

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Sent:** 28 October 2025 17:32

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >

**Cc:** DG Net Zero >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redacted – 11(2)] Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redact – 11(2)]

**Subject:** Updated Future Farming Investment Scheme – Ministerial Update on Offer of Grant Position

Cabinet Secretary/Minister/PO,

Please find attached an updated paper confirming the outcome of assessment and scoring for the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS), setting out the final Offer of Grant position within the approved £21.4 million budget.

### **Key Points**

- Assessment of all applications has been completed and verified in line with the approved scoring framework.
- Within the available £21.4 million budget, 1,621 applications will receive Offers of Grant, representing 36% of those meeting the published scheme requirements.
- Funding distribution is balanced across all regions, business sizes and Ministerial Priority Groups, confirming that the scheme has operated transparently and proportionately.

### **Update on Payable Totals**

Following further validation of the FFIS scoring model, the total number of payable applications has increased from 1,593 to 1,621. This reflects correction of a minor formula error within the Recoverability Safeguard rule, which had inadvertently excluded some eligible applicants with no outstanding debt. The issue has been resolved and fully revalidated. The revision primarily benefits smaller and higher-priority holdings, with no change to overall budget value or compliance position.

The attached paper provides detailed analysis of geographic distribution, business scale, sectoral coverage, and contribution to scheme objectives.

Annexes set out supporting statistics on regional spread, business size, Ministerial Priority Group representation, and capital investment categories.

### **Next Steps**

- Offers of Grant will issue on 31 October 2025, with acceptance and payment expected by mid-November.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified on the same day to ensure transparency and closure of the funding round.

- We will retain the next highest-scoring 50 applications on a holding list to enable reallocation of any unclaimed funding and ensure full utilisation of the £21.4 million budget.
- Stakeholder organisations will also be informed in advance to support clear and consistent communications.

### **Recommendation**

Ministers are invited to note the contents of this submission and the position reached following completion of assessment and verification.

[(Redacted – 10(4)(e)].

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2)]

From: [Redacted – 11(2)]  
Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID)  
Agriculture and Rural Economy (ARE)  
28 October 2025

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands,  
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity,

## Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) – Update on Grant Offer Position

### Priority & Purpose

1. To update Ministers on the final position following completion of FFIS application assessment, scoring and ranking, and to confirm the number and value of awards that can be made within the approved £21.4 million budget.

### Headline Position

- A total of 7,582 applications were received, requesting £77.69 million in grant support.
- Following assessment against the published FFIS criteria, 4,413 applications (58%) met scheme requirements and were considered in scope for funding.
- Within the approved £21.4 million budget, we can make grant offers to 1,621 applications valued at £21,398,103.02 million, representing 37% of those meeting the scheme requirements and effectively making full use of the available budget.
- Of these, 600 (37%) are to Ministerial Priority Group applicants, accounting for £6.9 million (32%) of total grant value.

### Key Points for Ministers to Note

2. **Geographic Reach:** Awards are distributed evenly across the country. The Highlands and Islands account for 27% of all awards (438 of 1,621), confirming national coverage and equitable regional outcomes. (Breakdown provided in Annex A.)
3. **Farmers and Crofters:** 95% of awards (1,555) are to farmers and 4% (66) to crofters. This distribution reflects both the smaller scale of typical crofting investments and the nature of items applied for, which generally deliver fewer of the higher-value scheme objectives such as emissions reduction or major efficiency gains. All applications were assessed on the same national scoring framework, ensuring equitable treatment. (Breakdown provided in Annex B.)
4. **Ministerial Priority Groups:** Representation strengthened through each assessment stage 30% of total applications received, 70% meeting scheme requirements, and 37% of awards made, evidencing balanced and merit-based outcomes. (Breakdown provided in Annex C.)
5. **Published Funding Priorities:** Strong uptake of investments in electronic identification (EID) and water-efficiency technology reflects the scheme's

focus on innovation and resource management. (Breakdown provided in Annex D.)

6. **Business Size:** Around 80% of awards are to small and medium-sized businesses, ensuring accessibility and proportionality. (Breakdown provided in Annex E.)
7. **Award Levels and Equity:** On average, funded applicants receive around 90% of their verified entitlement. Ministerial Priority Group applicants average 86%, confirming that equity safeguards operated effectively. (Summary statistics provided in Annex F.)
8. **Delivery Against Scheme Objectives:** Supported investments collectively deliver all core FFIS outcomes, business efficiency, environmental enhancement, emissions reduction, and climate-change mitigation. (Analysis provided in Annex G.)
9. **Impact of Budget Uplift:** Increasing the budget from £14 million to £21.4 million enabled an additional 609 awards (+60%) and improved coverage across tenant, young-farmer and island applicants without distorting fairness. (Comparison provided in Annex H.)
10. **Supported Investments:** Around one third of all awards are for livestock weighing and handling, with a further third directed to precision, soil and water-efficiency technologies. This confirms that the FFIS supports efficiency, sustainability and climate-mitigation priorities. (Details provided in Annex I.)
11. **Scheme Compliance and Oversubscription:** Of 7,582 applications received, 3,171 did not meet scheme rules, confirming that verification controls operated effectively. Demand exceeded resource several-fold, evidencing strong sector engagement.
12. [Redacted – 10(4)(e)].
13. **Customer and Stakeholder Communications:** Officials will issue pre-notification emails to successful applicants and inform key stakeholder bodies in advance of offers being issued, ensuring transparency and consistent messaging.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

14. Assessment of all applications has now been completed and verified. Offers of Grant will issue on 31 October 2025, with acceptance and payment expected by mid-November. The outcomes confirm that the FFIS assessment and moderation framework has operated transparently, proportionately, and in full compliance with subsidy control and SPFM principles.
15. To ensure smooth delivery, officials will issue a short pre-notification email to successful applicants ahead of formal offers, reminding them to check for our notification in the coming days and outlining the 9-month claim period.

16. Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified on 31 October to ensure transparency and closure of the first funding round. Officials will retain the next highest-scoring 50 applications on a holding list, enabling additional offers to be made promptly should any of those initially made an offer decline or fail to accept within the 14-day window. This will ensure the full £21.4 million budget is allocated efficiently and in line with Ministers' priorities.
17. Officials will also provide advance notice to key stakeholder organisations to ensure consistent public messaging and manage expectations within the sector. A further update will be provided following acceptance and payment completion.

**[Redacted – 11(2)]**

ARE-RPID

28 October 2025

<b>Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers Copy List</b>	<b>For Action</b>	<b>For Information Portfolio interest</b>	<b>For Information Constituency interest</b>	<b>For Information General awareness</b>
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands		X		
Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity		X		

DG Net Zero Director of ARE Deputy Director of RPID ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer Director of Food and Drink [Redacted – 11(2)]	Comms Net Zero ARE Comms [Redacted – 11(2)]
---	---

## Annex A – Geographic Distribution of Awards

Region	Applications Received	Met Scheme Requirements	Payable £14 m	Payable £21.4 m	Share of £21.4 m Awards
Mainland	4,071	2,519	756	1,184	73 %
Highlands and Islands	3,513	1,894	256	437	27 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,584</b>	<b>4,413</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>100 %</b>

## Annex B - Distribution of Funding Between Farmers and Crofters

Business Type	Applications Received	Total Grant Value Applied For (£)	Applications Approved	Grant Amount Approved (£)	% of £21.4m Budget
Farmer	6,263	£69,537,153.46	1,518	£20,554,358.66	96%
Crofter	1,319	£8,162,578.95	103	£843,744.36	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,582</b>	<b>£77,699,732.41</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>£21,398,103.02</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Annex C – £21.4m FFIS Payable Applications by Ministerial Priority Group

Priority Group	Payable Applications	Grant Value (£)	% of Total Awards	% of Total Value
New Entrant	89	£740,435.91	5%	3%
Young Farmer	202	£2,540,828.03	12%	12%
Small Agricultural Business	54	£234,089.72	3%	1%
Tenanted Business	191	£2,562,174.81	12%	12%
Island-Based Business	43	£524,114.66	3%	2%
Organic Business	21	£299,036.21	1%	1%
All Other Applications	1,021	£14,497,423.68	63%	68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>£21,398,103.02</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Annex D - Delivery Against Published Funding Priorities

Priority Group	£21.4 m Budget Payable Applications	£21.4 m Budget Value (£)	% of Total Awards	% of £21.4m Budget
New Entrant	89	£740,436	5.49%	2.70%
Young Farmer	202	£2,540,828	12.46%	10.30%
Small Agricultural Business	54	£234,090	3.33%	1.00%
Tenanted Location	191	£2,562,175	11.78%	10.70%
Island-Based Business	43	£524,115	2.65%	2.10%
Organically Registered Business	21	£299,036	1.30%	1.20%
Investing in EID Technology	698	£3,566,709.73	43.06%	17%
Investing in Water Efficiency	518	£3,371,417.09	31.96%	16%

## Annex E – Regional Distribution of Awards by Business Size

Budget Level	Region	Small (≤ £5,000)	Medium (£5,000.01 – £10,000)	Large (£10,000.01 – £20,000)	% Small & Medium
£14 m	Non Highlands and Islands	25%	56%	19%	81%
	Highlands & Islands	32%	52%	16%	84%
£21.4 m	Non Highlands and Islands	26%	54%	20%	80%
	Highlands & Islands	31%	53%	16%	84%

## Annex F – Average Grant Award as a Percentage of Entitlement

Category	Average % of Entitlement Awarded	Number of Awards
All Funded Applicants	89.7 %	1,621
New Entrant	85.8 %	69
Young Farmer	89.8 %	177
Small Agricultural Business	89.8 %	50
Tenanted Location	82.2 %	170
Island Based Business	80.5 %	36
Organically Registered Business	88.4 %	18
Ministerial Priority Groups Combined	86.1 %	520
Non-Ministerial Applicants	91.5 %	1,101

## Annex G – Delivery Against Scheme Objectives

FFIS Scheme Objective	Number of Capital Items Delivering the Objective	Grant Value	% of £21.4m
Improve Business Efficiency and Sustainability	3,309	£20,945,081.77	98%
Improve the Environment	1,726	£11,542,568.88	54%
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2,184	£14,915,459.53	70%
Mitigate the Impact of Climate Change	1,933	£13,158,491.07	61%

