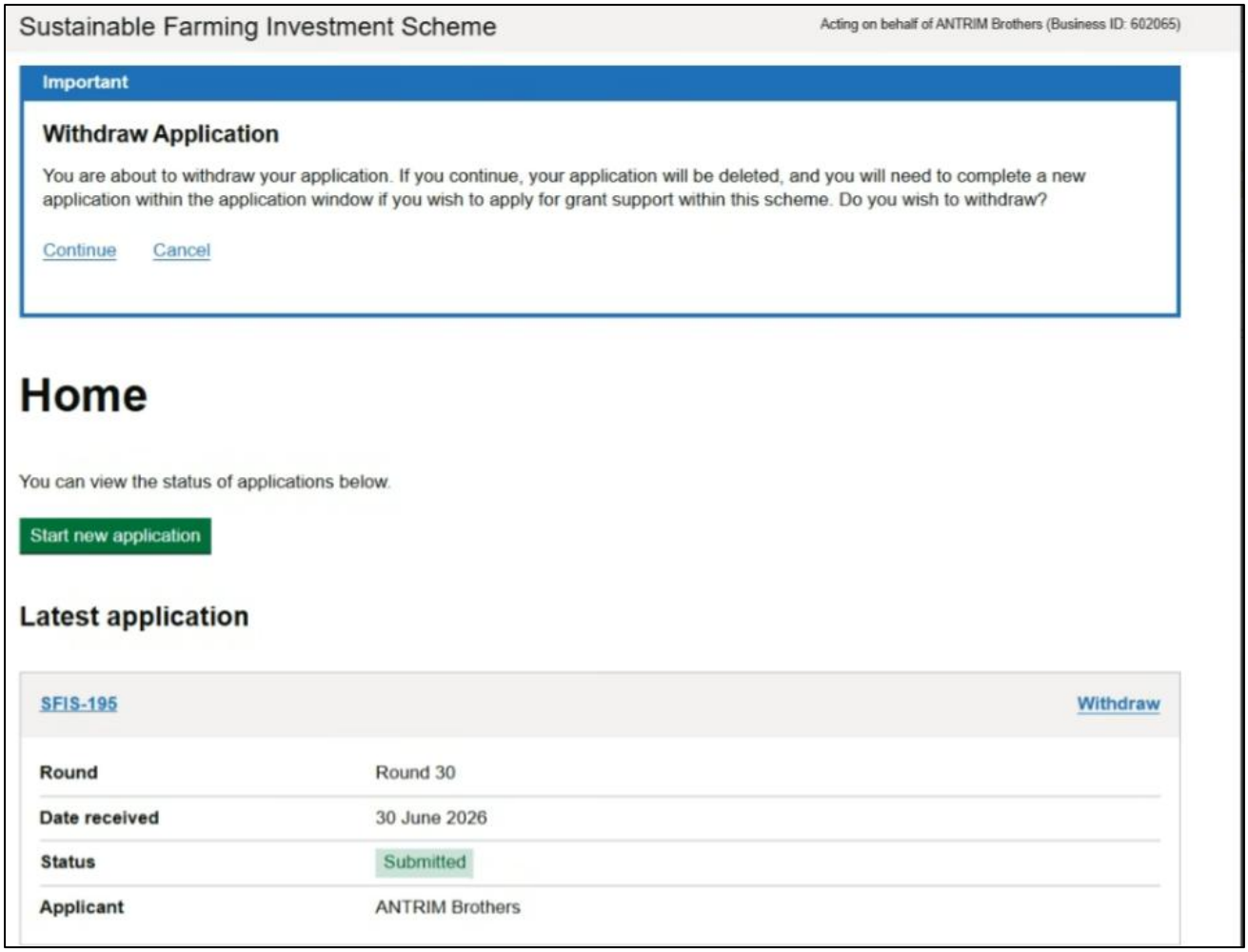


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13. Home page on Scheme Portal – after application submitted



While the application period is still open, there is a table below 'Latest application'. If you wish to view your current application, click on the application reference in blue in the top grey bar – See SFIS-195 above. If you wish to withdraw the current application, select the blue 'Withdraw' in the grey bar. A blue box will then display at the top of the screen asking are you sure about withdrawing your application. Click 'Continue' to withdraw and 'Cancel' if you have changed your mind. If you withdraw your application, you can submit another one if the scheme is still open.

