

EXCEPTIONAL COSTS PIG SCHEME

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (Q&A)

1. What is the 'Exceptional Costs Pig Scheme'?

The scheme is targeted at pig producers who have been financially impacted by the effects of increasing input costs and will be implemented in accordance with a Ministerial Direction issued by former Agriculture Minister, Edwin Poots MLA.

2. What is the legal basis for these payments?

The Exceptional Costs Pig Scheme will be delivered using the powers contained in paragraph 8 of Part 2 of Schedule 6 to the Agriculture Act 2020, which was brought into operation by The Agriculture (2020 Act) (Commencement No.1) Regulations (NI)2022.

[The Agriculture \(2020 Act\) \(Commencement No. 1\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2022](#)

The Scheme is delivered in accordance with Article 10(2) of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland which provides for an exemption from State Aid rules.

3. What is the date of the scheme period?

1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.

4. When does the scheme open?

The online application will open at **9.00am on Tuesday 7 February 2023.**

5. What is the closing date of the scheme?

The closing date is **11:59pm on Tuesday 21 February 2023.**

6. Who is eligible for payment?

Pig producers who marketed pigs born and reared in NI through a NI processing plant from 1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.

7. Which pigs are eligible for payment?

All pigs slaughtered including totally condemned, dead on arrival, over and underweight pigs are eligible for payment.

8. How has DAERA calculated the number of pigs and the amount of payment offered?

DAERA has calculated the number of pigs born and reared in NI that were marketed through a NI processing plant during the scheme period using

information retrieved from APHIS (Animal and Public Health Information System) and data provided by the abattoirs. **£6.10** per pig was determined by the total number of pigs slaughtered during the scheme period and overall scheme budget of £1.6m.

9. Will I be paid for pigs dead on arrival (DOA), totally condemned and over or under weight?

Yes, pigs dead on arrival, totally condemned and under/over weight are eligible as these animals incurred the same costs. The slaughter date for the batch must be within the scheme period.

10. Are pigs that were delivered to the abattoir on 30 June 2022 but not slaughtered until 1 July 2022 eligible for payment?

Financial support is for batches of pigs that were slaughtered including totally condemned, dead on arrival and under/over weights from 1 April 2022 until 30 June 2022. Pigs slaughtered on 1 July 2022 are therefore not eligible. APHIS and abattoir records will provide the number of pigs slaughtered within the scheme period. Pigs that are 'Dead on Arrival' on 30th June 2022 will not be eligible if their batch is slaughtered on 1 July.

11. Are pigs delivered to the abattoir on 31 March 2022 but not slaughtered until 1 April 2022 eligible?

Eligibility is dependent on the slaughter date of the batch. Pigs slaughtered including fully condemned, dead on arrival and under/overweight on 1 April are eligible for payment irrespective of their delivery date. Pigs within this slaughtered batch found 'Dead on Arrival' on 31 March 2022 are also eligible.

12. Am I eligible for payment if I sold weaners?

No. Payment will ONLY be offered to DAERA farm businesses that marketed pigs born and reared in NI through a NI processing plant from 1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.

13. I bought in weaners and took them through to slaughter weight. Am I eligible for payment?

Your business will be eligible for payment if the movement of the finished pigs was registered on APHIS from your business to the abattoir and the date of slaughter is between 1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.

14. I sold pigs through an agent/marketing group to a processing plant during the scheme period. Am I entitled to payment?

The Farm Business who was the last registered keeper in APHIS before movement to the abattoir is eligible for these NI pigs and they are included in the number of pigs in the application and invitation letter.

15. How does a farm business apply for this funding?

Farm businesses considered eligible for support have received an invitation letter from DAERA and asked to submit an application via [DAERA online services | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://daera-ni.gov.uk). Further details of the application process and distribution of this funding can be found on our website: [Grants and Funding | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://daera-ni.gov.uk)

16. Can I submit a paper application as I don't have a Government Gateway account?

No - a paper application cannot be submitted. Staff in your local DAERA Direct Office will be happy to assist eligible businesses to establish a Government Gateway account to enable the completion of the simple on-line application form. The Government Gateway (12-digit code) credentials are the same as those you use to access Aphis Online and/or your Annual Single Application. Phone on 0300 200 7848 to request to be put through to your local DAERA Direct Office to make an appointment. Producers can also avail of agents to complete the form.

17. I already have a Government Gateway Account but would like assistance completing the form.

Phone 0300 200 7848 to request to be put through to your local DAERA Direct Office to make an appointment. You will need to bring your Government Gateway User ID (12-digit code) and Password with you to your appointment.

18. I believe the data displayed on my application on DAERA Online Services is inaccurate (too many or too few pigs). What do I do?

If you believe that the total number of pigs in your application is **too LOW** you should:

- **ACCEPT** the number of pigs on your application; and
- **SUBMIT** your application as this will allow the initial payment to be made and
- Phone 0300 200 7848 to request to be put through to DAERA Direct staff to advise of what you believe is the 'correct' number. This will be investigated. You must contact **DAERA within 10 working days of the application closing date.**

If you believe that the total number of pigs in your application is **too HIGH**, you should:

- **REJECT** the number of pigs on your application; and
- **SUBMIT** your application and
- Phone 0300 200 7848 to request to be put through to DAERA Direct staff to advise of what you believe is the 'correct' number. This will be

investigated. You must contact DAERA **within 10 working days of the application closing date.**

19. I believe I am eligible for support but neither I nor my agent received an invitation letter and / or cannot see an application when I log on to DAERA Online Services. How do I apply?

If you are a pig farmer you should check that you meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme – (see Q6 above). Further scheme details are available on the DAERA website: [Grants and Funding | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/grants-and-funding). If you require further assistance phone 0300 200 7848.

20. Is there a maximum payment limit?

Yes. A maximum scheme payment limit of £54,000 per farm Business ID has been applied. This was set as the Temporary Framework State Aid limit per business at the time of the Ministerial direction. Previous COVID schemes also set Temporary Framework limits.

21. When am I likely to receive payment?

Payments will be issued in March 2023.

22. Will any outstanding debts I owe be deducted from my payments?

No. Any debts outstanding to DAERA will NOT be deducted from your payment.

23. Has DAERA considered Equality / Human Rights when developing this scheme?

In line with DAERA's Equality Scheme, an equality and human rights screening exercise has been completed. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been also completed on the policy relating to the Scheme. As part of the scheme delivery Section 75 equality monitoring arrangements will be incorporated. This data will be held and monitored in line with guidance from The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.