## Annex H – Impact of Budget Increase

Priority Group	£14 m Budget Payable Applications	£14 m Budget Value (£)	£21.4 m Budget Payable Applications	£21.4 m Budget Value (£)	Change in Awards	Change in Value (£)
New Entrant	52	£474,572	69	£585,211	+17	+£110,639
Young Farmer	130	£1,604,856	177	£2,213,879	+47	+£609,023
Small Agricultural Business	37	£174,450	50	£224,533	+13	+£50,083
Tenanted Business	114	£1,591,603	170	£2,298,957	+56	+£707,354
Island-Based Business	20	£283,207	36	£445,673	+16	+£162,466
Organic Business	15	£232,021	18	£260,063	+3	+£28,042
All Ministerial Priority Groups	368	£4,360,709	520	£6,028,316	+152	+£1,667,607
All Other Applications	644	£9,639,053	1,101	£15,369,787	+457	+£5,730,734
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>£13,999,762</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>£21,398,103</b>	<b>+609</b>	<b>+£7,398,341</b>

## Annex I – Category of Capital Investment being Supported

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Investments Supported</b>	<b>Total Investment Cost (£)</b>	<b>Total Grant Value (£)</b>	<b>% of £21.4m</b>
Biodiversity and Habitat Enhancement	289	£950,128.04	£773,548.91	3.61%
Crop Management - Moisture and Temperature Monitoring	116	£782,496.54	£606,316.66	2.83%
Efficient Dairy Farming Equipment	18	£218,383.40	£164,254.50	0.77%
Efficient Feeding of Livestock Equipment	76	£1,966,133.00	£1,132,591.11	5.29%
Efficient Livestock Health Treatment Equipment	25	£23,945.77	£21,718.45	0.10%
Energy Efficiency Equipment - Grassland Management	43	£99,788.27	£90,172.15	0.42%
Energy Efficiency Equipment - Lighting	24	£39,479.33	£32,822.67	0.15%
Environment Monitoring Equipment	9	£7,375.98	£7,169.98	0.03%
Environmental Management - Livestock Grazing Control	54	£593,667.60	£529,232.00	2.47%
Grazing Management Equipment	169	£466,907.14	£376,063.16	1.76%
Livestock Comfort Equipment	161	£2,174,304.62	£1,587,595.86	7.42%
Livestock EID Equipment	255	£275,226.07	£242,088.09	1.13%
Livestock Feeding and Feed Handling Equipment	303	£1,448,090.02	£1,228,906.11	5.74%
Livestock Handling and Weighing Equipment	742	£6,398,340.31	£4,779,816.84	22.34%
Livestock Health Monitoring Equipment	61	£764,793.47	£542,435.48	2.53%
Livestock Improved Ventilation Equipment	41	£402,221.24	£303,850.12	1.42%
Livestock Improved Welfare Equipment	23	£10,987.00	£10,217.70	0.05%
Livestock Management Remote Monitoring Equipment - Cameras	40	£51,866.35	£46,897.78	0.22%
Livestock Management Remote Monitoring Equipment - Drones	12	£48,030.16	£39,798.66	0.19%
Livestock Standard Management and Care Equipment	82	£109,150.47	£98,847.68	0.46%
Precision Farming Equipment	279	£3,782,548.72	£2,642,785.33	12.35%
Slurry Handling and Spreading Equipment	115	£2,509,657.28	£1,559,533.13	7.29%
Soil Health Equipment	147	£2,945,209.40	£1,795,210.59	8.39%
Sustainable Grassland Improvement Equipment	166	£1,510,451.91	£1,190,031.99	5.56%
Water Efficiency Equipment	182	£2,229,084.14	£1,593,998.07	7.45%
Wildlife Monitoring Equipment	4	£3,050.00	£2,200.00	0.01%

**Annex J – [redacted – 10(4)(e)]**

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 29 October 2025 10:44  
**To:** [Redacted – 11(2)] Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >  
**Cc:** DG Net Zero >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer [Redacted – 11(2)]  
Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** RE: Future Farming Investment Scheme – Ministerial Update on Offer of Grant Position

Hi [Redacted – 11(2)]

Mr Fairlie has noted with thanks to the team for the delivery of this.

Thanks,

[Redacted – 11(2)] **Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**  
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: **MinisterforAC@gov.scot**  
[Redacted – 11(2)]



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Sent:** 28 October 2025 09:57  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >  
**Cc:** DG Net Zero <>; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redacted – 11(2)] >; ARE Head of Finance >; [Redacted – 11(2)] >; Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** Future Farming Investment Scheme – Ministerial Update on Offer of Grant Position

Cabinet Secretary/Minister/PO,

Please find attached an update on the outcome of assessment and scoring for the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS), confirming the final Offer of Grant position within the approved £21.4 million budget.

## **Key Points**

- Assessment of all applications has been completed and verified in line with the approved scoring framework.
- Within the available £21.4 million budget, 1,593 applications will receive Offers of Grant, representing 36% of those meeting the published scheme requirements.
- Funding distribution is balanced across the country, business sizes and Ministerial Priority Groups, confirming that the scheme has operated transparently and proportionately.