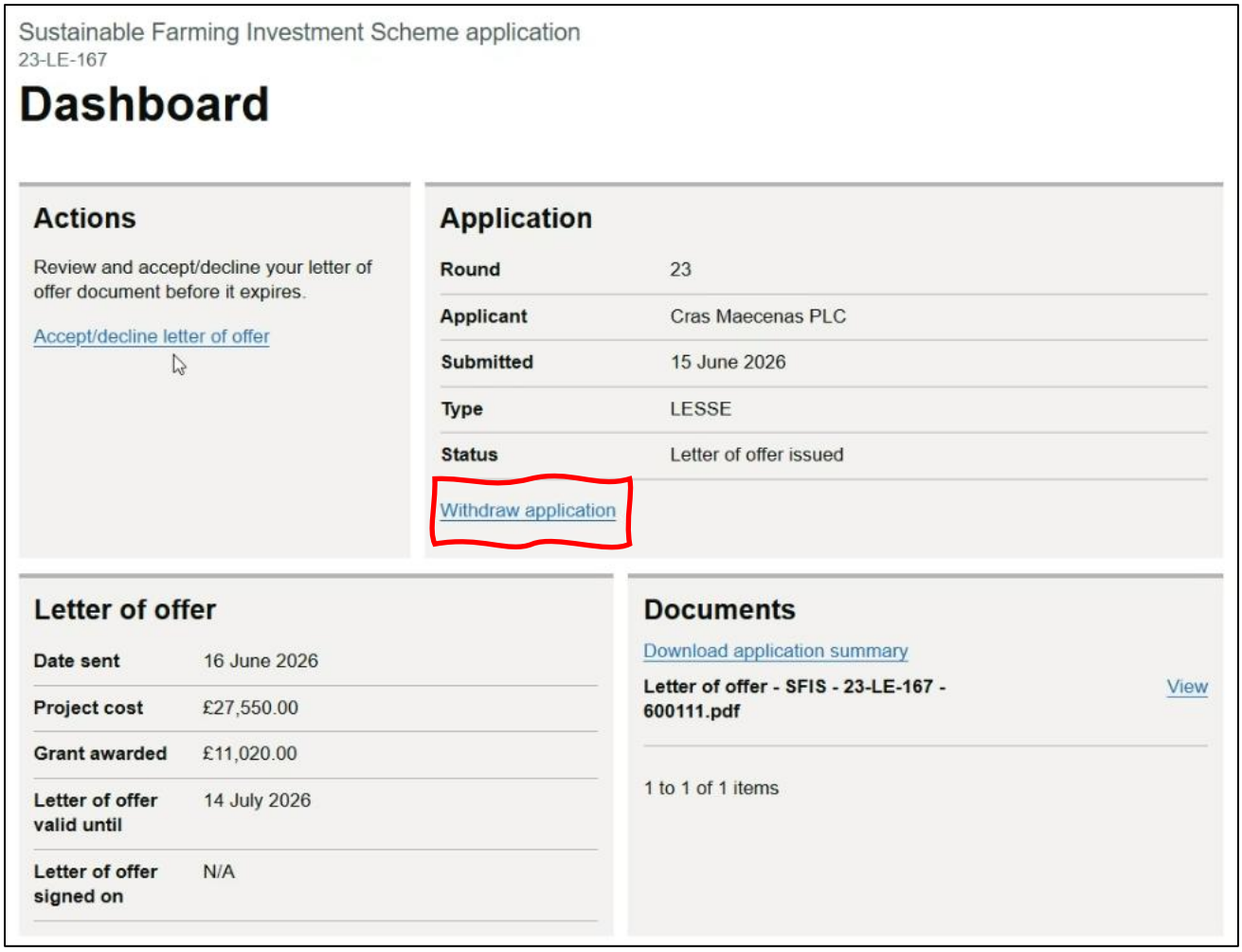


14. Scheme Dashboard

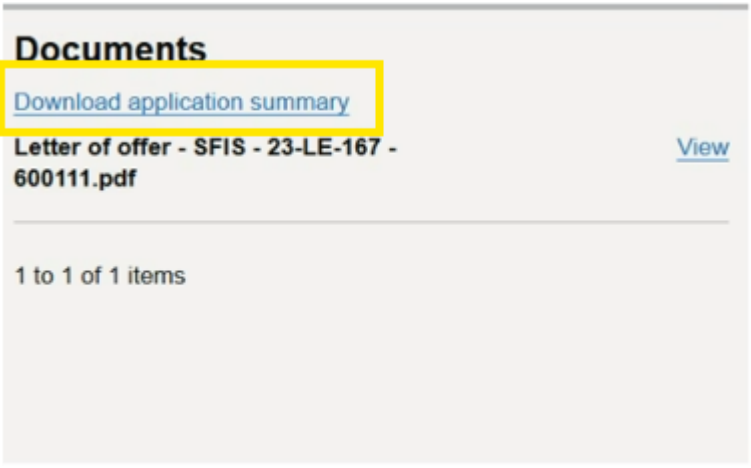
After the scheme is closed a LESSE or Non -LESSE application is listed under 'All applications' in the Scheme Portal Homepage.



By selecting the appropriate reference in blue writing e.g. 24-NL-171 the dashboard for that application will open.

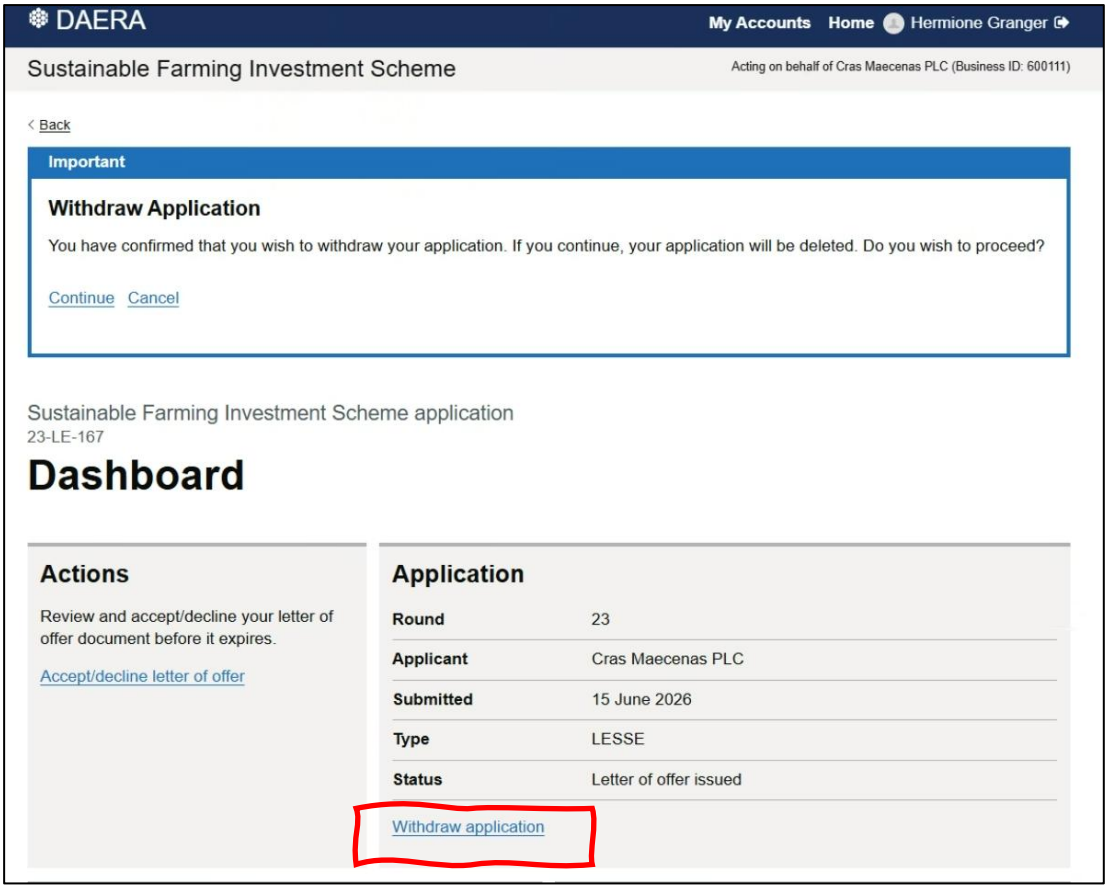


You can view your application summary here:

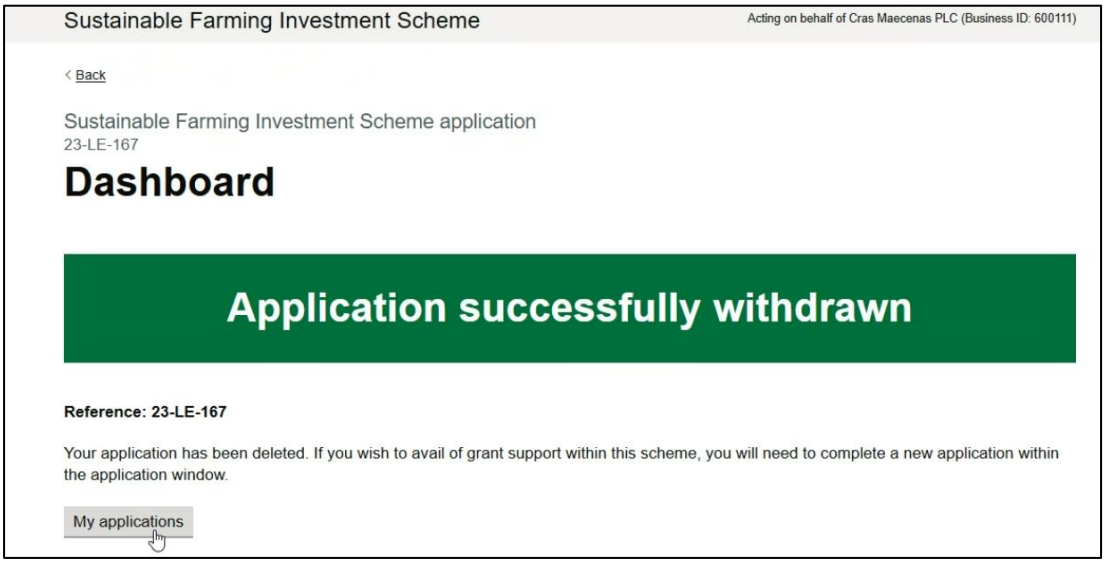


a. Withdraw application

To withdraw a LESSE or Non-LESSE application select the blue 'Withdraw application' in the Application box. A blue box will appear at the top of the screen to check if you are content to withdraw your application.



