



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas

# **Annual implementation report**

## **United Kingdom - Rural Development Programme (Regional) - Wales**

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## Table of contents

1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES .....	4
1.a) Financial Data .....	4
1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values .....	4
1.b1) Overview table.....	4
1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area .....	17
1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F .....	58
1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional].....	59
1.f) Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies.....	59
1.g) Currency rate used for conversion AIR (non EUR countries).....	63
2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.....	64
2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification .....	64
2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan).....	65
2.c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the evaluation plan).....	70
2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line .....	72
2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings .....	74
2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan) .....	76
2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan).....	79
3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN.....	80
3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation.....	80
3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms .....	83
4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS.....	85
4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan.....	85
4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit) .....	85
4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan .....	86
4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014) .....	89
5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES.....	94
6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES .....	95

7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME .....	96
8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013.....	97
9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS.....	99
10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) NO 1303/2013).....	100
11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES.....	101
Annex II .....	102
Documents .....	117

# 1. KEY INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS PRIORITIES

## 1.a) Financial Data

See annexed documents

## 1.b) Common and programme-specific indicators and quantified target values

### 1.b1) Overview table

Focus Area 1A						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2021			13.93	51.12	27.25
	2014-2020			10.04	36.84	
	2014-2019			6.74	24.73	
	2014-2018			3.76	13.80	
	2014-2017			1.19	4.37	
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2021			230.00	48.12	478.00
	2014-2020			176.00	36.82	
	2014-2019			86.00	17.99	
	2014-2018			60.00	12.55	
	2014-2017			2.00	0.42	
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2021			86,231.00	255.76	33,716.00
	2014-2020			57,944.50	171.86	
	2014-2019			22,587.00	66.99	
	2014-2018			10,079.00	29.89	
	2014-2017			5,021.00	14.89	
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)		2014-2021	13.07	129.68	13.07	129.68	10.08
		2014-2020	10.18	101.00	10.18	101.00	
		2014-2019	6.50	64.49	6.50	64.49	
		2014-2018	2.99	29.67	1.47	14.59	
		2014-2017	0.29	2.88	0.07	0.69	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	34,682,861.15	104.49	27,426,982.82	82.63	33,192,576.29
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	7,155,119.70	96.54	5,784,772.49	78.05	7,411,485.58
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	50,401,245.71	103.90	25,458,490.76	52.48	48,511,256.74
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	618,750.00	3.26	287,349.56	1.52	18,955,924.32
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	92,857,976.56	85.92	58,957,595.63	54.55	108,071,242.93

Focus Area 2B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)		2014-2021					0.73
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,240,943.91				
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	611,771.10				
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,852,715.01				

Focus Area 3A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)		2014-2021	0.76	111.10	0.76	111.10	0.68
		2014-2020	0.76	111.10	0.76	111.10	
		2014-2019	0.70	102.33	0.70	102.33	
		2014-2018	2.11	308.44	0.41	59.93	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	53,422,643.17	89.60	31,290,883.01	52.48	59,625,878.49
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	589,895.26	77.72	592,398.54	78.05	758,984.70
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	74,362,764.05	97.44	40,653,477.47	53.27	76,315,441.90
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,682,366.32	7.98	2,967,494.42	6.43	46,167,602.33
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	132,057,668.80	72.21	75,504,253.44	41.29	182,867,907.42



Priority P4						
Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2021					0.00
	2014-2020					
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					
T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2021					0.00
	2014-2020					
	2014-2019					
	2014-2018					
	2014-2017					
	2014-2016					
	2014-2015					
T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	2014-2021			0.99	36.66	2.70
	2014-2020			0.83	30.73	
	2014-2019			0.77	28.51	
	2014-2018			0.75	27.77	
	2014-2017			0.23	8.52	
	2014-2016			0.20	7.41	
	2014-2015			0.01	0.37	
T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2021			4.89	98.09	4.99
	2014-2020			4.81	96.48	
	2014-2019			4.75	95.28	
	2014-2018			4.46	89.46	



		2014-2017			4.46	89.46	
		2014-2016			4.36	87.45	
		2014-2015					
T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)		2014-2021			6.92	50.03	13.83
		2014-2020			6.90	49.89	
		2014-2019			6.62	47.86	
		2014-2018			6.22	44.97	
		2014-2017			6.22	44.97	
		2014-2016			3.14	22.70	
		2014-2015					
T9: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)		2014-2021			64.48	166.38	38.75
		2014-2020			63.19	163.06	
		2014-2019			54.82	141.46	
		2014-2018			44.72	115.40	
		2014-2017			44.72	115.40	
		2014-2016			20.94	54.03	
		2014-2015			1.60	4.13	
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,870,959.93	137.07	5,892,861.37	117.56	5,012,790.94
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,868,054.64	85.98	2,163,700.47	64.87	3,335,664.05
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	90,938,371.76	150.88	53,432,073.37	88.65	60,272,252.33
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	23,524,165.52	82.53	17,217,254.59	60.40	28,504,025.61
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	258,292,412.24	98.05	176,042,678.73	66.83	263,420,372.71
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	33,080,424.31	107.44	26,793,245.11	87.02	30,790,985.27
M15	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00				
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	29,931,680.57	101.70	12,255,260.04	41.64	29,430,676.53
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	445,506,068.97	105.88	293,797,073.68	69.82	420,766,767.44

Focus Area 5B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)		2014-2021	14,772,957.65	72.66	14,772,957.65	72.66	20,331,285.75
		2014-2020	14,254,387.60	70.11	14,254,387.60	70.11	
		2014-2019	13,996,168.15	68.84	13,996,168.15	68.84	
		2014-2018	11,587,950.75	57.00	9,380,795.88	46.14	
		2014-2017	1,586,895.45	7.81	1,586,895.45	7.81	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.17	82.82	862,144.84
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	201,501.01	96.54	162,909.63	78.05	208,720.79
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	11,687,123.84	139.32	5,909,183.06	70.44	8,388,590.74
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	309,375.00	107.30	143,674.75	49.83	288,332.89
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	13,098,853.39	134.38	6,929,789.61	71.09	9,747,789.26

Focus Area 5C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)		2014-2021	2,414,357.44	8.73	2,414,357.44	8.73	27,669,013.48
		2014-2020	2,195,851.24	7.94	2,195,851.24	7.94	
		2014-2019	979,025.41	3.54	979,025.41	3.54	
		2014-2018	1,633,794.74	5.90			
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.02	82.82	862,144.84
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	158,758.93	96.54	128,352.99	78.05	164,446.68
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	18,367,002.28		0.00		0.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	636,683.54	9.15	317,313.90	4.56	6,957,526.38
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,558,878.83	20.17	858,169.32	11.10	7,727,992.73
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	309,375.00	20.59	143,674.77	9.56	1,502,789.19
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	21,931,552.12	127.40	2,161,533.00	12.56	17,214,899.82

Focus Area 5D							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)		2014-2021			8.55	203.56	4.20
		2014-2020			8.33	198.32	
		2014-2019			6.40	152.37	
		2014-2018			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2017			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2016			3.11	74.04	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.04	82.82	862,144.84
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,419,057.02	96.54	1,147,278.67	78.05	1,469,900.37
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	15,149,137.78	155.72	8,434,740.70	86.70	9,728,592.04
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	10,380,179.38	74.73	9,603,347.33	69.14	13,889,991.76
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	309,375.00	15.32	143,674.77	7.11	2,019,732.74
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	28,158,602.72	100.67	20,043,063.51	71.66	27,970,361.75

Focus Area 5E							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)		2014-2021			0.19	84.45	0.22
		2014-2020			0.18	80.00	
		2014-2019			0.18	80.00	
		2014-2018			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2017			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2016			0.03	13.33	
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.17	82.82	862,144.84
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	657,975.10	112.62	316,943.71	54.25	584,240.95
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,249,416.88	48.86	2,493,544.46	37.50	6,650,128.32
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	28,987,607.26	193.52	11,841,515.62	79.05	14,979,426.43
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,889,523.09	196.07	1,377,635.13	142.95	963,688.46
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	497,939.71	144.55	204,685.38	59.42	344,479.96
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	36,183,315.58	148.39	16,948,346.47	69.51	24,384,108.96

Focus Area 6A							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)		2014-2021			12.20	1.59	765.00
		2014-2020			12.20	1.59	
		2014-2019			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2018			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	310,529.80	73.72	328,781.17	78.05	421,236.51
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	16,867,573.90	158.88	4,616,772.76	43.49	10,616,799.66
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	9,636,284.71	623.77	4,944,950.44	320.09	1,544,856.72
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,237,375.37	1,117.11	861,066.36	297.12	289,799.67
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	30,051,763.78	233.45	10,751,570.73	83.52	12,872,692.56

Focus Area 6B							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)		2014-2021			35.11	35.11	100.00
		2014-2020			9.00	9.00	
		2014-2019			4.00	4.00	
		2014-2018			12.00	12.00	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)		2014-2021			3.35	7.36	45.53
		2014-2020			3.24	7.12	
		2014-2019			0.67	1.47	
		2014-2018			1.93	4.24	
		2014-2017			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)		2014-2021			45.53	100.01	45.53
		2014-2020			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2019			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2018			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2017			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,529,411.77	94.81	216,513.23	5.82	3,722,729.85
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	22,976,939.13	102.92	18,750,157.75	83.99	22,324,928.45
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	114,381,275.95	240.63	40,482,630.45	85.16	47,534,919.43
M19	O1 - Total public	2014-2021	61,020,986.53	110.78	36,958,809.12	67.10	55,081,422.36

	expenditure						
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	201,908,613.38	156.93	96,408,110.55	74.93	128,664,000.09

Focus Area 6C							
Target indicator name		Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)		2014-2021			0.62	3.76	16.47
		2014-2020			0.43	2.61	
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
Measure	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	450,426.78	104.49	357,010.99	82.82	431,072.42
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,531,761.18	110.08	733,912.74	52.74	1,391,505.41
Total	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,982,187.96	108.76	1,090,923.73	59.86	1,822,577.83



## 1.c) Key information on RDP implementation based on data from a) and b) by Focus Area

### Financial Overview

Activity described within this report covers the period from the final quarter of 2015 (October - December 2015) when payments from the Programme commenced to 31 December 2021.