The attached paper provides detailed analysis of geographic distribution, business scale, sectoral coverage, and contribution to scheme objectives.

Annexes set out supporting statistics on regional spread, business size, Ministerial Priority Group representation, and capital investment categories.

## **Next Steps**

- Offers of Grant will issue on 31 October 2025, with acceptance and payment expected by mid-November.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified on the same day to ensure transparency and closure of the funding round.
- We will retain the next highest-scoring 50 applications on a holding list to enable reallocation of any unclaimed funding and ensure full utilisation of the £21.4 million budget.
- Stakeholder organisations will also be informed in advance to support clear and consistent communications.

## **Recommendation**

Ministers are invited to note the contents of this submission and the position reached following completion of assessment and verification.

[Redacted – 10(4)(e)]

Happy to discuss.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2)]

[Redacted – 11(2)] | The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh  
| EH11 3XD

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]**On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024

**Sent:** 30 October 2025 14:19

**To:** [Redacted – 11(2)]Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >

**Cc:** DG Net Zero >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redacted – 11(2)]>Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms <AREComms@Gov.Scot>;[Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** RE: Updated Future Farming Investment Scheme – Ministerial Update on Offer of Grant Position

**This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team in line with SG records management policy.**

Hi [redacted – 11(2)],

Ms Gougeon has noted and appreciates the update. She would like to pass on her thanks and appreciation to you and the team for the design and delivery of this scheme which has been received so well by industry.

Many thanks,

[Redacted – 11(2)]**Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon MSP**

[Redacted – 11(2)]

---

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**Ms Gougeon's box will close at 14:00 on Monday - Thursday and 12:00 on Fridays.**

**You can find the Cabinet Secretary's updated preferences [HERE](#).**

*All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.*

*Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)*

From: [Redacted – 11(2)]

Sent: 28 October 2025 17:32

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >

Cc: DG Net Zero >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redacted – 11(2)] >; ARE Head of Finance>; [Redacted – 11(2)]> Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >;[Redacted – 11(2)]

Subject: Updated Future Farming Investment Scheme – Ministerial Update on Offer of Grant Position

Redacted – duplicate

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Sent:** 30 October 2025 11:07

**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >

**Cc:** DG Net Zero >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redacted – 11(2)]Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** Urgent: Future Farming Investment Scheme – Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Update

Cabinet Secretary/Minister,

I am writing to provide an urgent update on the final number and value of Offers of Grant under the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS), following completion of further verification checks undertaken as part of ongoing assurance activity.

As part of this process, additional cross-checking was carried out to include data from the 2021 Sustainable Agriculture Capital Grant Scheme (SACGS) Pilot. This identified a number of applicants who had previously received SACGS Pilot funding but had declared otherwise on their FFIS applications. While receipt of previous SACGS support does not affect eligibility, providing false information constitutes a breach of the applicant declaration requirements.

A total of 159 applications previously considered eligible to receive an Offer of Grant were found to have falsely declared their SACGS status and have therefore been removed from the offer population. Their removal, combined with the release of associated budget, has enabled 210 additional compliant applications to be brought into scope for a grant award.

The updated position is:

- 1,672 Offers of Grant, compared with 1,621 previously (an increase of 51 offers)
- Total grant value £21,390,551.18, compared with £21,398,103.02 previously (a reduction of £7,551.84)

The FFIS Scheme Guidance made it clear that applicants were required to provide accurate information and that knowingly providing false or misleading information may result in withdrawal of an offer, recovery of funds, or loss of entitlement to future aid.

Whilst the ability to apply the rule on loss of entitlement to future aid can only be enforced once a formal contract has been agreed, offering a grant to applicants who had knowingly provided false information would have created that contractual relationship and necessitated enforcement action under those provisions. By addressing these cases before offers are issued, we have ensured a proportionate and preventative approach consistent with the scheme guidance.

By removing this additional population of 159 applications, we are ensuring that every application is treated fairly and equitably, applying the same principles of accuracy, integrity, and transparency across all applications.

I recognise that this update comes at a late stage, reflecting the pace and scale at which FFIS has been delivered. The additional checks were undertaken to ensure complete accuracy before offers are finalised, and I can confirm that all data has now been fully validated and is 100% accurate.

All stakeholder and external communications will use the corrected final figures once Ministerial awareness has been confirmed.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 30 October 2025 17:28  
**To:** [Redacted – 11(2)] Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >[Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: Future Farming Investment Scheme – Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Update

Hi [Redacted – 11(2)]

Mr Fairlie has commented that this feels like a lot of false claims, and what are the outcomes for those found to have falsely claimed?

Thanks,

[Redacted – 11(2)] **Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP**  
**The Scottish Government**  
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: **MinisterforAC@gov.scot**  
[Redacted – 11(2)]



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redact – 11(2)]  
**Sent:** 30 October 2025 11:07  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redact – 11(2)] >; ARE Head of Finance >; [Redact – 11(2)] >; Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redact – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** Urgent: Future Farming Investment Scheme – Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Update

[Redact - duplicate]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Sent:** 31 October 2025 08:04

**To:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >

**Cc:** DG Net Zero >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer [Redacted – 11(2)]>Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: Future Farming Investment Scheme – Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Update

Good morning PO/Minister/Cabinet Secretary,

I can confirm that 1,672 Offers of Grant have now issued, in line with the position previously advised. With 123 offers having already been accepted.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified later this morning. A small number of the next highest scoring applications are being held in reserve to allow them to be offered a grant if any of the offers made today are not accepted within the 14-day acceptance window, ensuring the full approved budget is allocated.