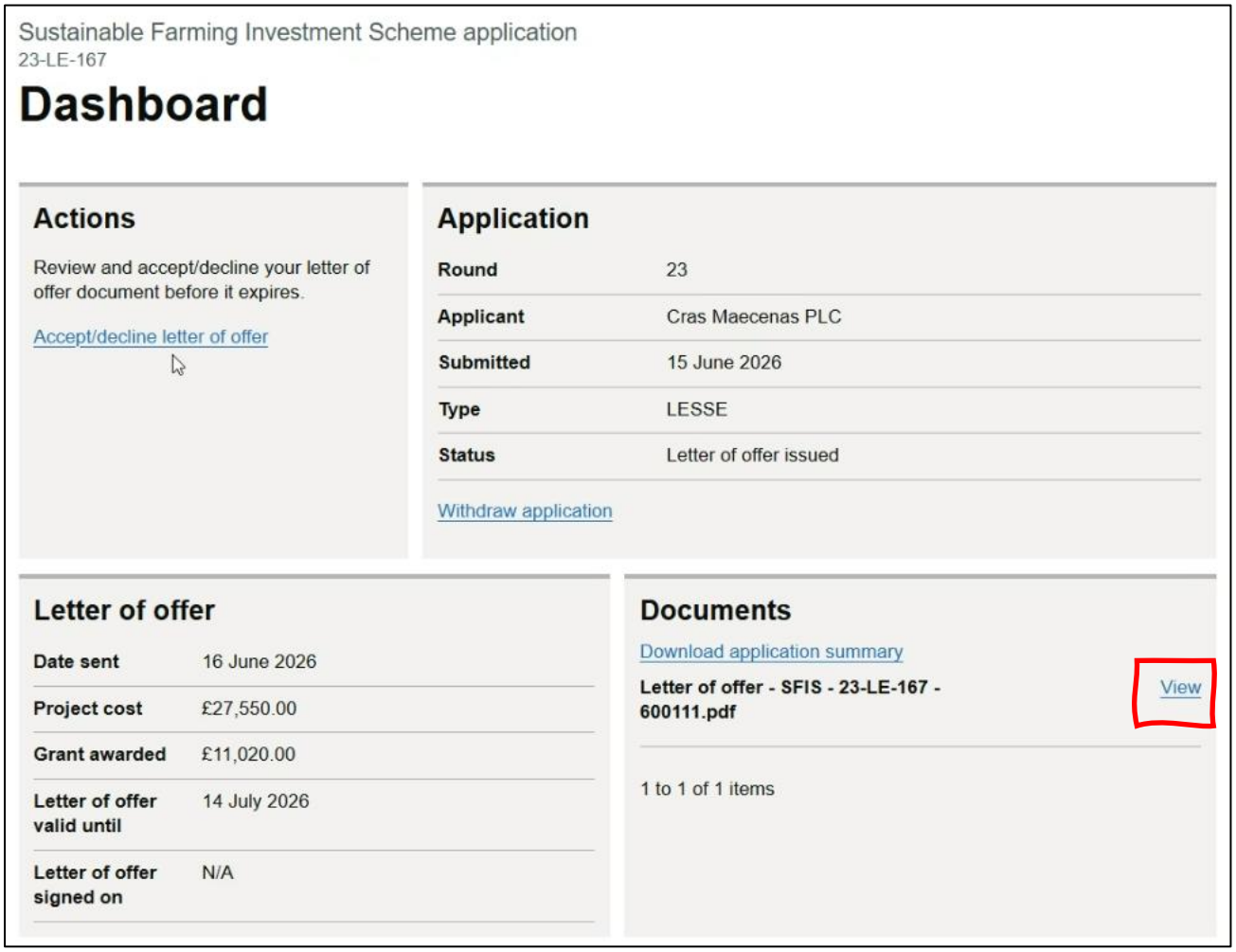
If you select 'Continue' the screen will confirm your application is withdrawn.



By selecting 'My applications' you will return to the Scheme Portal Homepage.

b. View letter of offer

Before accepting / declining your Letter of Offer you must review it. Click on the blue ‘View’ in the ‘Documents’ box to access your Letter of Offer.



The screen will then display your Letter of Offer.

To accept or reject your letter of offer, read the document below, along with the declaration and complete the checkboxes at the bottom of the screen, as appropriate.

Failure to accept this Non-LESSE letter of offer within 28 calendar days will result in your letter of offer expiring.



Food, Farming and Rural Affairs Group
Future Investment Measures Delivery
SFIS@daera-ni.gov.uk

Cras Maecenas PLC
600111
Application Ref: 23-NL-167
16 June 2026

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Department of Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers

LETTER OF OFFER:

Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme (SFIS) – Non-LESSE

Following assessment of your application and in accordance with the Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026, I am pleased to inform you that your application to the SFIS has been approved for Non-LESSE items.

Total grant offered (£):	0.00
Project start date:	16 June 2026
Final acceptance date of letter of offer:	14 July 2026
Final claim submission date:	13 December 2026

Failure to accept this Non-LESSE letter of offer by 14 July 2026 will result in your letter of offer expiring.

Please read the Scheme Guide, Terms and Conditions, each item specification below and the contents of this letter carefully before accepting your letter of offer on the scheme portal.

This letter of offer if accepted becomes a legally binding contract between you and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. This includes any addendum made to this letter of offer, either on your request in writing or under a variation by the Department.

Your project must be completed by purchasing the specific item(s) listed in this letter of offer, and your claim submitted on the scheme portal by the 13 December 2026 or the claim will be ineligible. Only one claim for the complete project can be submitted against this Non-LESSE letter of offer.

An extension to the Final Claim Submission date for this letter of offer will only be considered in exceptional circumstances as set out within the Scheme Guide.

Expenditure that is not incurred within the rules will not be funded and further penalties may apply. Any invoice dated, or expenditure (including part payments or deposits) incurred BEFORE the date of this letter of offer will render the whole item and potentially the entire project ineligible for Financial Support.

Project item list

All reference price and grant £ amounts below are excluding VAT

Total grant offered (£): **11,020**

Each item must be retained for a minimum of 5 years from the date of claim, and may be subject to an on-site inspection.

All transactions will be completed on the scheme portal which will advise you of the progress of your claim. Project notifications may issue by secure message on the DAERA Customer Portal including reminders of upcoming claim deadlines.

You will be notified in writing if the Department wish to vary an approval provided in this letter of offer as per regulation 6(2) of the Sustainable Farming Investment Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

This letter of offer ONLY relates to the Non-LESSE items included in your application. If you applied for both LESSE and Non-LESSE items, the outcome of each of these will be available separately on the scheme portal.

If you are also issued with a letter of offer for LESSE then you must consider it separately. Payments may or may not be made at the same time, as claims may be processed separately for each letter of offer.

If you have any queries, please email SFIS@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

