

1.1.5.1.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SHEET ON AGRI-ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

This form must be used for the notification of any state aid measure to support agricultural production methods designed to protect the environment and to maintain the countryside (agri-environment-climate commitments) covered by section 1.1.5.1. of the European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agriculture and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014-2020¹.

- Does the measure concern compensation to agricultural undertakings and groups of agricultural undertakings who **voluntarily** give agri-environment-climate commitments?

yes no

If yes, please refer to the part of this Supplementary Information Sheet (SIS) relating to "*aid for agri-environment-climate commitments*".

- Does the measure concern compensation to agricultural undertakings who **voluntarily** enter into animal welfare commitments?

yes no

If yes, please refer to the part of this SIS relating to "*aid for animal welfare commitments*".

- Does the aid only concern environmental **investments** (section 1.1.1. of the Guidelines)?

yes no

If yes, please refer to the correspondent SIS relating to "*aid for investment*".

- Does the environmental aid pursue other objectives such as **training** and **advisory services** to help agricultural producers (section 1.1.10. of the Guidelines)?

yes no

If yes, please refer to SIS relating to "*Aid for provision of technical support in the agricultural sector*".

- Others?

¹ OJ C 204, 1.7.2014, p. 1.

Please provide a complete description of the measure(s)....

- Is documentation demonstrating that the State aid fits into and is coherent with the relevant Rural Development Program attached to the notification?

Y yes

 no

If yes, please provide that documentation hereunder or in an annex to this supplementary information sheet

The objectives of the Goose Management Schemes are to maintain sustainable wintering populations of geese associated with Special Protection Areas while minimising the agricultural losses they cause, thereby meeting the UK's nature conservation obligations for geese.

These objectives fall within the high level Scotland RDP objective to 'halt the decline in biodiversity and improve the resilience of ecosystems in the face of environmental change' and contribute to the priority of 'restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other constraints and high nature value farming'. As such they form part of Scotland's response to the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Specifically the goose management schemes contribute to the Scotland RDP Agri-environment Climate sub measure of 'preserving and promoting the necessary changes to agricultural practices that make a contribution to the environment and climate'. They contribute to the following identified outcomes under this aim:

- increasing the abundance of terrestrial breeding birds, pollinators and other priority species in agricultural and woodland habitats, including species protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives;
- Increasing the proportion of features of Natura sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest in favourable condition;
- Continued beneficial management of high nature value farmland.

Goose management was not included in the current SRDP for a number of reasons:

- High participation by farmers is essential for management to be effective;
- Co-ordination of management is essential for it to be effective;
- Flexibility is required for crop rotations, allowing farmers to move their crops and their goose management from year to year, and for Scheme uptake to respond to changes in goose utilisation of the fields.

If no, please note that this documentation is requested in conformity with point (47) of the Guidelines.

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE MEASURE

Which one of the following specific objectives does the support measure promote?

- ways of using agricultural land which are compatible with the protection and improvement of the environment, the landscape and its features, natural resources, the soil and genetic diversity, and reduction of production costs;
 - an environmentally-favourable extensification of farming and management of low-intensity pasture systems, improve and re-deploy production ;
 - the conservation of high nature-value farmed environments, which are under threat, and increase of quality;
 - the upkeep of the landscape and historical features on agricultural land;
 - the use of environmental planning in farming practice
- If the measure does not pursue any of the above objectives, please indicate which are the objectives aimed at in terms of environmental protection?
(Please submit a detailed description)

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If the measure in question has already been applied in the past, what have been the results in terms of environmental protection?

All of the goose populations that benefit from the SNH Goose Schemes have either increased in number or remained stable in recent years. The exception is the Greenland White-fronted goose. Greenland White-fronted goose populations at Kintyre and Islay have got smaller . We believe factors affecting these birds at their breeding sites are the cause and anticipate further research will be undertaken at an international level.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1. Will the aid be granted to agricultural undertakings or groups of agricultural undertakings who give agri-environmental-climate commitments for a period between five and seven years?

- yes no

Flexibility is required for crop rotations, allowing farmers to move their crops and their goose management from year to year, and for Scheme uptake to respond to changes in goose utilisation of the fields. Commitments will therefore be for periods of one year.

2.2. Will a longer period be necessary for all or particular types of commitments?

- yes no

In the affirmative please provide the reasons justifying that period

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2.3. Please confirm that no aid will be granted to compensate for agri-environmental-climate commitments that do not go beyond the relevant mandatory standards established pursuant to Chapter I of Title VI of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 and other relevant obligations established pursuant to Article 4(1)(c) (ii) and (iii) indents of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, relevant minimum requirements for fertiliser and plant protection products use as well as other relevant mandatory requirements established by national legislation.

yes no

If no, please note that point (210) of the Guidelines does not allow for aid for agri-environmental-climate commitments that do not involve more than the application of these standards and requirements.

2.4. Please describe what the above mentioned standards and requirements are and explain how the agri-environmental-climate commitments involve more than their application.

The relevant mandatory standards and an assessment of how the scheme requirements go beyond these are included in the 'Outline of How Scheme Requirements Go Beyond Relevant Mandatory Standards' which forms part of this submission. In summary the scheme requirements (provision of attractive goose feeding areas by increased fertiliser application and reduction in livestock grazing while not scaring geese) go beyond the requirements of these standards.

3. AID AMOUNT

3.1. Please specify the maximum amount of aid to be granted based on the area of the holding to which agri-environmental-climate commitments apply:

- for specialised perennial crops (maximum payment of 900 €/ha per year)
- for annual crops..... (maximum payment of 600 €/ha per year)
- for other land uses ...**€546/ha**.....(maximum payment of 450 €/ha per year)?
- local breeds in danger of being lost to farming ...(maximum payment of 200 €/livestock unit per year)?
- other?.....

If the maximum amounts mentioned are exceeded please justify the compatibility of the aid with the provisions of section 1.1.5.1. of the Guidelines.

3.2. Is the support measure granted annually?

yes no

If no, please provide the reasons justifying other period

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3.3. Is the amount of annual support calculated on the basis of:
 - income foregone,

3.7. If yes, please demonstrate that such costs still continue to occur or that new transaction costs are being borne.

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