For information of the 7,584 applications received, 3,539 (47%) were not prioritised for funding following eligibility and verification checks. This included:

- 539 that failed to declare previous SACGS/CAGS funding.
- 1,142 where the planned investment did not clearly deliver against scheme objectives, or unsuitable for funding (for example, items not linked to their agricultural activity).
- 935 that declared they were one of the Ministerial Priority group (New Entrant, Young Farmer etc.)

Once the administration of this round is complete, officials will undertake a detailed analysis of the outcomes. The findings will be used to inform joint work with stakeholders on lessons learned [redacted – 10(4)(e)]. We will provide further advice to Ministers on how that collaborative review can support simpler, stronger, and more targeted scheme design going forward.

[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

**Sent:** 01 November 2025 15:19

**To:** [Redacted – (11(2))] Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >

**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)] Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; [Redacted – 11(2)]; DG Net Zero >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redacted – 11(2)]>Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** RE: For Minister Clearance - FFIS - BBC

Good afternoon [Redacted – 11(2)]

Mr Fairlie is content to clear

**Kind regards,**

[Redacted – 11(2)] The Scottish Government | Web: [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)|

Email: [cabsecfortransport@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecfortransport@gov.scot)

**All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.**

*Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)*

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Sent:** 01 November 2025 13:14

**To:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >

**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)] Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy [Redacted – 11(2)]; DG Net Zero >; Deputy Director of RPID >; ARE Chief Digital and Data Officer >; [Redacted – 11(2)] Communications Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs >; ARE Comms >; [Redacted – 11(2)] Communications Duty Box >; [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** For Minister Clearance - FFIS - BBC

Minister, PO,

**CC:** CabSec for awareness,

We've been approached by the BBC following a statement from the Scottish Crofting Federation attached – demanding an explanation as to why so few crofters were successful.

I have agreed the below response with policy colleagues and SpAds are copied. Grateful for clearance.

## [Redacted – 11(2)]News | Net Zero, Energy and Rural Affairs

The Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh  
[Redacted – 11(2)][www.gov.scot/news](http://www.gov.scot/news)



Agriculture Minister Jim Fairlie said:

“We received more than 7500 applications from across Scotland and all eligible applications were assessed against the published criteria with awards being made to the highest scoring applications.

“Eighty percent of successful awards went to small and medium-sized businesses and more than a quarter of successful grants were made to businesses across the Highlands and Islands confirming the scheme remains accessible and proportionate across all locations and scales of farming.”

\*\*

**From:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy

**Sent:** 30 October 2025 10:41

**To:** [Redacted – 11(2)]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy < Deputy Director of RPID >; [Redacted – 11(2)];

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - FFIS Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Check Outcome

[Redacted – 11(2)];

We spoke.

The large number of applicants who have incorrectly stated that they have not received SACGS or CAGS funding in the last 5 years is surprisingly high – around 10% of total applicants. While the guidance says that previous SACGS funding does not affect eligibility, you showed me the question as it appeared on the application form and it is perfectly clear. I do not think that there is any scope for applicants to say that they misunderstood it and answered No when they should have said Yes.

### **W George Burgess**

Director, Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government 07917 212 903 |  
Saughton House, Broomhouse Road, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)];

**Sent:** 30 October 2025 09:04

**To:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; Deputy Director of RPID >; [Redacted – 11(2)];

**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)];

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - FFIS Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Check Outcome

George,

Thank you for your email.

I would say a misstatement is considered material. In the Scheme Guidance, applicants were explicitly warned that knowingly or recklessly providing false information may result in prosecution, loss of entitlement to aid already claimed, and exclusion from future schemes. This establishes a clear and binding expectation that all declarations made in an application must be accurate and truthful.

A misstatement is therefore material not because it necessarily changes the technical eligibility of an applicant, but because it undermines the reliability and integrity of the information on which our funding decisions are made.

The question on previous SACGS support was included as part of FFIS due diligence checks to prevent duplication of public funding, ensure transparency, and meet the financial governance standards set out in the Scottish Public Finance Manual (SPFM). Although receipt of SACGS funding did not itself affect eligibility for FFIS, the requirement to answer truthfully was clearly stated in both the published guidance and the applicant declaration.

Section 15 of the published guidance stated:

*“You will be required to answer questions relating to your agricultural business including how long your business has been trading, your business occupancy status, whether you are a farmer or crofter, and what on-farm or croft capital investment you plan to use the funding for.”*

*“Please Remember: Knowingly or recklessly making a false statement to obtain payment of aid to yourself or anyone else risks prosecution. You also risk the loss of all the aid which you have claimed and be prevented from claiming, or applying for future aid schemes including BPS, LFASS and VCS.”*

The declaration on previous SACGS funding was included as part of the scheme’s due diligence checks to ensure transparency, prevent duplication of public funding for the same or similar investments. Although receipt of SACGS funding did not itself affect eligibility for FFIS, the requirement to answer truthfully was clearly stated in both the published guidance and the applicant declaration.