The fourth Programme amendment approved on 16 March 2021 resulted in changes to financial allocations. The financial allocations shown within this report are based on those agreed within the 4th Programme modification. A 5th Programme amendment was submitted which resulted in further changes to the financial allocation and a slight increase to the total value of the Programme in £. The 5th Programme amendment was adopted by the EC on 26 January 2022, the change prioritises support for extension to the Glastir agri Environment suite of measures and advice and support through the extension of the Farming Connect contract.

Payments of €112.2m were made for activity undertaken and claimed during 2021, bringing the total paid since the start of the Programme to €651.6m. This represents 66.7% of the Programme allocation.

Of the total cumulative expenditure to date €240.7m came from Pillar 1 transfer funding, of which €34.9m was paid during 2021.

The 2021 N+3 target for the Programme was met in April 2021 well in advance of December 2021.

By the end of 2021 the cumulative committed value for the Programme exceeds the total Programme value, this is due to project de-commitment which is not reported within the annual commitment figures on SFC. The highest cumulative commitments by Priority were against P4 (€445.5m), P6 (€236m) and P3 (€132.1) with the remaining committed under the other Priorities. By Measure, the highest cumulative commitment was seen against Measure 10 (€270.6m), Measure 4 (€264.2m), Measure 16 (€154m) and Measure 1 (€104.8m).

Please note: Two payments totalling €5.01m Total public expenditure/€ 2.66m EAFRD made under Measure 20 – Technical Assistance were included in the Quarter 2 2018 SFC declaration to the Commission. These payments were later removed from the final account figures via the Annual Account Difference document. This adjustment to the Technical Assistance payments has not been included within the Commission's 2019, 2020 or 2021 Financial Implementation Reports (FIR), hence a variance occurs between the Total Public/EAFRD expenditure on the FIR and that reported in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 AIR.

### EC Audit

In April 2021 EC auditors conducted a remote conformity audit mission in Wales. The audit reviewed several socio economic measures under the RDP, and identified issues relating to competitive tendering controls for projects. The auditors consider that the Welsh Government approach, in conducting such checks at the end of the project (during the in situ visit) creates a risk to two key controls under European funding rules. A previous EC audit mission undertaken in 2018 did not identify this issue

Where EC audit identifies a risk to key controls the EC can apply financial corrections (disallowance). In order to mitigate or reduce the level of disallowance the Paying Agency has undertaken corrective action and brought forward competitive tendering checks, which are now verified before claims can be submitted by beneficiaries.

Whilst this change in process is seen as an additional burden by some projects, beneficiaries are aware of the need to maintain such evidence throughout the lifetime of the project, demonstrating they have satisfied these requirements. In accepting the grant offer they agree to this information being retained and made readily available at any time when requested by the Welsh Government

This change also provides a longer term benefit of reducing future burden on claim validation and in-situ checks, and reduced the risk of delays to final claim payments in the last year of the programme.

## **Measure 20: Technical Assistance**

Activity funded by Technical Assistance (TA) is essential for the successful implementation of the WGRC RDP 2014-20. Activities funded include technical input to the viability of projects, programme implementation and the development of IT systems. TA funds a number of mandatory elements of the RDP such as the Wales Rural Network (WRN) and monitoring and evaluation costs of the Programme. Technical Assistance also supports actions that support administrative capacity linked to the management of ESI funds. These actions include those associated with supporting the implementation of the programme.

Technical Assistance projects allow the WG to meet the regulatory requirements for the delivery of the Rural Development Programme, activities funded include: Glastir Implementation, NRW Woodland Management Planning, Business Improvements, Managing Authority & Delivery Costs, Monitoring & Evaluation, On the Spot Checks, Technical Appraisal, Analysis & Inspection and the Wales Rural Network.

The total cumulative committed value for Measure 20 by the end of 2021 was €42.9m. Payments of €3.1m were made during 2021 of which €1.65m was EAFRD, providing a total cumulative spend of €24.9m, of which €13.2m EAFRD by the end of 2021. Technical Assistance spend was lower than anticipated during 2021 this was due to the Procurement and Tendering exercise undertaken by the Managing Authority's Paying Agency, however spend is expected to increase during 2022, with full spend expected in line with the approved allocation.

TA activities are delivered under Measure 20.1, with the WRN funded through Measure 20.2.

	<b>Number of applications</b>	<b>Total Value (£m)</b>	<b>Total Value (€m) *</b>
Total allocation for TA		£ 37.0	€ 42.9
Committed – Total Public	8	£ 37.0	€ 42.9
		£ 21.9	€ 24.9
Total Spend			

*\*Euro conversion of applications under appraisal and approved is based on a €1 = £0.85 planning exchange rate*

It is worth noting that the figures included within the scheme updates will not match what is reported within the data set. This is due to the fact that policy colleagues are aware of the activity happening on the ground that is yet to be captured via a claim.

## **IMPLEMENTATION BY FOCUS AREA**

### **PRIORITY 1: FOCUS AREAS 1A, 1B, 1C**

Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer & Information Actions), 2 (Advisory Services) & 16 (Co-operation) are programmed under Priority 1 Focus Area 1A, with Measure 16 also contributing to Focus Area 1B and Measure 1 to Focus Area 1C. In Wales, the Knowledge Transfer and Information actions, along with advisory services, farm management and farm relief services, are horizontal Measures relevant to all Priorities of the Programme with actions within the Measures programmed under specific Focus Areas of the other Priorities. Activity also contributes directly to meeting the cross cutting objectives of innovation, climate change and the environment.

A cumulative total of €68.04m expenditure was incurred in respect of Measure 1 (Knowledge Transfer), €10.63m under Measure 2 (Advisory Services) and €57.30 under Measure 16 (cooperation) across the Programme during the reporting period. Committed expenditure of €52.00m was under Measure 16 during 2021. Committed in year expenditure of €5.07m was made under Measure 1 and €2.7m under Measure 2 during the reporting period.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 1 of the Programme a cumulative total of €136.15m expenditure (uptake against indicator T1) was recorded for Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer), 2 (Advisory Services) & 16 (Cooperation), with 230 Cooperation operations supported through the whole of Measure 16 (uptake against indicator T2) and 86,231 participants recorded (uptake against indicator T3) by the end of 2021.

#### **Measure 1.1-1.3 Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Actions.**

The Knowledge Transfer and Innovation (KT&I) Scheme supports the knowledge, training and information requirements of farming, forestry and food manufacturing Small Medium Enterprise businesses for the creation of a more sustainable and competitive rural economy. The WG has developed the Farming Connect Framework which comprises an integrated pan Wales programme of knowledge transfer and innovation support, the programme is now in its 6th year of delivery. The programme provides a strong and widely recognised platform of support to help the farming sector.

Comprising of an integrated programme of knowledge transfer, innovation and advisory service, the Programme is designed to deliver greater sustainability, improved competitiveness, and improved environmental performance for farming and forestry businesses.

The central component of the Programme is 'strategic knowledge transfer' and is the primary support mechanism for the agricultural industry in Wales. The contractors deliver training and advice on new technologies and production techniques to the Welsh farming industry; with the aim being to enable them to diversify, improve business viability and access new markets for their products and services as well as supporting them to become more resilient and sustainable. A number of relevant strategic documents and action plans have influenced the development and focus of the Programme. These and other emerging strategies, priorities, action plans and legislation continue to be key drivers for activity setting the strategic direction for the Programme.

The introduction of the themed approach as a result of the refresh that took place in 2019, has resulted in a more focused and streamlined programme of support with baselines promoted as best practice and are a starting point for a client's journey through the Programme, ensuring support is based on need. Additional

information has been provided below.

In order to deliver key strategic outcomes, as set by Welsh Government, including Programme for Government commitments, an extension to the Farming Connect Programme (all lots) for a further seven months has been agreed. The extended contract will end 19 March 2023.

The Themes:

The three themes (Business; Land; Livestock) form the basis for the “on the ground” delivery. All interventions, messages and packages of support (all bar Health & Safety) fall under one of these themes.

The identified baselines associated with the three themes are:

Business – Business Plan / Benchmarking

Land – Nutrient Management Plans

Livestock – Animal Health Plans

The Pandemic has continued to have a profound impact on the services delivered; the disruption, challenges and risks arising from Covid-19 on contract delivery are monitored weekly. Closely monitoring this impact has allowed the timely introduction of a range of new delivery methods including digital delivery across a range of interventions. With digital delivery being the default, this has meant considerable change for the Programme at a time where demand from industry was at its greatest (Brexit & pandemic).

The Pandemic meant that face to face delivery was halted in early 2020 and was replaced with a digital provision. The Programme continued to deliver a comprehensive package of support including knowledge transfer services, special projects and online digital events and surgeries to its customers e.g. webinars, vlogs, podcasts and video conferencing supported by emails, phone calls and direct messaging.

During the transition to digital delivery, a number of opportunities and challenges presented themselves. One such opportunity was the use of webinars to host one to many activities. Not having to travel long distances to attend allowed viewers from across Wales to participate, where normally in the main it would be restricted to “local” participation. On the negative side digital delivery has also brought challenges such as connectivity issues and IT poverty (IT literacy and access to software/hardware).