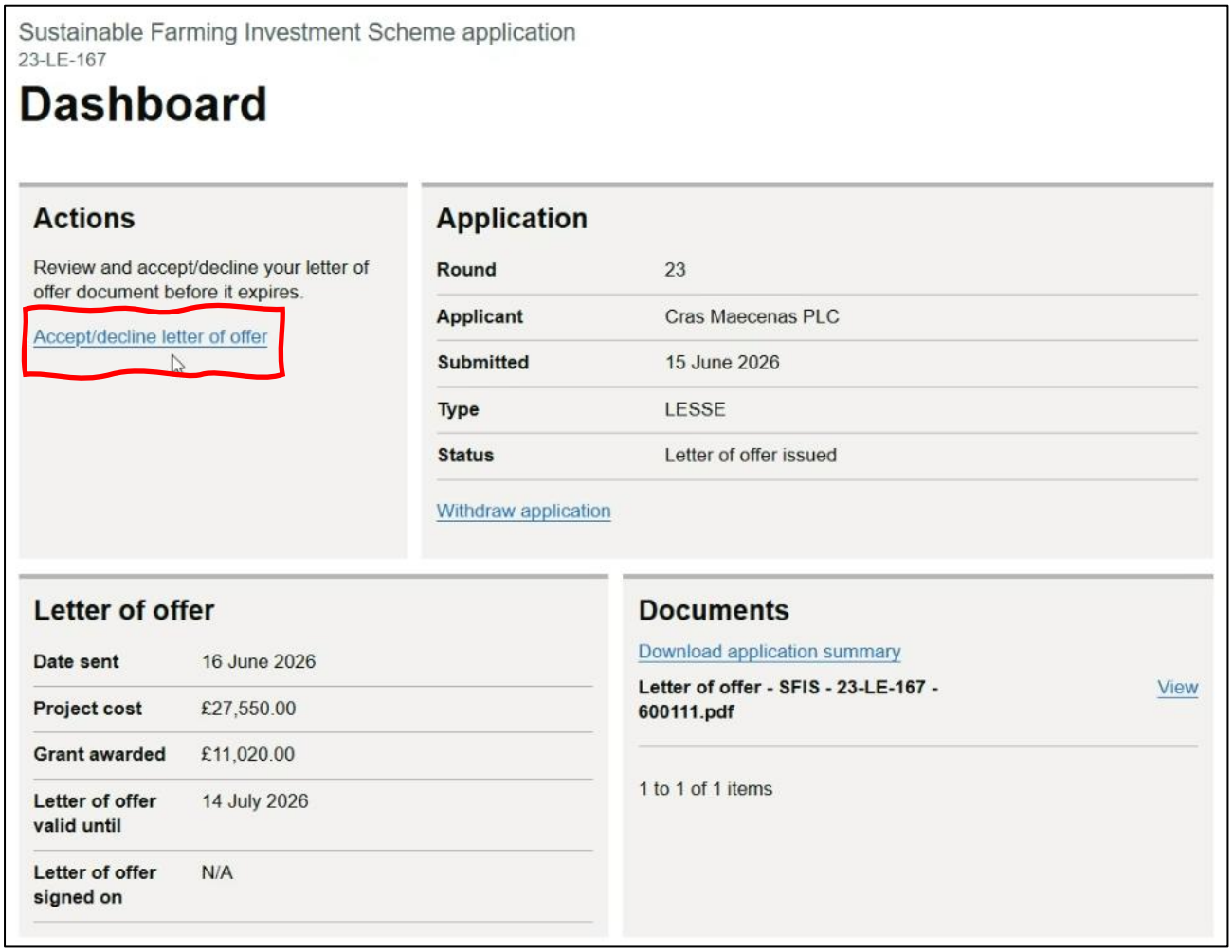
Head of Farm Investment Delivery Branch, DAERA

Failure to accept this Non-LESSE letter of offer by 14 July 2026 will result in your letter of offer expiring.

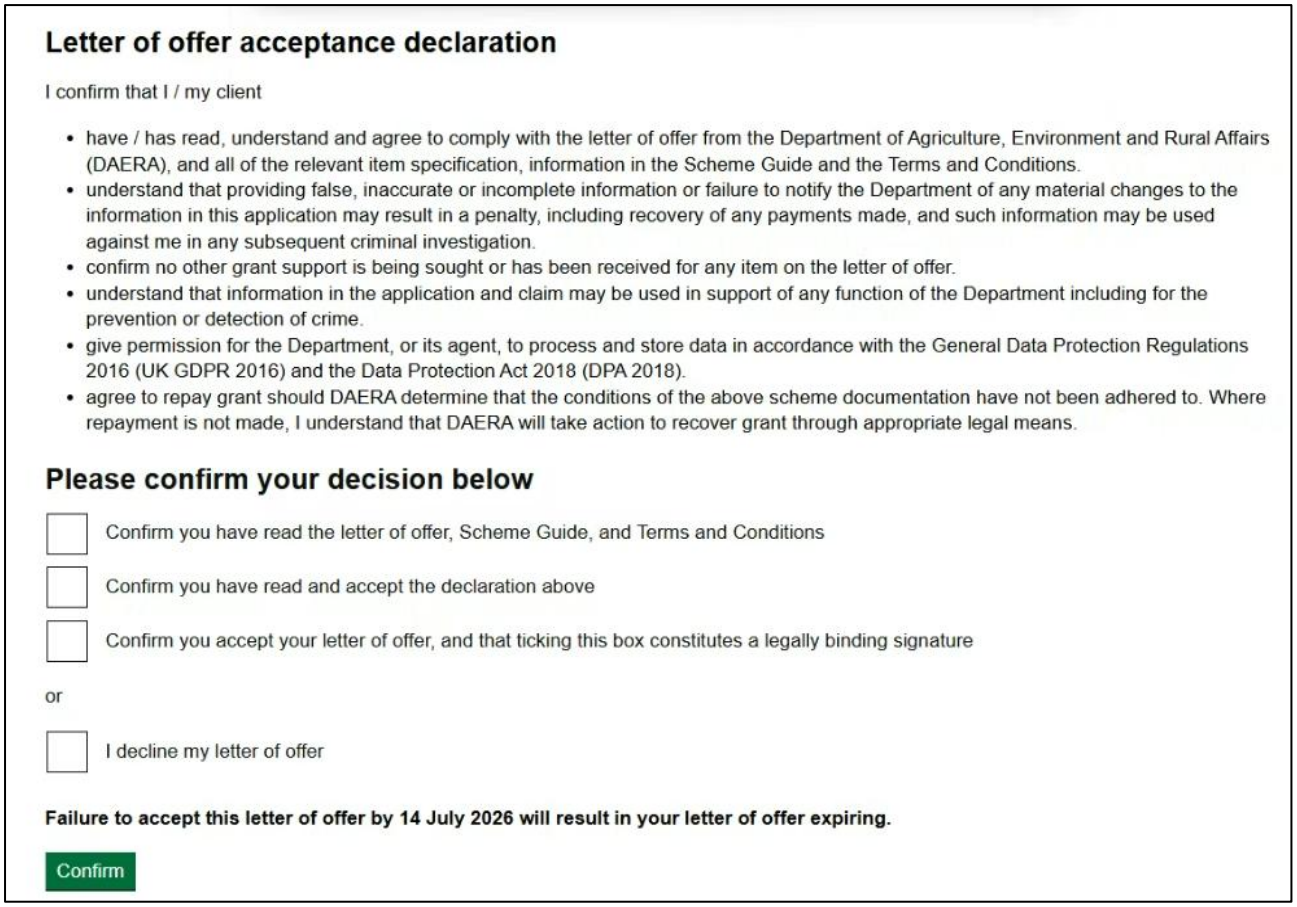
If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Standard

c. Accept letter of offer



Click on the ‘Accept/decline letter of offer’ in the ‘Actions’ box if you wish to accept before it expires.



Letter of offer acceptance declaration

I confirm that I / my client

- have / has read, understand and agree to comply with the letter of offer from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), and all of the relevant item specification, information in the Scheme Guide and the Terms and Conditions.
- understand that providing false, inaccurate or incomplete information or failure to notify the Department of any material changes to the information in this application may result in a penalty, including recovery of any payments made, and such information may be used against me in any subsequent criminal investigation.
- confirm no other grant support is being sought or has been received for any item on the letter of offer.
- understand that information in the application and claim may be used in support of any function of the Department including for the prevention or detection of crime.
- give permission for the Department, or its agent, to process and store data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (UK GDPR 2016) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018).
- agree to repay grant should DAERA determine that the conditions of the above scheme documentation have not been adhered to. Where repayment is not made, I understand that DAERA will take action to recover grant through appropriate legal means.