Initial verification checks identified 516 applicants who had declared that they had *not* previously received SACGS support when, in fact, they had. A further 159 cases were identified during the most recent round of cross-checks, bringing the total number of false declarations to 715.

These additional 159 cases are therefore being treated consistently and fairly with the earlier 516, ensuring all applicants are being held to the same standard of declaration accuracy and compliance. This approach aligns with other verification steps undertaken as part of the assessment process, where applications were also discounted for priority for funding if, for example, they sought funding for livestock-related investments but did not have any livestock, or where items were not clearly described or were deemed not to deliver any of the schemes objectives.

It is also worth noting that many farmers and crofters who had previously benefitted from SACGS funding chose not to apply to FFIS, despite being eligible to do so, recognising that they had already received capital support. This further underlines the importance of maintaining fairness and consistency in how declarations are verified and assessed.

Whilst the ability to prosecute or apply the rule on loss of entitlement to future aid can only be enforced once a formal contract has been agreed, offering a grant to applicants who had knowingly provided false information would have created that contractual relationship and necessitated enforcement action under those provisions. By addressing these cases before offers are issued, we have ensured a proportionate and preventative approach consistent with the guidance – even if, in

some cases, applicants had simply forgotten that three or four years ago they had received £20,000 of SACGS support.

By removing this additional population of 159 applications, we are ensuring that every application is treated fairly and equitably, applying the same principles of accuracy, eligibility, and transparency across all cases.

In line with the published warning and the integrity requirements of support schemes, knowingly providing false information was considered a material breach of the declaration. The decision to exclude these cases is to uphold the integrity of the scheme and maintain compliance with audit and assurance standards.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2); The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

[Redacted – 11(2);

**From:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>

**Sent:** 30 October 2025 08:28

**To:** [Redacted – 11(2); Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID < [Redacted – 11(2);

**Subject:** RE: URGENT - FFIS Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Check Outcome

[Redacted – 11(2);

Thanks for this update, and thanks for the huge amount of work that you and colleagues have put in to develop and deliver this scheme.

Without wanting to change the outcome, which as you note results in an increased number of successful applications, I wonder whether ruling applicants out solely on the basis of a misstatement about previous SACGS awards is rather tough justice. As you say, a previous SACGS award does not affect eligibility for FFIS, so is a misstatement material? If it did not affect eligibility, why were we asking about it in the first place? Was the question worded in such a way that it was clear to applicants that participation in the “pilot” SACGS rather than the subsequent main SACGS had to be declared? On the other hand, I think all the SACGS grants would have been fairly chunky, so not something that applicants were liable to forget.

**W George Burgess**

Director, Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government 07917 212 903 |  
Saughton House, Broomhouse Road, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD  
30 Oct 2025

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2);

**Sent:** 30 October 2025 06:51

**To:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>; Deputy Director of RPID <DDRPID@gov.scot>; [Redacted – 11(2);

**Subject:** URGENT - FFIS Final Offer Numbers and Assurance Check Outcome

**Importance:** High

George, [Redacted – 11(2);

Cc for information.

This note provides an update on the final number and value of Offers of Grant under the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS), following completion of enhanced verification checks undertaken as part of ongoing assurance activity.

We identified that, when validating FFIS applications against existing reporting data, the process had not been picking up details of paid claims under the pilot Sustainable Agriculture Capital Grant Scheme (SACGS) operated in 2021. The reason for this was that the pilot SACGS was delivered as a manual scheme and reported through APEX, rather than through the normal ICE reporting system that underpins our automated validation routines.

We have now added this population to the validation system and identified a small number of applicants who had received SACGS Pilot funding but had declared otherwise on their FFIS application. While previous SACGS funding does not affect FFIS eligibility, providing false information constitutes a breach of the declaration and compliance requirements.

The affected applications have now been deselected from the offer of grant population. As several of these were higher-value cases, their removal has released capacity to support a greater number of smaller-value applications.

The updated position is:

- 1,672 Offers of Grant, compared with 1,621 previously (an **increase of 51 offers**)
- Total grant value £21,390,551.18, compared with £21,398,103.02 previously (a reduction of £7,551.84)

This outcome demonstrates that the enhanced validation has strengthened assurance and fairness, while allowing more farmers and crofters to benefit within the approved budget.

Area Offices were informed of the earlier position yesterday and will now be updated to reflect this change.

Ministers will also be advised of the updated position. Stakeholders have not yet been formally updated, and the corrected final grant-offer figures will be used consistently in all external communications once Ministerial awareness has been confirmed.

I recognise that this is a late adjustment, reflecting the pace and scale at which FFIS has been delivered. The additional checks were undertaken to ensure absolute accuracy before offers are finalised, and I can confirm that all data has now been fully validated and is 100% accurate

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2); The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

[Redacted – 11(2);

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Sent:** 30 October 2025 10:00  
**To:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)] Deputy Director of RPID  
**Subject:** FFIS - Testing and Assessment Matrix.