As Wales comes out of lockdown and “normality” is reintroduced it is important that we use the lessons learnt to establish a hybrid approach to delivery going forward. However what shouldn’t be forgotten is the benefit to a farmer’s mental health & wellbeing resulting from attending an event and being able to converse with their peers – no amount of digital delivery can make up for the lack of face to face interaction.

### **Measure 1.1**

Under Measure 1.1 (vocational training & skills acquisition) a cumulative total of €37.83m has been spent of which €13.16m was during 2021. During 2021 the two core delivery mechanisms within the Programme delivering Measure 1.1 activity were Farming Connect and Project HELIX.

Project HELIX provides funding support for research into global food production, trends and waste to help small to medium sized food manufacturers across Wales to increase production and reduce waste. Developed by Food Innovation Wales (FIW), a partnership of three food centres, Project HELIX supports food manufacturers in Innovation, Efficiency and Strategy. Further information on Project HELIX can be

found under the Focus Area 3a section of this report.

Farming Connect has developed several vocational training initiatives under this Measure which deliver to multiple Focus Areas:

- One to one mentoring

Designed to benefit new entrants, businesses considering a significant strategic change in direction and individuals looking to exit the industry and who are considering share/contract farming possibilities this initiative was developed by Farming Connect to provide farmers and foresters with peer-to-peer mentoring. Up until 31 December 2021, 615 mentees have been assigned a mentor. The topics focussed on in 2021 included amongst others diversification, reducing costs and increasing outputs, succession and business development.

- Agri Academy

The Agri Academy brings together individuals making their way into the agricultural industry in Wales, giving them the inspiration, confidence, skills and contacts they need to become future rural leaders, professional business people and aspiring entrepreneurs. The Programme, which provides training, mentoring, support and guidance, is split into two distinct programmes:

- i. The Business and Innovation programme – aimed at supporting and inspiring the next generation of farming and forestry innovators and entrepreneurs in Wales. 13 individuals took part in this programme in 2021.
- ii. The Junior programme – aimed at supporting young people aged between 16 and 19 years who hope to follow a career in the food, farming and forestry industries (a joint collaboration with Wales Young Farmers' Clubs). 11 individuals benefited from this programme in 2021.

During 2021, the Agri Academy Junior programme and the Business Innovation Programme held a number of discussion sessions and visits. Session topics included: Big Ideas Wales Workshop, Presenting Me - How to show your best self when making a presentation to a live audience and The importance of looking after your mental health, along with v

- Skills

Through the skills Programme, individuals can access up to 80% funding for completing short accredited training courses on key topics. To access the training courses individuals must complete an online Personal Development Plan - this helps identify individual as well as business needs together with the training courses, which could help them to become more efficient, skilled and profitable. It also helps identify a mechanism by which to strengthen or introduce new skills to the business

6,381 Personal Development Plans (PDP) had been completed up until the end of December 2021.

There have been a total of 5,900 instances of completed accredited training, covering 83 courses.

- Elearning

There are currently 90 interactive e-learning modules live on the BOSS Platform, across the themes of Business, Land and Livestock. The fully funded online modules cover a wide variety of topics and are

available free, to all Farming Connect registered individuals that have access to the BOSS Platform.

Up until the end of December 2021, 5,895 e-learning courses were accessed and completed by individuals.

Health and Safety (compulsory for machinery or equipment courses) remains the most popular course available.

- Storfa Sgiliau / Skills Store

Farming Connect has a fully funded Continuous Professional Development recording system to capture all knowledge transfer and training activity undertaken by registered individuals during the current Programme.

Storfa Sgiliau provides a one-stop on-line system for users, to track and store their records of learning and training certificates. Enabling them to build a comprehensive CV for use in applications for employment and Farm Assurance checks.

The recording system sits on the Business Wales (BOSS) website and is free to access and use by all individuals registered with the Farming Connect Programme.

Storfa Sgiliau enable users to have instant access to a downloadable or digital reports which sets out an individual's skills, training and relevant academic / professional achievements. It also provides evidence of training courses undertaken for the benefit of Farm Assurance Schemes and supply chain organisations including wholesalers, retailers etc.

In 2021, developed by successfully implementing a link between BAS and BOSS Platforms, all Farming Connect events data was added to registered individuals Storfa Sgiliau records.

## **Measure 1.2**

Under Measure 1.2 (demonstration activities and information actions) a cumulative total of €29.77m was spent by the end of 2021 of which €5.42 was spent during 2021. Farming Connect are the sole deliverer of demonstration activities under this Measure, activity during 2021 included;

- Demonstration Network

Up until 31 December 2021, the Farming Connect Demonstration Network has supported 30 Demonstration farms and has recruited 214 Focus sites. The sites promote innovation and new technology that is available for farmers and foresters and provides a practical platform to demonstrate how this new technology/technique can be implemented at farm/forestry level.

Up until 31 December 2021, 894 events have been hosted on the demonstration network with 12,944 attendees.

- Discussion Groups

Discussion groups are made up of approximately 8 beneficiaries who meet regularly following a structured programme with clear aims and outcomes identified from the outset. Between autumn 2015 until 31 December 2021, 162 groups were recruited with 2,057 individual members representing 1,856 businesses.

The groups are collecting data that is relevant to their business needs, and compare this data and learn about

the benefits of recording information, which is then used to help make management decisions.

During 2021, discussion groups were found to be working really well using a blended approach of digital and face-to-face meetings.

- Action Learning (Agrisgôp)

Agrisgôp is a fully funded action-learning programme, which brings together forward-thinking, like-minded individuals from farm and forestry businesses at a local level. Working together in groups of 6-10, group members can learn new management skills, gain confidence, access specialist information, explore and develop viable futures for their businesses. Based on the concept of action learning, Agrisgôp provides the opportunity to progress skills and confidence, which will in turn assist the development of ideas and opportunities to move businesses forward.

196 groups have been established across Wales facilitated by local Agrisgôp leaders. They hold meetings at regular intervals; during this period, 1,377 meetings took place.

- One to one surgeries and clinics

One to one surgeries allows beneficiaries to receive bespoke advice on a variety of topics e.g. strategic business planning, succession planning, IT, planning, and marketing and diversification.

Since the beginning of the Programme there have been 1,480 clinics that have taken place with 9,708 beneficiaries, likewise some 934 surgeries have taken place with 4,861 beneficiaries.

- Diversification Awareness Seminars

These events aim to help farmers and foresters understand the essential elements of developing diversification ventures. Regional and digital events were held to outline the key elements of planning a diversification project with attendees signposted to the additional support and advice available through the Farming Connect Programme. To date 20 events have been held with 1,067 beneficiaries.

- Venture

This is an initiative designed to help match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way into farming. The initiative guides people on both sides through the key steps required to find a potential business partner. An integrated package of training, mentoring, specialist advice and business support equips participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to help them achieve their goals.

In 2021 there were 292 active members and out of these 27 potential matches have been identified. The individuals who have found potential business partners are now applying for group advice through the advisory service for further support.

There have been 48 new joint venture enterprises established since the start of the Programme.

Cumulatively up until 31 December 2021, there were 648 active members and out of these 129 potential matches have been identified. The individuals who have found potential business partners are now applying for group advice through the advisory service for further support.

There have been 48 new joint venture enterprises established since the start of the Programme.

### **Measure 1.3**

Under Measure 1.3 (management exchanges and farm visits) a cumulative total of €0.43m was spent by the end of 2021, of which €0.05m was spent during 2021. Farming Connect is the sole deliverer of demonstration activities under this Measure, activity during 2021 included:

- Management exchanges and farm visits
- Farm and Forest short term visits

Spending time visiting other businesses can be a valuable way to discover improved methods of working, to see best practice in action and bring home new ideas to innovate your enterprise. The groups receive funding to support a study visit within the UK for up to 4 days.

34 groups have undertaken visits to a variety of destinations including Scotland, Cheshire and London. Topics of interest have included improving performance in the dairy herd, personal development and grassland.

#### **Farm and Forest exchanges**

Successful individuals undertake a visit to other farm or forestry situations within the EU to learn about new and improved ways of working in the farming or forestry sectors. They can also host a suitably trained and experienced farm or forest manager to visit their holding and learn about different approaches to business management. The aim is to broaden their knowledge, technical ability and management expertise to provide new development opportunities at both a personal and business level.

43 individuals have completed their exchange visits and reports have been published on the Farming Connect website. The visit topics range from finishing cattle on a low cost system, Maximising outputs from grazing & block calving systems and Sustainable Forestry and Solutions for Carbon Sequestration.

### **Measure 2**

Under Measure 2 (Advisory Services, farm management & farm relief services) a cumulative total of €10.6m was spent by the end of 2021 with €13.40m funds committed.

#### **Measures 2.1 & 2.2**

The Farming Connect Advisory Service provides a range of subsidised, independent, confidential and bespoke advice to farm and forestry businesses. Available on a one-to-one basis the individual advice element is up to 80% funded and group advice is 100% funded up to a maximum of €1,500.

The Advisory Service is delivered by eight “lead” companies, selected and approved by Farming Connect.

Eligible businesses are able to access subsidised advice on a range of specific topics to reach their end goal.

The framework makes available a range of advisors with different specialisms, all with a wealth of experience and knowledge to deliver advice. A random selection of advisory reports are sent to IBERS to be quality assured. This QA process ensures that the reports are of a high quality and provide value for



money.

Up until 31st December 2021 6685 instances of 1:1 and Group advice have been completed and claimed.

The following breakdown shows the categories of advice individual businesses have claimed since the start of the Programme (01/10/2015 – 31/12/2021).