Please confirm your decision below

☐ Confirm you have read the letter of offer, Scheme Guide, and Terms and Conditions

☐ Confirm you have read and accept the declaration above

☐ Confirm you accept your letter of offer, and that ticking this box constitutes a legally binding signature

or

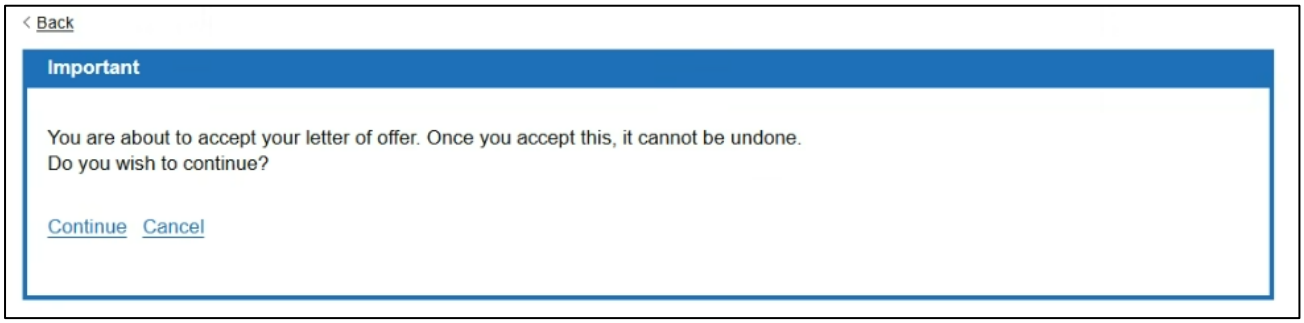
☐ I decline my letter of offer

Failure to accept this letter of offer by 14 July 2026 will result in your letter of offer expiring.

Confirm

If you wish to accept your Letter of Offer then select the top 3 boxes and click the green ‘Confirm’ box before the expiring date that is stated on the screen and on your Letter of Offer.

A blue box will then display at the top of the screen asking are you sure about accepting your Letter of Offer. Click ‘Continue’ to accept and ‘Cancel’ if you wish to go back and review the declaration or decline your Letter of Offer.



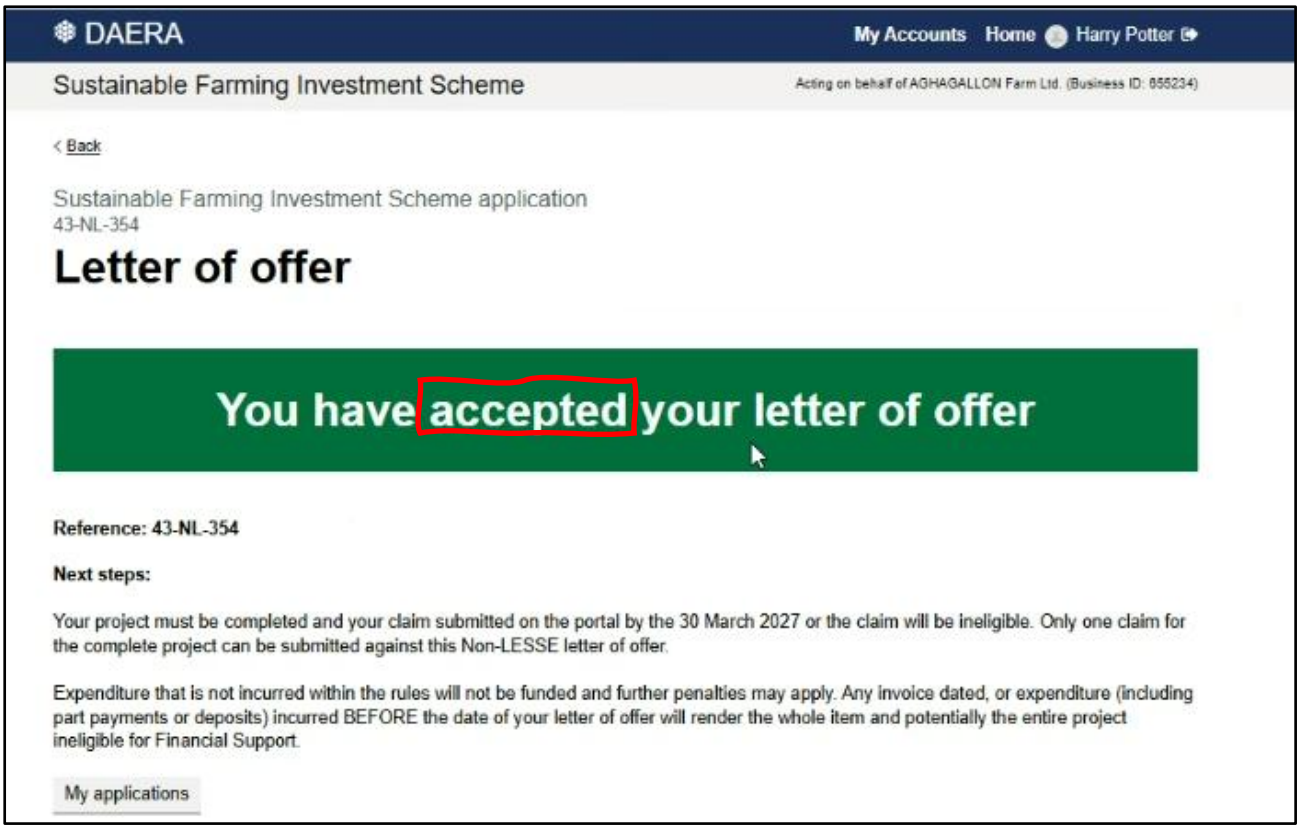
< Back

Important

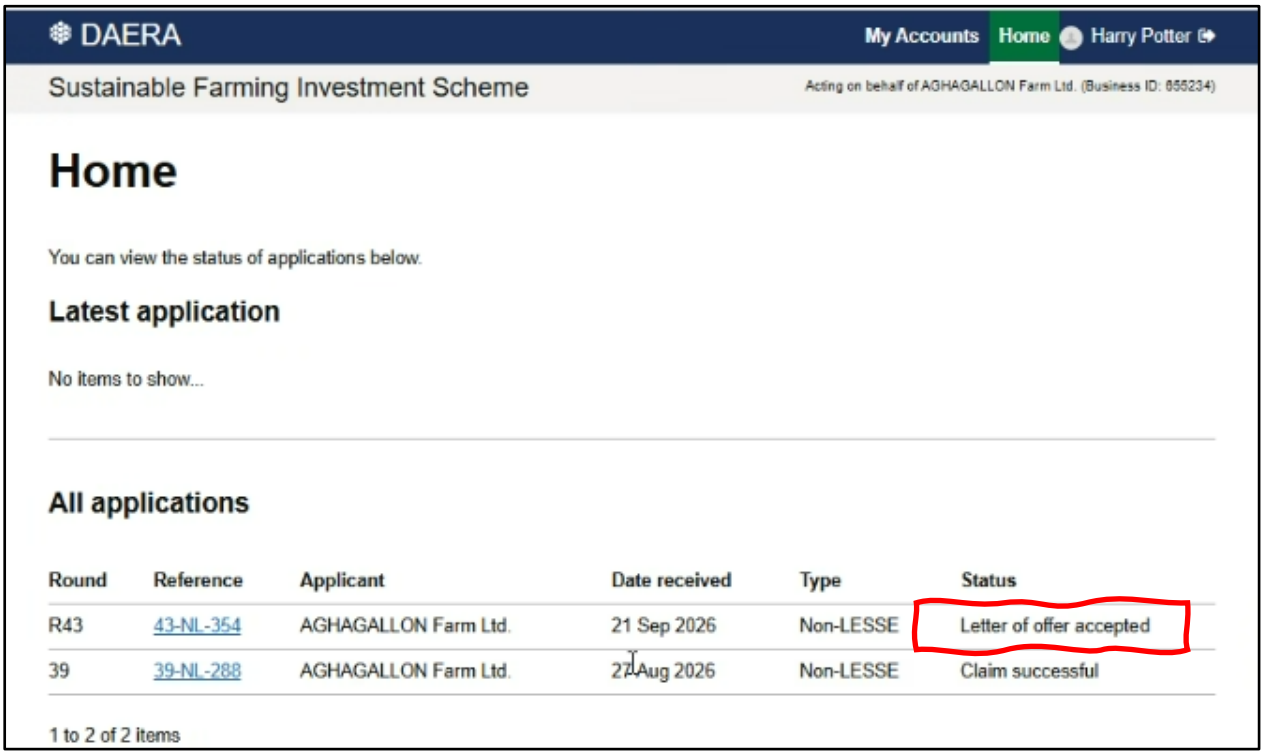
You are about to accept your letter of offer. Once you accept this, it cannot be undone.
Do you wish to continue?