[Redacted – 10(4)(e)]

This is the link to the list of applications that will be made an offer of grant – double click on any number on the cover sheet and it will take you to the details of the BRN's – you can also see what items are being supported.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2)] | The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Sent:** 29 October 2025 13:57  
**To:** Knowledge Management - Dumfries; Knowledge Management - Saughton; Knowledge Management - SGRPID Grampian; Knowledge Management Mailbox Highland; Knowledge Management Mailbox Kirkwall; Knowledge Management Mailbox Lerwick; Knowledge Management Mailbox Northern - Thurso and Golspie; Knowledge Management Mailbox Oban; Knowledge Management Mailbox South Eastern; Knowledge Management Mailbox Western Isles; Knowledge Management SGRPID Perth; Knowledge Management SGRPID South Western  
**Cc:** Deputy Director of RPID; [Redacted – 11(2)]; ARE Comms; Planning & Performance - ARE; Risk Assurance & Fraud Team RPID; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) – Internal Staff Information Pack (Embargoed until Friday 31 October 2025)  
**Attachments:** FFIS INTERNAL STAFF UPDATE PACK OCTOBER 2025.docx

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) Internal Staff Information Pack, providing a summary of key facts, figures and guidance to support consistent handling of any enquiries from applicants and stakeholders.

The information contained in this pack is strictly embargoed until Friday 31 October 2025, when Offer of Grant notifications will issue to applicants.

The pack summarises:

- Key national outcomes and funding statistics.
- The assessment and scoring process used to determine awards.
- Frequently asked questions and lines to take for both successful and unsuccessful applicants.
- Practical guidance for staff on managing queries about Offer of Grant letters, reminders and payment timescales.

This is provided to ensure a consistent and well-informed response across all Area Offices and central teams once communications to applicants begin.

Please do not share the content externally or reference specific award data until the embargo has been lifted.

Further information on specific businesses who were offered a grant and what capital investment is being supported will be shared next week.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2)] The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive  
| Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024  
**Sent:** 19 November 2025 11:47  
**To:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity; Deputy Director of RPID  
**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** RE: FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

Hi George,

Ms. Gougeon has noted, with thanks.

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 11(2)] [Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP](#)  
[Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG](#)  
[Redacted – 11(2)] **E-mail: [cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot)**

**The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Thursday and 12 noon on Friday. [Read more about the Cabinet Secretary's preferences](#) here**

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

**From:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy <DirectorARE@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 19 November 2025 11:10  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 [Redacted – 11(2)] >; Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity>; Deputy Director of RPID < [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Cc:** Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy < [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** RE: FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

I can confirm that Mr Fairlie addressed the additional offers at AgriScot this morning.

**W George Burgess**

Director, Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government 07917 212 903 |  
Saughton House, Broomhouse Road, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)] > **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024

**Sent:** 19 November 2025 11:00

**To:** [Redacted – 11(2)] Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity Deputy Director of RPID

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** RE: FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

Hi [Redacted – 11(2)]

Ms Gougeon has noted, thanks, and asks did this get added to the AgriScot speech?

Grateful for a reply ASAP, thanks.

Kind regards,

[Redacted – 11(2)] [Deputy Private Secretary - Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, MSP](#)

[Scottish Government, St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG](#)

[Redacted – 11(2)] **E-mail:** [cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot](mailto:cabsecforRALRI@gov.scot)

**The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Thursday and 12 noon on Friday. [Read more about the Cabinet Secretary's preferences](#) here**

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Sent:** 19 November 2025 09:25

**To:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >; Deputy Director of RPID

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 < Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** RE: FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

Minister/PO

The attached briefing provided for the SCF, provides a high level summary of the key issues where applications failed to meet the criteria.

Regards

[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

**Sent:** 19 November 2025 09:17

**To:** Deputy Director of RPID [Redacted – 11(2)] Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** RE: FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

**Importance:** High

Hi,

Mr Fairlie has asked for examples of where there were “bad” applications for FFIS – 1 or 2 that didn’t meet the criteria.

Grateful if you can advise asap please.

Thanks,

[Redacted – 11(2)] **Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie MSP**

**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew’s House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

**E: MinisterforAC@gov.scot**

[Redacted – 11(2)]



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** Deputy Director of RPID

**Sent:** 18 November 2025 10:52

**To:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy < Deputy Director of RPID [Redacted – 11(2)]

**Subject:** FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

Minister/PO

Further to our discussion last week on FFIS, I attach a brief update setting out the findings of the assurance review of the assessment process that has identified some corrections to the assessment of applications.

I appreciate we need to work out how we make an announcement of the review and the additional grant offers and would be grateful for SpAds advice on that. Perhaps AgriScot presents an opportunity?

Once the Minister has had an opportunity to review the high level outcome here, officials are of course available for a discussion on the detail if required.

Regards

[Redacted – 11(2)]

Interim Deputy Director and Head of Rural Payments & Inspections Division  
Agriculture & Rural Economy Directorate

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Sent:** 23 October 2025 10:26  
**To:** Deputy Director of RPID; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** RE: Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) Offer of Grant Position Following Application Assessment and Scoring  
**Attachments:** FFIS Grant Awards Geographic Distribution and Fairness of Assessment Outcomes.docx

Dear PB members,

Further to my email below, and following discussion with George, I spent last night completing further analysis on how the FFIS application assessment model performed.