- Business Planning – 1710
- Business Planning – Forestry Management – 48
- Technical Grassland & Crop Management – 4440
- Technical Livestock Management & Performance – 451
- Technical Diversification and Added Value – 122
- Technical Timber processing and Added Value – 1
- Technical Horticulture – 11
- Technical Agri Environment, ecosystems & Biodiversity – 8

In order for the industry to play its part in achieving the target in Wales of becoming net zero by 2030 Carbon advice/ audits have been approved in specific advice topic areas. These allow businesses to understand their energy use and costs and identify ways to run the business more efficiently as well as understanding their carbon footprint.

As a result of the significant increase in demand for the service during the early summer, following Ministerial and CPS approval additional funding was awarded to the Advisory Service in August 2021 (Departure Request Ref Number: D074/2021/2022). The additional funding, a value of €1.32m was approved to support the continuation of delivery within the existing contract up to the end of the contract in August 2022.

In order to deliver key strategic outcomes as set by Welsh Government, including Programme for Government commitments, an extension to the Farming Connect Programme including the Advisory Service was approved for a further seven months, with the new contract end being 19 March 2023. An additional €1.05m was approved (supported by a Ministerial commitment - MA/LG/2152/21) for the purpose of extending the Advisory Service in line with the main Farming Connect Programme.

## **Measure 2.1**

Farming Connect has enabled effective working across measures to ensure complementarity and support delivery of multiple objectives. This is demonstrated through Measure 2.1, where Glastir has used advisory support to develop water management plans carried out and woodland plans continue to be verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It also requires use of the expertise of Wales' archaeological trusts to give Contract Managers advice on the most suitable management for Glastir Advanced contracts. During 2020 the work concerned Glastir Small Grants, Glastir Woodland Creation and Glastir Woodland Restoration. The trusts ran a woodland planner training day. During the reporting year, advice was provided on 86 small grant applications and 179 Glastir Woodland Creation / Restoration applications.

Further information on Glastir activity under Measure 2.1 can be found under Priority 4 and 5 sections of this report.

Total cumulative spend under Measure 2 by the end of 2021 was €10.3m, with €0.37m under Sub Measure

2.1.

### **Measure 2.3**

This Measure (support for training of advisors) was removed during the second Programme amendment approved in March 2019.

### **Measure 16.1**

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Wales was introduced in January 2016 and applications were invited from Groups interested in solving common problems.

In August 2017, Menter a Busnes was awarded the contract to run EIP Wales; this included the management and facilitation of every stage from enquiry through to awarding contracts and execution of the successful project.

Groups are supported by the Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub. A collaboration between Farming Connect and IBERS, Aberystwyth University, the Hub assists the Groups by undertaking background literature searches into their proposed topic to gain a better understanding of what is already known about the topic and to inform the project of any gaps in the information that may need to be investigated. The Hub also provides support and guidance on project designs and will work with the Groups throughout the lifetime of the projects to assist with the outcomes and dissemination of findings.

The Groups are also able to seek fully funded support from an Innovation Broker, who provide guidance and support throughout the application process. All applications are assessed by an Assessment Panel, comprising of Farming Connect, Welsh Government and Professor Wynne Jones OBE FRAGS independent agriculture expert.

46 projects have been approved meeting the contract target. Within the 46 projects, there are 313 Group Members, which comprise 237 Farmer Members, 3 SME, 3 NGO's, 3 Research Institutes, with 40 groups accessing support from an Innovation Broker.

Up to 31st December 2021, 13 projects have been completed, with end reports published against each project on the Farming Connect Website. Each end report includes project aims, methodology, findings and conclusions. A critical element of the EIP Programme is the dissemination of project findings to participants and Farming Connect registered businesses and further afield.

An independent evaluation of the programme implementation and impact within Wales commenced in 2021, with the final report being published in spring 2023. The evaluation will review the engagement and application process, and effectiveness of project dissemination.

The approved projects can be found [here](#).

Total cumulative expenditure by the end of 2021 was €1.4m under Measure 16.1.

### **PRIORITY 2: FOCUS AREA 2A**

Measures 1, 2, 4.1 and 16.1 are programmed under Priority 2. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and

also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Focus Area 2b has not been programmed in Wales.

Under Priority 2a cumulative total of €58.96m expenditure has been incurred, of which €8.45m was for activity undertaken during 2021. This included €27.43m under Measure 1, €5.78m under Measure 2, €25.46m under Measure 4 and €0.29m under Measure 16 during the reporting period. Regarding committed expenditure a cumulative total of €92.86m in funding was committed under Priority 2 by the end of 2021.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 2 of the Programme the percentage of agri holdings receiving support in investments for restructuring or modernisation (indicator T4) was 13.07% (3,152 absolute value) by the end of 2021 against a baseline value of 24,120 agricultural holdings in Wales. Progress in implementing Measure 4.1 (support for investments in agricultural holdings) has been provided below;

### **Measure 4.1**

The Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) scheme under Measure 4.1 primarily delivers under Focus Area 2a in addition to Focus Areas 5b and 5d. The scheme provides support to help farmers improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holding in line with the Welsh Government's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. It provides capital investment in facilities and equipment relating to animal health and welfare, crop storage, production housing and handling, renewable energy production and soil and crop management. Grants represent a maximum 40% contribution and, for the first three rounds of the scheme, ranged from a minimum of €18.82k to a maximum of €470.59k to increase on-farm investment, production and resource efficiencies to improve technical performance.

The first three rounds of SPG saw 295 claims being submitted and processed for payment, totalling over €14.7m. A total of 394 claims have been received for SPG windows 4 to 6, of which 85% have been processed for payment, worth €3.36m. From round four of the scheme, the focus of the scheme changed to address on-farm nutrient storage and management, with a pre-identified list of capital items and a maximum grant range of €10,200 to €42,500.

The seventh round for SPG window 7, with a budget of €6.8m, opened 1st February 2021 and closed on the 4th March 2021. Of the 243 applicants that accepted selection, 194 have submitted their full application worth €5.36m and technical appraisal of these is ongoing.

The Farm Business Grant (FBG), also programmed under Measure 4.1, aims to help farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. The grant provides a financial contribution towards standard costed capital investments in equipment and machinery, which have been pre-identified as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm enterprises. The minimum grant available is €3,529k and the maximum is €14,118k. To be eligible to apply to the FBG, a member of the farming business must have attended a Farming Connect Farming for the Future event. As the industry enters a critical period of change, businesses are encouraged to take this opportunity to ensure any investment they make supports them to become more sustainable, prosperous and resilient for the future. The eighth round of the FBG opened 1 March 2021 and closed on 9 April 2021. A total of 701 contracts were offered worth €3.10m. 571 farmers accepted the offer of a contract worth €2.51m. As the value of the contracts accepted was less than the €4.25m budget allocated to FBG in 2021, a further window opened on 1 September and closed 1 October 2021 worth €1.7m. A total of 378 contracts were offered worth €1.52m. 272 farmers accepted the offer of a contract worth €1.62, a total value of €1.21m has been paid on FBG windows 8 and 9 in 2021.

The Welsh Government also held a targeted round FBG, to support farmers to cover existing yards to reduce the volume of rainwater entering slurry stores. The aim of the FBG-Yard Coverings scheme is to improve current on-farm infrastructure, ultimately reducing their production costs. The scheme supported the covering of previously uncovered existing livestock feeding and gathering areas, manure storage areas, as well as existing slurry and silage stores. The scheme was based on a standard cost per metre squared of roof installed. On 4 November 2020, a knowledge transfer webinar was delivered to 1000 participants where an invited expert and Welsh Government and Farming Connect officials set out the detail about the FBG-YC scheme. A total of 149 contracts were offered on 4 February 2021 for FBG-YC window 1 worth €1.72m. 137 accepted the contract offer worth €1.58m. Payments commenced February 2022.

A second FBG-YC EOI opened 18 May and closed 25 June 2021. 250 contracts were offered worth €2.02m. 213 contracts were accepted worth €1.74m.

Please also see Priority 5 section of this report for further information on Measure 4.1 delivery.

### **Measure 4.3**

Measure 4.3 was to be delivered through the 'Farm and Forestry Infrastructure Scheme, however this scheme was never launched. As such there is no activity or spend to report during 2021. The WG will continue to review this measure.

## **PRIORITY 3: FOCUS AREA 3A**

### **Measure 1.1**

Measure 1.1 is delivered under Focus Area 3a of the Programme, through the Knowledge Transfer & Innovation Scheme.

All of the proposed activities within Project Helix are aligned with the Welsh Government strategic priorities in Taking Wales Forward, particularly supporting the economy, business and jobs, as well as the business growth and market development actions of Towards Sustainable Growth. These activities contribute to a Prosperous Wales – one of the seven goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, as well as the five ways of working, including collaboration with industry for the long term development and growth of the food and drink sector.

Project Helix has been aligned with Programme for Government priorities and, in accordance with the Regulations governing the European Programmes, all projects funded through the Common Strategic Framework integrate the Cross Cutting Themes (CCT's) of Equal Opportunities and Gender Mainstreaming and Sustainable Development. In addition the scheme has particular importance in the context of Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The Pan Wales partnership developed by the three food centres has, at its core, the development of rural and valleys communities and the creation of sustainable jobs to impact on poverty throughout Wales. Recent work undertaken by the centres has identified growth in the sector which tends to originate in areas where unemployment is highest, i.e. rural communities and the South Wales valleys. Due to Wales' geographical location the strategy for a sustainable food sector must focus on the development of start-up companies and support to SMEs. Historically the sale of larger companies to food multi nationals will, in the majority of cases, create a re-alignment of production capacity - this results in the manufacturing site often being

incorporated into other processing facilities elsewhere in the UK and internationally. Innovation and food company regeneration is therefore the key to a vibrant, effective and longstanding Welsh food and drink sector.