Continue Cancel

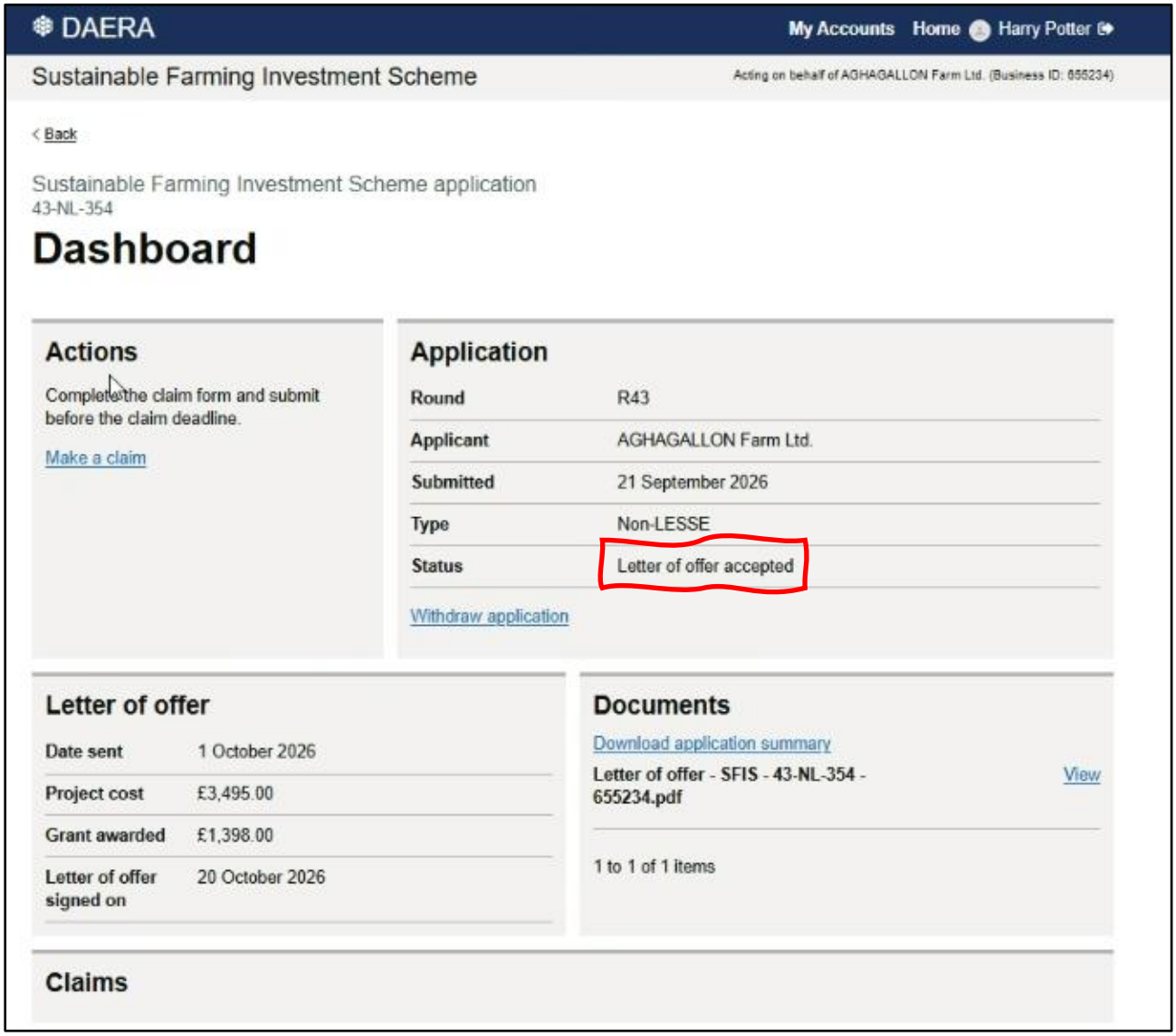
Once ‘continue’ is selected the splash screen is displayed with a green banner confirming that the letter of offer has been accepted.



By selecting ‘My applications’ you will return to the Scheme Portal Homepage where the status will have changed to ‘Letter of offer accepted’.

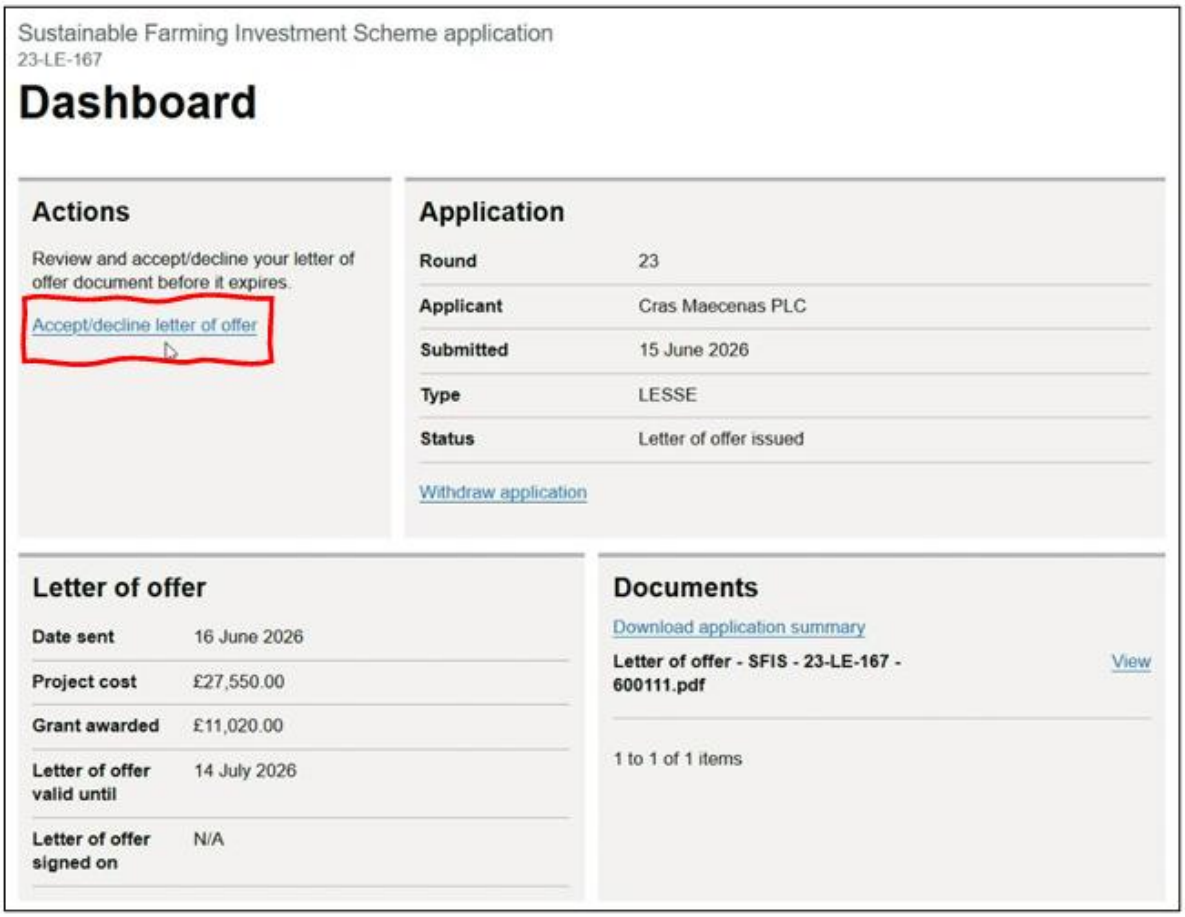


If you select the reference in blue relating to the application you have accepted, you will go to the dashboard. The status in the grey 'Application' box will be 'Letter of Offer accepted'. There is now a grey box entitled 'Claims'.