Please find attached the final paper providing assurance on the geographic distribution of FFIS grant awards and the fairness of assessment outcomes across all budget scenarios.

The analysis confirms that the FFIS scoring and moderation framework operated transparently and proportionately, delivering equitable outcomes across regions, business sizes and enterprise types. It also includes a breakdown of applications not prioritised for funding, evidencing that verification and moderation controls were applied consistently and in line with SPFM principles.

The paper is provided for internal assurance and awareness ahead of any Ministerial submission.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2)]  
The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD  
[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Sent:** 22 October 2025 14:51  
**To:** Deputy Director of RPID ; [Redacted – 11(2)]; ARE Head of Finance ; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)]; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy ; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) Offer of Grant Position Following Application Assessment and Scoring

FFIS PB members,

To provide an update for internal assurance and awareness on the position reached following completion of application assessment, scoring, and ranking for the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS)

If we get approval to increase the budget of £21.4 million, grant offers could be made to 1,594 farmers and crofters with a total value of £21.39 million, representing 99.9% of the available budget.

Of these awards, over 500 (32%) would be to businesses within Ministerial Priority Groups (new entrants, young farmers, small, tenant, island-based and organic), confirming that the approved scoring and ranking framework has delivered transparent and proportionate targeting of support in line with Ministerial priorities.

The attached paper (which I would suggest is shared with Ministers when budget approval is received) provides more details.

Finally, we had our audit washup meeting today, EY have not highlighted any significant shortcomings in the way we have developed FFIS, I think this is thanks to your strong governance overseeing scheme development and delivery.

Thanks

[Redacted – 11(2)] | The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD .

[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Sent:** 28 October 2025 11:59  
**To:** Deputy Director of RPID; [Redacted – 11(2)]ARE Head of Finance; [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Cc:** [Redacted – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** Stakeholder Update: Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) – Update on Offer of Grant Position  
**Attachments:** FFIS SH UPDATE PACK OCTOBER 2025.docx

[Redacted – 10(4)(e)]

[Redacted – 11(2)]

Dear,

We are writing to update you on the outcome of assessment and scoring for the Future Farming Investment Scheme (FFIS) and to confirm the position on Offers of Grant that will shortly be issued to successful applicants.

The scheme received 7,582 applications, demonstrating exceptionally strong engagement from across the sector. Following full assessment in line with the published criteria, 1,593 applications have reached offer stage within the approved £21.4 million budget.

### **Key Highlights**

**Fair and Balanced Outcomes:** Funding distribution is consistent across the country, confirming full national reach. The Highlands and Islands account for 27% of total awards, demonstrating equitable access across rural and island areas.

**Strong Representation of Priority Groups:** Ministerial Priority Groups (new entrants, young farmers, small agricultural businesses, tenants, island-based and organic businesses) account for 33% of all awards and 28% of total funding.

**Scale of Awards:** Around 80% of all awards are to small and medium-sized businesses, ensuring broad accessibility while maintaining value-for-money and proportionality.

**Scheme Objectives Delivered:** The supported investments will deliver across all four published FFIS objectives — improving business efficiency, enhancing environmental outcomes, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and mitigating climate change impacts.

**Transparency and Assurance:** All awards were assessed against the approved scoring and moderation framework, ensuring full compliance with SPFM, audit and WTO notification requirements.

### **Next Steps**

- Offer of Grant letters will issue to successful applicants on 31 October 2025, with acceptance and payment expected by mid-November.
- Unsuccessful applicants will also be notified on 31 October, ensuring transparency and closure of the first funding round.
- The next 50 highest-scoring applications will be held on reserve in case of non-acceptance, to maximise use of the full £21.4 million budget.

The Future Farming Investment Scheme represents a key milestone in Scotland's transition to a more sustainable, productive, and fair agricultural support system. We are grateful for the continued collaboration and engagement from stakeholders across the sector in helping to deliver this outcome.

If you have any queries or wish to share this update within your networks, please contact me.

[Redacted – 11(2)] | The Scottish Government | P1 Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

[Redacted – 11(2)]

**From:** [Redact – 11(2)] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity  
**Sent:** 19 November 2025 09:46  
**To:** [Redact – 11(2)] Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity Deputy Director of RPID  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 < Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy [Redact – 11(2)]  
**Subject:** RE: FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

Hi [Redact – 11(2)],

Mr Fairlie has asked for more specific examples of unsuccessful applications – is it possible to provide these?

Thanks,

[Redact – 11(2)] (she/her)

**Private Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity – Jim Fairlie  
MSP**

**The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

E: [MinisterforAC@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterforAC@gov.scot)

[Redact – 11(2)]



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

**From:** [Redact – 11(2)]

**Sent:** 19 November 2025 09:25

**To:** Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity >; Deputy Director of RPID >

**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands 2024 >; Director of Agriculture and Rural Economy >; [Redact – 11(2)]

**Subject:** RE: FFIS - review of assessment process - additional grant offers 18 November 2025

[redact – dupliate information]