**Project HELIX** is designed to develop Welsh businesses in turn enabling them to attend UK and International Food and Drink related trade exhibitions and trade development visits, which are a key component for increasing growth and improving the competitiveness of companies in Wales.

The project has been developed into three key areas and is delivered Pan Wales under the Food Innovation Wales brand.

- Food Innovation
- Food Efficiency
- Food Strategy

The project was launched by the Cabinet Secretary in March 2017.

The **Cywain** project offers seamless provision for growth-oriented food and drink businesses, bringing together the successes of previous Cywain projects and the Fine Food and Drink Cluster.

The project supports:

- start-ups (businesses under two years of age) and small businesses that demonstrate growth potential, account managing SMEs and offering targeted interventions
- businesses of all sizes that want to cluster together and collaborate or establish groups of special interest to address specific business issues that affect the growth of their business and the sector as a whole

The project received official approval on the 12th of June 2018, and some of the main project outputs to date can be seen below

- 983 food and drinks businesses supported by the project
- With an annual aggregated turnover of €521.05m
- 213 NEW food and drink start ups supported
- Creating 156 NEW fulltime jobs, and
- Safeguarding a workforce of 4,602 people
- 1159 training days provided for 905 participants

During 2021, 160 new clients were registered with Cywain and 757 one-to-one mentoring surgeries were arranged to ensure clients receive appropriate advice and guidance at the start of their business journey. We are responsible for the Fine Food Cluster (134 members), Seafood Cluster (68 members) and the Honey Cluster (20 members).

**FOOD SKILLS CYMRU** is a project that aims to develop skills within food businesses as a key component of the supply chain in serving and selling Welsh. To date a total of 210 businesses have completed a Skills Diagnostic and have been provided with a unique training plan. Of these 123 are micro businesses, 58 are SME's and 30 are large organisations

The number of actions supported, participants supported, and the number of training days given has been

achieved

Up until the end of 2021, 629 funding application forms had been approved resulting in 3,830 participants hoping to complete training by the end of March 2022

The total value of training courses approved is €1.024m

Training support is made available equally to male and females. To date 2,080 people have been supported through the FSC programme, of these 511 are female and 1,569 are male

Collaboration with Cywain, Project Helix and the Clusters is working well with client referrals moving between the different programmes to ensure that businesses are receiving the correct provision of support.

FSC also refer businesses to the FE Colleges and Business Wales for the various funding programmes that they deliver. If we feel that a particular course can be supported elsewhere then we always refer a business, to ensure the programme training budget is utilised to its full potential

A workstream within FSC is Wales a Food Destination. This project promotes and increases the use of Welsh food and drink products within the tourism sector. To date we have held 88 workshops and provided one to one support

A total of 249 unique businesses have been supported through this workstream

Covid-19 has undoubtedly impacted the delivery of the project, with all face-to-face training ceasing during lock down. As a result, we have adapted the project and have had to change the way that we support businesses by moving training delivery online

Labour shortages is also impacting training delivery as businesses are not in a position to release staff for training as they do not have the capacity to cover staff absences. We are supporting businesses with recruitment through the Jobs Notice Board and raising the awareness of career prospects in the industry through the production of video cases studies which can be found here

Career Guides - Food Skills Cymru

**TYFU CYMRU (LANTRA)** is a collaborative project which will bring key stakeholders and commercial horticultural businesses together to stimulate environmental and economic horticultural productivity in Wales.

243 businesses have completed an Online Business Review to identify training needs

476 horticulture businesses are recorded on our database – 279 edible and 197 ornamentals

The total value of training delivered is €0.99m, to end of Dec 21. Work Package 1 - €0.07 and Work Package 2 €0.92

To the end of December 2021 1,236 participants have been supported, 330 enterprises assisted, 966 training days have been given to 2,317 participants in training.

A workstream within Tyfu Cymru is the Online Knowledge Hub. Content now includes 187 resources; 82

were uploaded Jan 21 to Dec 21

Training support is made available equally to male and females. To date 632 people have been supported through the Tyfu Cymru programme, of these 275 are female and 357 are male

To the end of 2021 €1.94m of grant has been paid against a total expected expenditure of €3.62m.

**TYFU'R DYFODOL - (National Botanic Gardens of Wales)** aims to encourage people within Wales to grow more food. To the end of 2021 €1.97m of grant has been paid against a total expected expenditure of €2.7m.

By the end of 2021, a cumulative total of €29.78m expenditure was incurred across Measure 1.1 under this Focus Area.

## **Measure 4.2**

Measure 4.2 is delivered under Focus Area 3a of the Programme, through the Food Business Investment Scheme (FBIS). It is designed to help primary producers of agricultural products in Wales to add value to their outputs by providing support to those businesses that do first and/or second stage processing activities. It is also designed to improve the performance and competitiveness of their businesses; to respond to consumer demand; to encourage diversification and to identify, exploit and service new emerging and existing markets.

FBIS has been a great success to date, with over €158.95m new capital projects being developed, in Wales. This demonstrates our pro-business approach to the awarding of grant funding

Current date collected by Food Division (Business Development Team) shows the following indicator targets, from those FBIS projects approved to date (as at 01/02/2022)

Number of Operations Supported – 130 (Target 120)

Case Level Indicators achieved to date:

Number of new products - 451

Number of jobs created – 1543

Number of jobs safeguarded – 1326.50

Number of new markets accessed – 328

By the end of December 2021 a cumulative total of €40.65m in expenditure has been incurred through the FBIS, of which €5.59m was during 2021. **Measure 16.2 Innovative Approaches & Collaborative Growing**

The Welsh Government is committed to supporting a Green Recovery in Wales which safeguards the environment and allows our rural economy to thrive.

As part of the Covid Recovery, this EOI round was opened to encourage and stimulate innovative approaches in the horticulture sector, combining technical support and collaborative opportunities in order

to:

- Support and create further diversity to **increase the resilience of the rural economy**
- Support **innovative approaches and collaboration**
- Strengthen and develop **local supply chains**
- Accelerate the **transition towards a low carbon economy**

The aim of this EOI round was to provide support for cross-sector collaborative approaches with a range of stakeholders at the right scale to achieve multiple objectives and outcomes through “making new things happen”.

To overcome some of the challenges this EOI round aims to increase the number of commercial collaborative growing ventures to develop and sustain local supply chains in rural areas, using the latest technology to overcome modern day needs for convenience and ease of access.

The Welsh Government is committed to enabling a Green Recovery so all project proposals should include sustainability criteria to track how the Covid-19 Recovery actions also contribute to long term resilience by addressing climate change and ecological transition.

£2m was allocated to this EOI window, and a total of eight EOIs were received totalling £3.30m. 5 EOIs totalling £1.92m were selected to the second stage appraisal. Appraisal was ongoing, and projects were not approved during 2021.

#### **Measure 16.4**

The Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCDS) delivered under Measure 16 provides a broad range of support. The scheme aims to support the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, forestry and food and hospitality sectors (except for fisheries or aquaculture products), and other actors that contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural development policy including:

- small businesses working together to share production facilities and resources.
- short supply chains and local markets including promotion activities in a local context.
- pilot projects where the information is made publicly available and widely disseminated.

The scheme supports collaboration and is designed to make new things happen, achieving transformational change. By the end of December 2021 a cumulative total of €2.97m was spent under Measure 16.4, with six operations supported. The total number of holdings participating in supported schemes under measure 16.4 was 184, exceeding the programme target of 165 holdings.



## **Food Tourism**

The Coronavirus pandemic, together with EU Transition, has presented many challenges for the rural economy due to its reliance on micro and small enterprises in the agriculture and food hospitality / tourism sectors.

During the height of the pandemic the small/micro enterprises demonstrated the significant value and quality of product available at a local and regional level. This has shown that consumers are developing to purchase local produce/crafts and also online sales regionally are increasing.

As part of the rural recovery, opportunities were highlighted that need to be developed to overcome fragmentation and encourage food, craft and tourism to co-operate to create economics of scale to underpin the Nation Brand Cymru values.

This intervention aims to kick start the food and visitor economy of Wales through co-operation and collaboration activities related to Food Tourism, principally to encourage greater linkages between the sectors and improve take up of local sourcing. The aims would be to raise the profile of Wales as a Food destination, develop a range of communication methods targeted at raising awareness and providing information on Welsh Food and Drink to the tourism industry and visitors to Wales. Developing partnership initiatives designed to encourage greater collaboration between food, craft and tourism sectors, to ensure a consistent approach and reduced duplication.

The Welsh Government is committed to enabling a Green Recovery so all project proposals should include sustainability criteria to track how the Covid-19 Recovery actions also contribute to long term resilience by addressing climate change and ecological transition.

There was a £3m budget allocated to this EOI window, 13 EOIs totalling £8.30m were received. After eligibility checks were completed, 2 applications were invited to submit full applications. Appraisal of the full applications were ongoing in 2021.

### **PRIORITY 4: FOCUS AREAS 4a, 4b, 4c**

Measures 1, 2, 4.4, 8, 10, 11 and 16 are programmed under Priority 4. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period.

Under Priority 4, a cumulative total of €304.57m was incurred by the end of 2021. Regarding committed expenditure during 2021 a cumulative total of €6.87m in funding was committed under Measure 1, €2.88m for Measure 2, €90.94m for Measure 4, €23.52m for Measure 8, €258.29 under Measure 10, with €33.08m under Measure 11 and €29.93 under Measure 16.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 4 of the Programme by the end of 2021 the percentage realised against 'forest / other woodland area under management contracts supporting biodiversity' (indicator T8) was 0.99% (absolute value of 3,094.75 against a baseline value of 311,050 ha for forest and other woodland (FOWL) in Wales. Achievement for Indicator T9 'percentage of agri land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and / or landscapes' was 64.48% (absolute value of 918,187.38 against a baseline of 1,423,910 of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) in Wales. Achievement for T10 'percentage of agri land under management contracts to improve water management' was 6.92%

(absolute value of 98,526.28 against a baseline of 1,423,910 UAA in Wales. For Indicator T12 'percentage of agri land under management contracts to improve soil management and / or prevent soil erosion' was 4.89% (absolute value of 69,637.13 against a baseline of 1,423,910 UAA in Wales by the end of 2021.