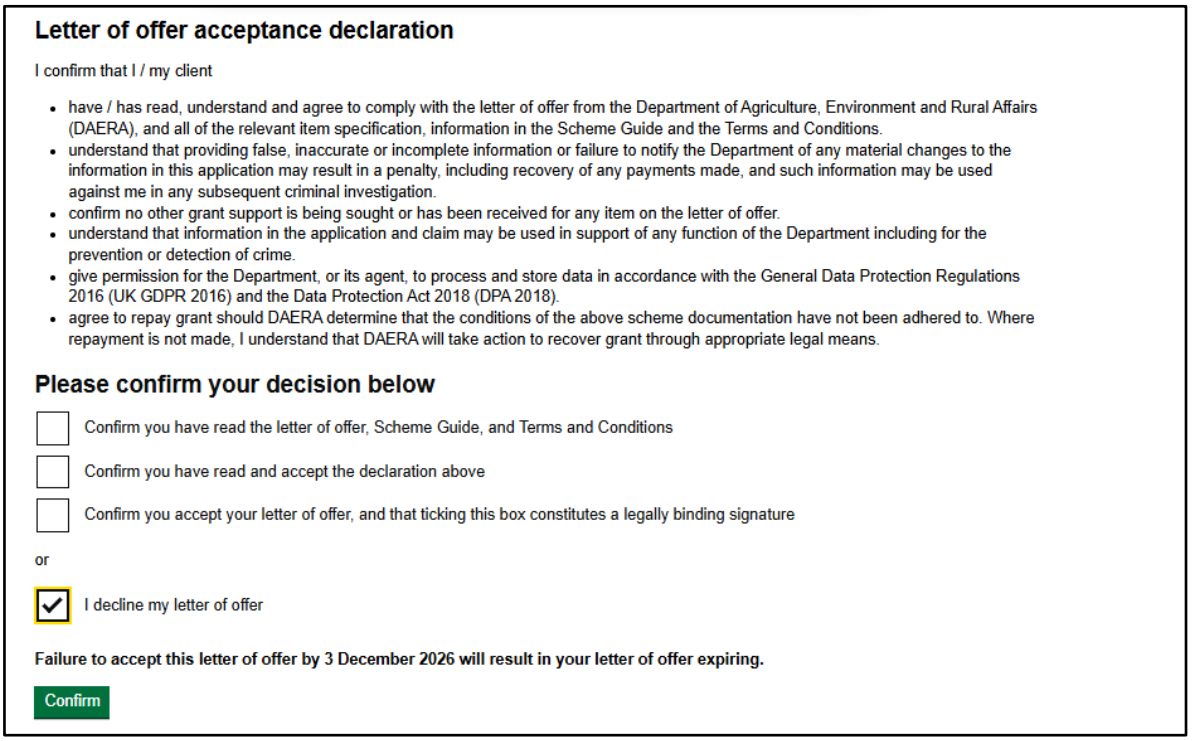


d. Decline letter of offer

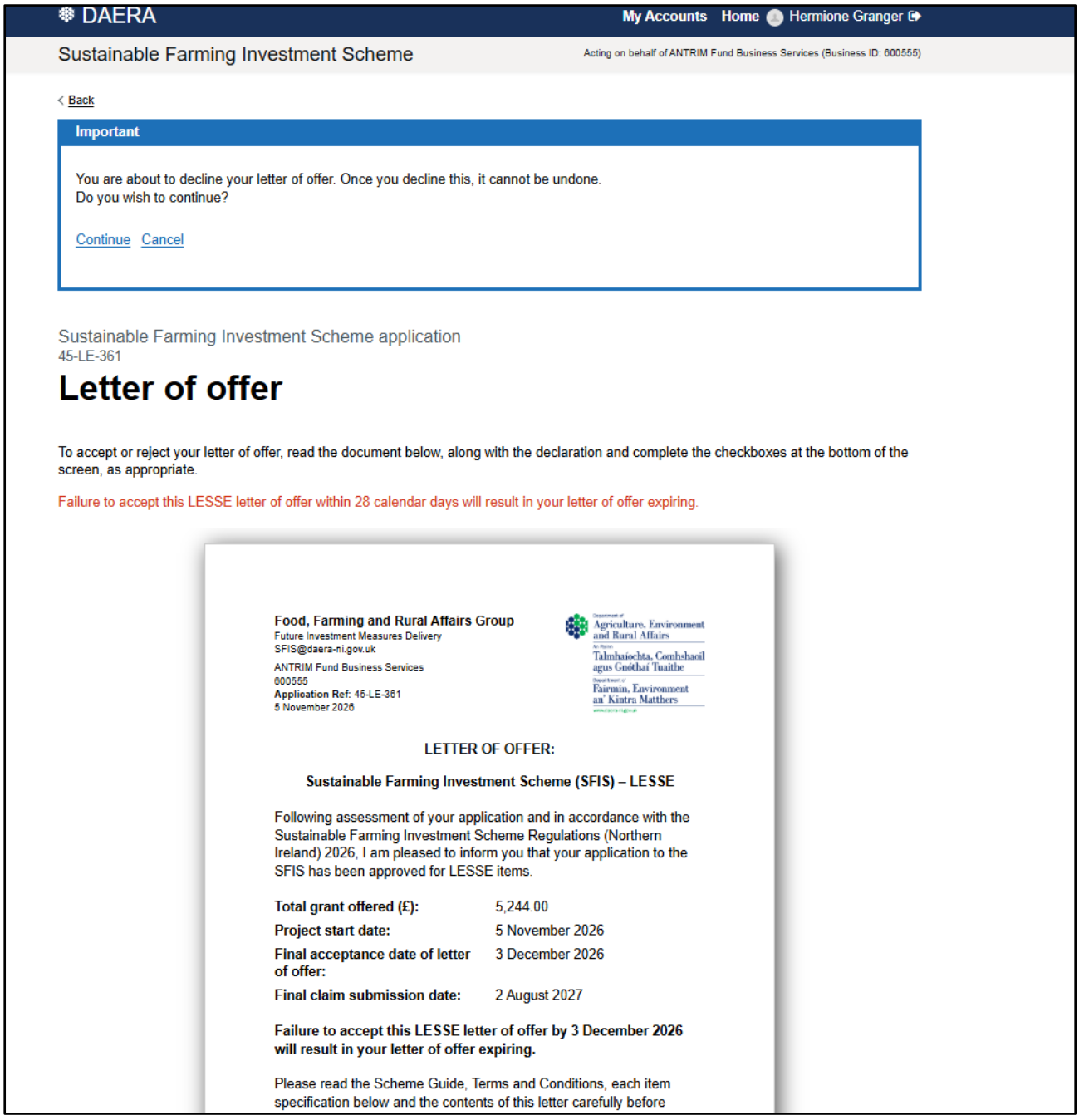
Click on the 'Accept/decline letter of offer' in the 'Actions' box if you wish to **decline** your letter of offer before it expires. Please note – **if you decline your offer, this cannot be undone.**