Measures programmed under specific Focus Areas under Priority 4 include;

- Focus Area 4A (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate)
- Focus Area 4A (forestry): Measure 8.5 (investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems)
- Focus Area 4B (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate)
- Focus Area 4B (forestry): activity against this Focus Area was removed as part of the second programme amendment

Focus Area 4C (agriculture): Measure 8.1 (afforestation / creation of woodland), 8.2 (establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems), 11.1 (convert to organic farming practices and methods) and 11.2 (maintain organic farming practices and methods)

## **Glastir**

Woodland creation and agro-forestry, woodland restoration and management, agri-environment and organic support provided under Measures 2.1, 8.1, 8.2, 8.4 & 8.5, 4.4, 10.1 and 11.1 & 11.2, is delivered through the WG's sustainable land management scheme, Glastir, through the following:

- Glastir Entry (legacy), Advanced and Small Grants (Measures 4.4 & 10.1) - Focus Areas 4A, 4B, 5D and 5E.
- Glastir Commons (Measure 10.1) - Focus Area 4A.
- Glastir Organic (Measure 11) - Focus Area 4C.
- Glastir Woodland Creation (Measures 8.1 & 8.2) - Focus Areas 4A, 4B, and 5E.
- Glastir Woodland Management (legacy), Forest Management Plans and Restoration - Focus Areas 4A, 5C, 5E and 6A.
- Glastir advisory support (Measure 2.1) – Focus Area 4A, 4B, 4C, 5D and 5E.

Progress against Measure 1.1 (Vocational training), Measure 2.1 (support to help benefiting from the use of advisory services), Measure 4.4 (non productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives), Measure 8 (Investments in forest area development), Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-climate), Measure 11 (Organic Farming), Measure 16.5 (joint action to mitigating or adapting to climate change and for joint approaches to environmental projects and ongoing environmental practices) along with Measure 16.8 (forest management plans) has been provided below;

## **Measure 1.1**

### **Focus on Forestry First –**

Focus on Forestry First under Measure 1.1 aims to deliver transformational change to the timber sector

through a professional skilled workforce by;

- Business Planning – training plans and access to further business management courses; Skills Development – funded training to raise the skills of the sector; Professional Pathways – enable and promote higher level qualifications
- Knowledge Transfer - raise background knowledge and understanding in the workforce; Mentoring – provide a framework to access mentoring within the sector; Innovative Training Solutions – develop and publish old or new resources to maintain access to traditional skills and underpin new techniques and technology

By the end of 2021, €3.15m had been paid towards the Focus on Forestry project. Achievements by the end of December 2021 included;

- 9,480 participants supported
- 3,766 participants in training,
- 14,598 training days received,
- 6 jobs created under Forest Focus First.

The SMS Support Service, under measure 1.1 delivers against P4 and is designed to enable and encourage new collaborations and partnerships to develop project ideas and apply to the remaining windows for the SMS.

The SMS Support Service focused on supporting farmers, foresters and other land managers to develop new project ideas and form new collaborative groups so they were able to submit an EOI to the Sustainable Management Scheme.

The service also provided support to projects invited to the second stage of application to help them continue to define the governance around their collaborations and facilitate the development of the full project plans..

To the end of 2021, €0.76m had been paid to the SMS Support Service project. Achievements to the end of 2021 included:

1,213 training days given to 520 participants in training

By the end of 2021 a cumulative total of €3.17m was spent in total under Priority 4 through Measure 1.1.

### **Measure 2.1**

In addition under Measure 2.1 Glastir uses advisory support to have water management plans carried out and woodland plans verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales;

Through Measure 2 funding, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on behalf of the WG are providing a Verification Service of the Glastir Forest Management Plans submitted to the WG by its own group of Glastir Registered Woodland Planners. During the reporting period NRW's verification project has supported the:

- Recruitment of **eleven** Full Time Equivalents (FTE) dedicated to the Glastir Woodlands verification project.
- Evaluation and reporting on progress for Woodland Strategy indicators.

- Drawing up verification monitoring documents e.g. verification checklist, value for money (VFM) document.
- Verification of **626** Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) applications (GWC rounds 1 to **10** inclusive) that comply with past and the very latest edition of The United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS) dated July 2017 and the nine principles enshrined in the WG's Sustainable Management of Natural Resources objective and principles.
- Supporting the creation of **3,014** hectares (ha) of new woodland creation in Wales since the project start date.
- **143** GWC round **9** applications verified total (**688.76 ha**) - **40** GWC round 9 applications currently going through the verification process (**471ha**), **79** GWC round **10** applications currently going through the verification process (**1,920ha**), **49** GWC round **11** applications currently going through the verification process (**778ha**).
- Verification of **71** Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR) schemes on Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) sites across rounds 7 and 8 of the scheme, that again comply with UKFS and felling licence terms and conditions. Restoration of **593** hectares of woodland which have remnant ancient woodland features.
- **23** GWR round **8** applications verified resulting in **195** hectares of PAWS restoration.
- Supporting liaison with external stakeholders for scheme consultation e.g. RSPB, CADW, and programme promotion e.g. CONFOR, the Institute of Chartered Foresters, the Woodland Trust, and Coed Cymru.

To note the figures above are based on schemes verified and issued a contract (not necessarily planted).

In addition through Measure 20.1 Technical Assistance (TA) funding, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on behalf of the WG are providing the management and oversight required for the Verification Service of Glastir Forest Management Plans submitted to the WG by its own group of Glastir Registered Woodland Planners.

In addition, Glastir requires the expertise of Wales' archaeological trusts to give advice on the suitable design for Glastir Woodland Creation projects, through the provision of archaeological advice for applications received and assessment of applications to ensure activities included in a Glastir contract do not damage or have an adverse impact on the historic environment. This also included a provision for general advice to be provided for Glastir Entry, Glastir Commons and Glastir Woodland Management in previous years. The work during 2021 concerned Glastir Small Grants, Glastir Woodland Creation and Glastir Woodland Restoration.

By the end of December 2021 a cumulative total of €2.16m was spent through Measure 2.1 under Priority 4, with 2,146 actions supported and 1,151 beneficiaries advised.

#### **Measure 4.4**

Investments that contribute toward Focus Area 4a and 4b objectives are provided through capital works in Glastir Advanced and Glastir Small Grants under Measure 4.4. In Glastir Advanced, the capital works are assigned the Focus Area that they deliver against. For example, a fence protecting a Glastir Advanced hay meadow commitment in Measure 10.1 will be assigned Focus Area 4a as the hay meadow commitment is Focus Area 4a, a fence protecting a streamside corridor commitment in Glastir Advanced would be assigned Focus Area 4b as the streamside corridor is Focus Area 4b.

For Glastir Small Grants (GSG), the Focus Area is assigned according to the theme for the individual round

of Glastir Small Grants. The Carbon theme is assigned to Focus Area 5e, the Water theme against Focus Area 4b and the Landscape and Pollinators theme to Focus Area 4a. There have been nine EOI rounds of GSG to date

The GSG Landscape and Pollinators 2021 window closed on 25 June 2021. There are 724 signed contracts worth €49.3m, of which €0.93m has been claimed.

### **Measure 8.1 and 8.2**

Schemes delivered under Measure 8.1 include legacy contracts under 2007-13 Forestry schemes and also Glastir Woodland Creation under both Measures 8.1 (support for afforestation / creation of woodland) and 8.2 (support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems). Total cumulative expenditure for Measure 8.1 under Focus Area P4 was €11.19m by the end of 2021.

Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC) contracts are delivered under Measure 8.1 (support for afforestation/creation of woodland) and 8.2 (support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems) and includes Glastir Woodland Creation Maintenance and Premium. A total of eight EOIs have been opened to date.

The Forest Monitoring & Risk Management Scheme is delivered under Measure 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The objective of the Scheme is to support monitoring, mitigation and prevention of harmful results from current tree or woodland environment pest or disease outbreaks. The majority of the scheme's funding (75%) is linked to Focus Area 5e with the remaining funds programmed under Priority 4.

The application from NRW was approved in December 2018. Two claims have been received in 2019 and were paid in early 2020, and a third was received in early 2021 which is awaiting payment. Further information on Measure 8.3 can be found under Priority 5 section below.

### **Measure 8.5 and 10.1**

The Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 Programme and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest eco-systems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area based payments. The last contract year for GWM was 2019. Cumulative expenditure from the scheme is €4.56m

Glastir Woodland Creation uses this measure to pay contract holders a €941.18 (£800.00) contribution towards Registered Glastir Woodland Planner's fees to develop a verified woodland creation plan. It is not reasonably possible to disaggregate payments for plans that supported focus area 4a and 5e elements in them. To date, €323,849 have been paid for plans, €33,154 in 2021.

By December 2021 there were 144 operations under Focus Area 5e for this Measure, covering 923.5ha. The majority of the allocation for this Measure is under Priority 4 with remainder programmed under Focus Areas 5e, 5c and 6a.

It is not reasonably possible to disaggregate payments for plans that supported focus area 4a and 5e elements in them. To date, €280,470 have been paid for plans, €17,882 in 2021.