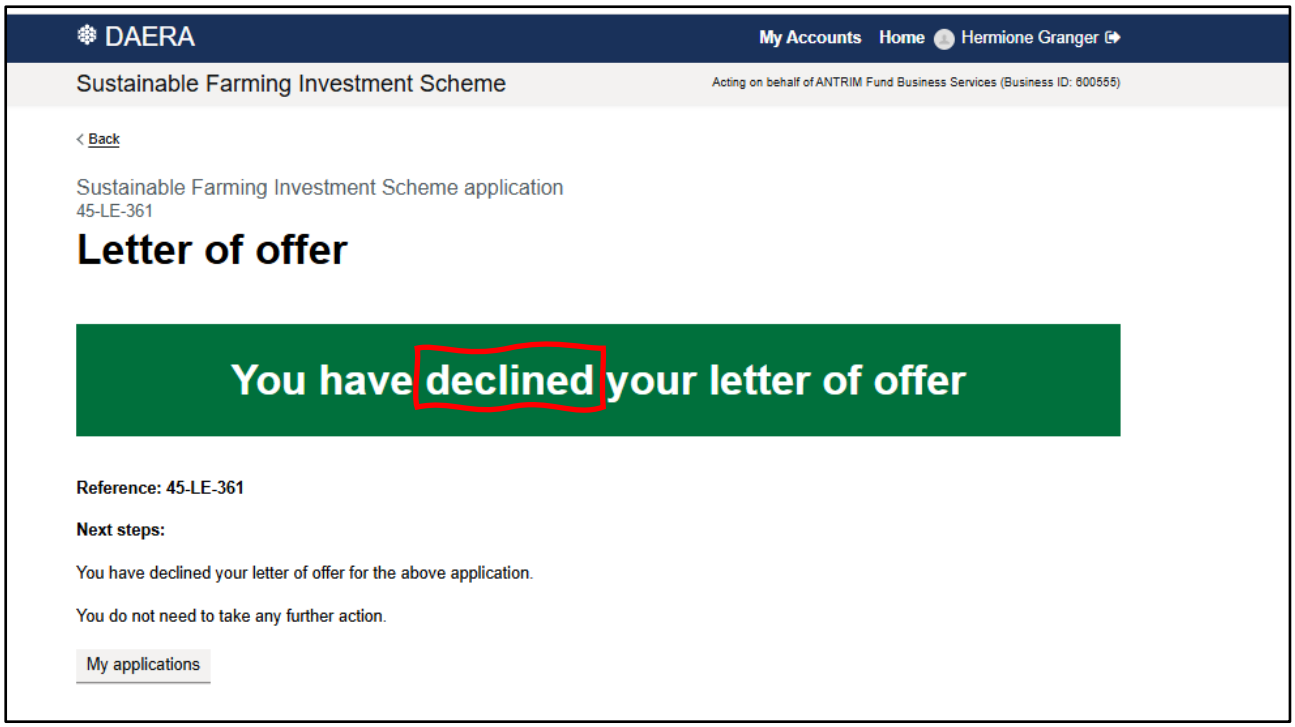
If you wish to decline your Letter of Offer, then click on the bottom box ‘I decline my letter of offer’ and click on the green ‘Confirm’ box.



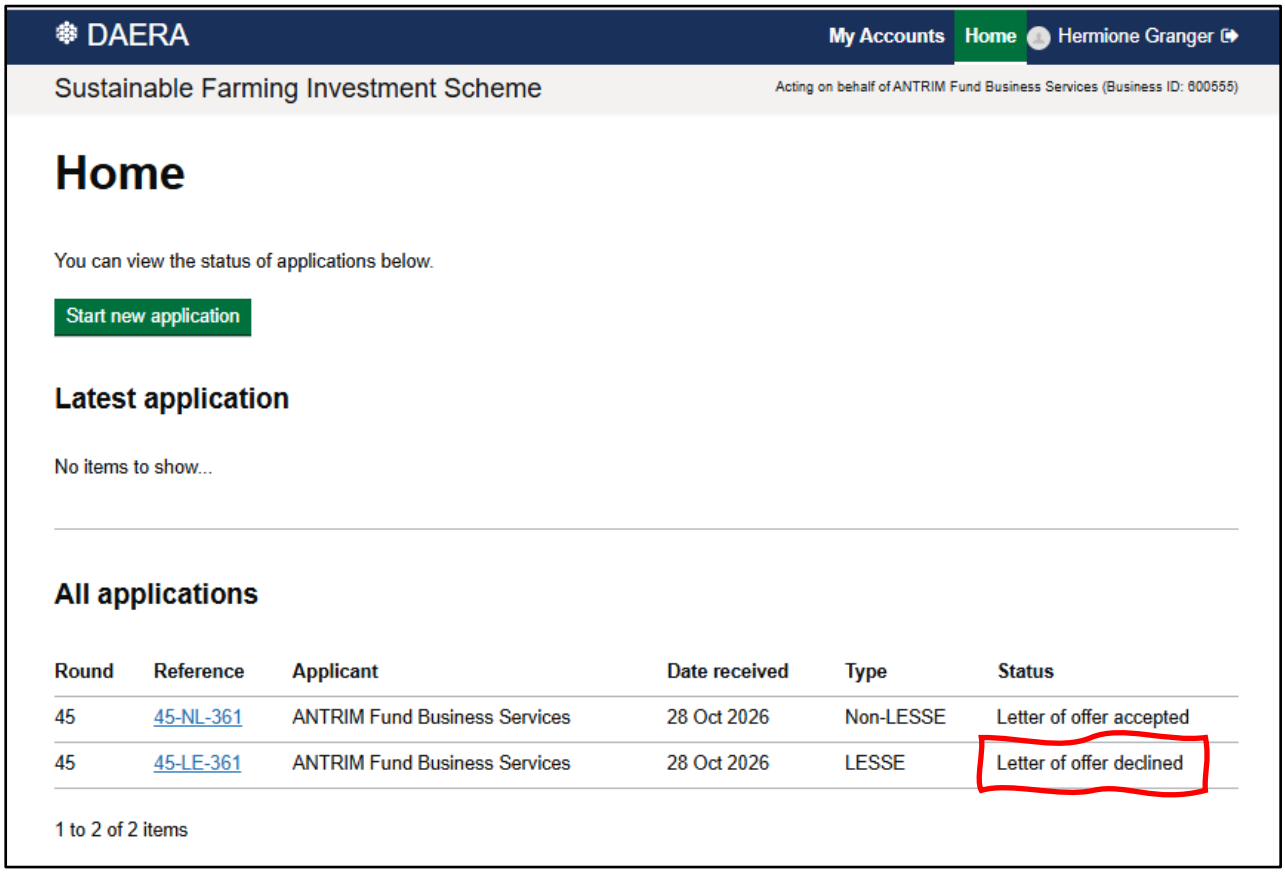
A blue box will then display at the top of the screen asking are you sure about declining your Letter of Offer. Click ‘Continue’ to decline the offer or ‘Cancel’ if you wish to go back.



Once ‘continue’ is selected the splash screen is displayed with a green banner confirming that the letter of offer has been declined.



By selecting ‘My applications’ you will return to the Scheme Portal Homepage where the status will have changed to ‘Letter of offer declined’.



The status in the grey ‘Application’ box on the dashboard will be ‘Letter of Offer declined’.