### **Measures 10 & 11**

Measures 10 and 11 are now closed to new contracts. It is the intention to extend Glastir Advanced contracts, including underlying Glastir Entry elements where they are in place, all current Glastir Commons agreements and all current Glastir Organics contracts to 31 December 2023, to aid the transition between current schemes and the new land management schemes post Brexit. This approach will help maintain environmental outcomes during the interim period and ensure continued support for organic farmers. It will assist the industry in facing the upcoming challenges of Brexit alongside the immediate and ongoing problems associated with agriculture pollution. Importantly as well, the extensions will help farmers transition to future Land Management Programmes.

### **Measures 10**

The last standalone Glastir Entry contracts reached their five-year contract period in December 2019, having commenced in 2015. Only where Glastir Entry (GE) contracts underpin Glastir Advanced contracts, can their commitments carry on beyond their initial contract period, as and when the overlying Glastir Advanced contract is renewed or extended. GE has achieved a total of 4,603 contracts, amounting to a total area of 543,496 ha. No further Entry contract offers will be made as the Welsh Government considers more targeted interventions, such as those in Glastir Advanced and Glastir Small Grants, are more appropriate to achieve its objectives.

Glastir Advanced now comprises 2,279 contracts, of which 580 are stand-alone contracts with 1,699 contracts underpinned by Glastir Entry and a further 73 contracts in Glastir Commons.

Expenditure under this RDP has been €4.39m for Measure 4.4 and €34.74m for Measure 10.1. Although no new rounds are planned for Glastir Advanced, to ensure Measure 10 can continue to be successfully implemented during the remaining years of the Programme, new short terms contracts are being used to extend existing contracts. Glastir Advanced contract holders whose initial 5-year contract is due to end on 31 December 2021 will be offered a renewal, whilst those whose contract has previously been renewed will be offered an extension, annually, until 31 December 2023. Rural Payments Wales (RPW), the paying agency for the programme, has issued 1,884 contract offers worth €28.00m, of which, 1,818 have been accepted to date, worth €20.35m.

Glastir Commons is programmed entirely under Priority 4, Focus Area 4a, and is closed to new entrants. Glastir Commons 2021 consists of 184 contracts covering 113,213 ha of land. All eligible contracts were offered an extension to 2022 to allow time for Grazing Associations to explore other funding mechanisms, such as the Sustainable Management Scheme (Measure 16.5) or Payment for Ecosystem Services prospectuses. Of the 184 Glastir Commons contract holders whose existing contract ended on 31 December 2021 were offered an extension until 31 December 2022. 180 accepted the offer. The extended contracts are worth €6.12m. Glastir Commons contract holders will be offered an extension, annually, until 31 December 2023.

### **Measures 11**

The Glastir Organic Scheme under Measure 11 supports farmers to convert to organic production (Measure 11.1) or maintain organic farming practices (Measure 11.2). There have been three windows for this Scheme under the 2014-2020 RDP. Although this Scheme is now closed and no further windows are planned during this Programme, annual extensions are being offered to existing contract holders. During 2021, the WG offered 495 contract extensions worth €2.86m to eligible Glastir Organic beneficiaries to 31 December 2022.

There were 505 active contracts in place at the end of 2021 covering a total area of 60,209.64ha all under Measure 11.2. Expenditure of €3.83m was achieved during 2021 bringing cumulative expenditure to date under Measure 11 to €26.89m, the majority of which was for maintenance under Measure 11.2 (€23.76m).

### **Measure 15.1**

This Measure (payment for forest-environmental and climate commitments) was removed as part of the second Programme amendment approved in March 2019.

### **Measure 16.5**

The Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) is delivered by the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government. This scheme supports direct action on managing natural resources across Wales delivering against the approach and principles laid down in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 & the Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The SMS requires a collaborative approach rather than single applicants to develop proposals for projects with a two - three year delivery phase. The purpose of the SMS is to support collaborative landscape scale projects delivering nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of our natural resources and ecosystems in a way that also delivers benefits to farm businesses and the health and well-being of rural communities. SMS projects are undertaking actions to enhance biodiversity; improve green infrastructure; sustain better land and water management and importantly, facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation at landscape scale.

SMS collaborations include land owners, farmers and graziers who have seen the benefits working together can bring and being inspired to work with new and traditional methods. Projects involve partnerships and collaborations at a local level and landscape scale offering nature based solutions to tackle the decline in biodiversity and to improve the resilience of our ecosystems.

Enabling collaboration at the right scale (be that site, regional, catchment landscape or ecosystem) and the right locations is vital to tackling issues and maximising benefits.

The SMS is designed to meet RDP Focus Area 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry by restoring and preserving biodiversity, including Natura 2000 areas and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes. Improving water & soil management and carbon sequestration in agriculture and forestry.

Between now and the end of the delivery period, June 2023, we expect to see and have seen actions contributing to very clear outcomes; Increased Carbon Sequestration, Increased Biodiversity, improved natural flood risk management, soil health & water quality all through these collaborative landscape scale catchment management projects. We also hope to see an increase in tree planting and management of our existing woodlands supporting the commitments to the national forest. All the actions contribute to the wider need for Climate Change Adaptation and to improve our Ecosystem Resilience through the sustainable management of our natural resources.

In addition to these outcomes we are also seeing outcomes for skills development, job creation and the retention of Rural Skills, Heritage & Welsh Language. A number of the projects are now considering and focusing on the health and well-being benefits of the work they are doing, supporting community cohesion and community led local development.

SMS aims to support people and places by taking a place based approach, a key part of the approach is not just 'what' we do, but how we do it. This is about drawing on the experience of people in their places, working with each other to develop new solutions and making sure that everyone benefits directly from our natural resources. It will mean working differently to build relationships across different sectors, organisations and within communities so that we collaborate in taking action. Learning with and from each other, thinking about the scale that we need to take action, and join up across those scales and take new approaches to show if we are moving in the right direction.

There are several pilot innovative approaches being developed through the funding to inform future policy and the outputs and learning from these projects will be used as part of the evidence base in developing future support schemes in Wales.

Examples of some of the actions on the ground being delivered by the 49 active projects across Wales and details of each project can be found in the Sustainable Management Scheme project booklet Sustainable Management Scheme

This scheme has committed €27.05m (£23m) of WG and EU funding to date through five EOI windows opened during 2016 - 2019. For the period ending December 2021. 0 projects are in appraisal 45 projects are active and delivering, 5 have completed.

A total of €28.69m (100% EAFRD) was allocated up to December 2021 under Measure 16.5

A total of €11.82m expenditure has been claimed up to December 2021 under Measure 16,5, Priority 4.

Case level indicator targets across the 45 active projects:

Area of peatland habitat re-wetted target 160ha – 14ha achieved to date

Area of Upland restored to improve carbon retaining condition - target 46ha – progress – 46ha

Area of existing woodland supported target 4739ha - progress – 2172ha achieved

Area of new woodland achieved 24.28ha

Enterprises assisted target 316 – progress 225

Managed access to countryside or coast target 1146km – progress – 71km

Number of actions to utilise natural resources for health benefit target 958 – progress 551

Number of feasibility studies target 51 – progress 21

Number of individuals gaining a qualification target 108 – progress 25

Number of jobs created target 36 – progress 43



Number of jobs safeguarded target 25.6 - progress 22.6

Number of micro small and medium sized enterprises supported target 340 – progress 432

Number of new markets accesses target 3 - progress 1

Number of participants in training target 1596 – progress 717

Number of pilot activities undertaken / supported target 213 – progress 23

Number of stakeholders engaged target 9075 – progress 4552

Number of training days target 690 – progress 350

Population benefitting from improved services target 1500 – progress 650

Total public expenditure for training/skills 182408 – progress 65503

### **Measure 16.8**

Measure 16.8 will be delivered under Focus Area 4a, 5c, 5e & 6a through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme. The Co-operative Forest Planning Scheme (CFPS) will provide financial support for a range of activities to encourage planning for the creation of broadleaved and conifer woodland to improve the management of natural resources and contribute to the well-being of rural communities within Wales. Eligible activities under this Measure could include the development and co-ordination of collaborative groups, communication and dissemination activities, technical and feasibility studies or monitoring and evaluation activities

The Welsh Government's first EOI window for CFPS was open from 14/11/2016 to 30/04/2017, with appraisal of the 2 EOIs completed by end of July 2017, which resulted in both of them being invited to submit full applications. The deadline for the submission of full applications was July 2018. 1 was received

To date, €0.07m has been paid to one project. The CFPS also delivers to Focus Areas 5c, 5e and 6a within the report.

### **PRIORITY 5**

Measures 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 16 are programmed under Priority 5. Focus Area 5A has not been activated as part of the Wales Programme.

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Also see Priority 3 and Priority 6 sections for information on Measure 16 (Co-operation), Priority 2 for Measure 4.1 activity, Priority 4 for Measures 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 10.1 delivery also Priority 6 for Measure 7 (Basic Services and village renewal).

During 2021 expenditure incurred against Priority 5 totalled €7.58m bring total cumulative expenditure under P5 to €43.87m. The highest cumulative spend was under Measure 4 (€16.84m), Measure 10 (€11.01m) and Measure 8 (€10.45m) by the end of 2021.

Regarding committed expenditure a cumulative total of €3.60m in funding was committed by the end of

2021 under Measure 1, €2.25m under Measure 2, €48.45m under Measure 4, €0.64m for Measure 7, €30.55m under Measure 8, with €12.27m under Measure 10, and €1.43m under Measure 16. Bringing total committed funds under Priority 5 to €99.19m.

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 5 of the Programme for Indicator T15 ‘total investment for energy efficiency’ a cumulative total of €14.77m was achieved by the end of 2021. For Indicator T18 ‘percentage of agri land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and / or ammonia emissions’ achievement was 8.55% (121,812.49 absolute value) against a baseline of 1,423,910 UAA in Wales by the end of 2021. For Indicator T19 ‘percentage of agri and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation’ achievement by the end of 2021 was 0.12% (2,077.44 absolute value) against a baseline of 1,734,960 total agri and forest land area in Wales.

Specific Measures programmed under Priority 5 include;

- Focus Area 5B: Measure 4.1 (investments in agricultural holdings) – *see Priority 2 section above for Measure 4.1,*
- Focus Area 5C: Measures 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy), 8.5 (improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems), and 8.6 (investments for forest technologies), 16.6 and 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments)–*see Priority 4 section above for Measure 8.5 and 16.8*
- Focus Area 5D: Measures 4.1, 4.4 (non-productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives), 10.1 (agri-environment-climate) – *See Priority 2 section for Measure 4.1, Priority 4 for Measure 4.4 and 10.1.*
- Focus Area 5E: Measures 4.4, 8.1 (support for afforestation / woodland creation), 8.2 (establishment / maintenance of agro-forestry systems), 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests), 8.4 (restoration of damage to forests), 8.4 (support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events), 8.5 (improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems), 10.1 (agri-environment-climate) and 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans) – *see Priority 4 section above for Measures 4.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 and 16.8.*

## **FOCUS AREA 5B**

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5b a total of €6.93m has been paid, of this €0.44m was during 2021. By the end of 2021 there was a cumulative total of €13.10m in committed funds, the majority of which was under Measure 4 (€11.69m).

### **Measure 4.1**

The Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) under Measure 4.1 provides support to help farmers improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holding in line with the WG’s and agriculture industry in Wales’ vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. The Farm Business Grant Scheme (FBG) programmed under Measure 4.1 aims to help farmers in Wales to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. In total, Measure 4.1 under Focus Area 5b had supported 1,020 holdings, with €5.91m cumulative expenditure incurred by the end of 2021. See Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1, also Focus Area 5d below.

## **FOCUS AREA 5C**

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5c a total of €2.16m had been paid by end 2021, of which €0.37m was in 2021. Cumulative committed funds under FA5c by the end of 2021 was €21.93m.

### **Measure 4.3**

Measure 4.3 was to have been delivered through the 'Farm and Forestry Infrastructure Scheme, however, this scheme was never launched. As such there was no activity or spend during 2021. The WG will continue to review this measure in preparation for the 5th modification.

### **Measure 7**

Measure 7 was delivered via the WG operated grant scheme called the Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF). Under RCDF the WG offered grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7 is delivered under three Focus Areas: 5c, 6b and 6c with the majority of the financial allocation for the Measure programmed under Focus Area 6b. See Focus Area 6b for Measure 7.1, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 & 7.7.

See Focus Area 6c for Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure).

The three objectives of RCDF are to:

1. Promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.
2. Help those most deprived in rural Wales and those that have limited scope to change their circumstances
3. Develop the resilience and capability of rural communities so that they are better able to cope with and adapt to change.

Applicants to RCDF were expected to discuss their proposals with their LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) before submitting their EOI(s) to the WG for appraisal. The LEADER LAGs were therefore a key part of the "pipeline" for EOIs to enter the RCDF Scheme. The work of the LAGs to engage stakeholders, animate the territory, build capacity, pilot potential solutions to barriers/ways to maximise opportunities would lead to the identification of project proposals which require investment funding. Once the idea has been sufficiently developed an EOI would be submitted to RCDF.

It became apparent, however, that the result of this Community-led Local Development (CLLD) approach reflects the experience under the LEADER Measure in that far fewer project proposals came forward naturally in relation to broadband or to energy saving and community-based renewable energy generation. The WG discussed with the CLLD Consultation Group the possibility of having EOI Rounds targeted only at Measure 7.2 (Renewable Energy and Energy Saving) and Measure 7.3 (Broadband Infrastructure). Subsequently an EOI Round was held in 2018 targeting these two Measures.

Since the start of the scheme in late 2015 there have been a total of seven RCDF EOI rounds. Please see Priority 6 section below for more information on Measure 7 and the Rural Community Development Fund. No Expression of Interest Rounds were held under the Rural Community Development Fund during 2021 and the WG does not anticipate running any further Expression of Interest Rounds.

In total, Measure 7 under Focus Area 5c had supported 4 operations with €0.32m cumulative expenditure

incurred by the end of 2021

### **Measure 8.5**

The Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) Scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. There were no operations, expenditure or land supported under FA 5c for this Measure during the reporting period, as the second Programme amendment approved during 2019 removed Measure 8.5 from Focus Area 5c. Please see Priority 4 & Focus Area 5e sections for further information on Measure 8.5.

### **Measure 8.6**

Measure 8.6 is delivered under Focus Areas 5c and 6a of the Programme through the Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS). TBIS provides funding for capital investments that add value to forests by enabling woodland management activities, timber harvesting and / or timber processing. The scheme is open to private forest owners, local authorities, certain other public sector forest owners and small/medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and community organisations or forestry contractors.

Prior to 2021 there had been five EOI windows, with a total of 89 EoIs invited to full application, of which 51 full applications had been received. By the end of December 2021 there was €0.86m cumulative expenditure for this measure against Focus area 5c, of which €0.03m occurred in 2021.

### **Measure 16.2, 16.6 & 16.9**

Measure 16.2 (support for pilot projects and for the development of new products, practises, processes and technologies) Measure 16.6 (support for cooperation among supply chain actors for sustainable provision of biomass for use in food and energy production and industrial processes) are delivered as part of the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD) and are programmed under Focus Area 5c. Further information on Measure 16 C&SCD can be found in Priority 3, 5 and 6 of this report.

### **Measure 16.8**

Measure 16.8 has been delivered under Focus Area 4a, 5c, 5e & 6a through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme. The Co-operative Forest Planning Scheme (CFPS) has provided financial support for a range of activities to encourage planning for the creation of broadleaved and conifer woodland to improve the management of natural resources and contribute to the well-being of rural communities within Wales. Eligible activities under this Measure could include the development and co-ordination of collaborative groups, communication and dissemination activities, technical and feasibility studies or monitoring and evaluation activities.

There have been two EOI rounds to December 2021 with four applicants invited to full application. Three applications were received.

As at December 2021 a total of €0.06m has been paid to one project. The CFPS also delivers to Focus Areas 5c, 5e and 6a within the report.

## **FOCUS AREA 5D**

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5d, a total of €20.47m had been paid by end 2021, of which €4.52m was in 2021. There was €28.16m in cumulative committed expenditure of which the majority was under Measure 4 (€15.15m) and Measure 10.1 (€10.38m).

### **Measure 4.1**

The Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) and the Farm Business Grant Scheme (FBG) are programmed under Measure 4.1 (support for investments in agricultural holdings) providing support to agricultural holding in line with the WG's and agriculture industry in Wales' vision for more sustainable, profitable and resilient farm businesses. There were 1,248 operations with €7.30m in cumulative expenditure incurred in respect of this Measure under Focus Area 5d, of which €2.38m was incurred during 2021. Please see Priority 2 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.1 delivery.

### **Measure 4.4**

The capital works element of the Glastir Advanced scheme is delivered under Measure 4.4 (non-productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives) alongside Measure 10.1 for Glastir Advanced. By end of December 2021, there was €1.13m in cumulative expenditure for 60 ongoing operations under Focus Area 5d. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.4 and Glastir.

### **Measure 10.1**

Delivery under Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate) includes the Glastir Entry, Advanced and Commons schemes. It also includes multi-annual, area-based payments for existing farm woodlands in Glastir Woodland Management. See Priority 4 section above for information on these Schemes. During the reporting period there were 868 contracts under Focus Area 5d for Measure 10.1.

By the end 2021, a total of €10.03m was paid under M10.1 FA 5d. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 10.1 and Glastir Schemes.

## **FOCUS AREA 5E**

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Farming Connect delivery of Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 5e a total of €17.43m (€2.25m during 2021) had been paid by end 2021. There was €36.09m in cumulative committed expenditure by the end of 2021, the highest commitments were under Measure 8 (€28.99m) and Measure 4 (€3.25m).

### **Measure 2.1**

Under Measure 2.1 Glastir used advisory support to have water management plans carried out and woodland plans continue to be verified against the UK Forestry Standard by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). It also requires Wales' archaeological trusts to give advice on Glastir Woodland Creation projects, throughon suitable design. See Priority 4 section of this report for further information. In total, Measure 2.1 under Focus Area 5e had supported 48 operations, with €0.32m cumulative expenditure incurred by the end of

2021.

#### **Measure 4.4**

The capital works element of the Glastir Advanced scheme is delivered under Measure 4.4 (non-productive investments linked to agri-environment-climate objectives) alongside Measure 10.1 for Glastir Advanced. By end of December 2021, there was €2.49m in cumulative expenditure for 1,536 ongoing operations under Focus Area 5e.

For Glastir Small Grants (GSG), the Focus Area is assigned according to the theme for the individual round of Glastir Small Grants. The Carbon theme is assigned to Focus Area 5e, the Water theme against Focus Area 4b and the Landscape and Pollinators theme to Focus Area 4a. There have been nine EOI rounds of GSG to date.

The GSG Carbon 2021 window closed on 19 February 2021. There are 846 signed contracts worth €1.29m, of which €0.58m has been claimed to date.

See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 4.4 and Glastir.

#### **Measure 8.1 & 8.2**

Schemes delivered under Measure 8.1 include legacy contracts under 2007-13 RDP Forestry schemes and also Glastir Woodland Creation under both Measures 8.1 (support for afforestation / creation of woodland) and 8.2 (support for establishment and maintenance of agro-forestry systems). See Priority 4 section above for further information on these Schemes. Total cumulative expenditure for Measure 8.1 under Focus Area 5e was €8.19m by the end of 2021. There has been no expenditure for Measure 8.2 during 2021 under this Focus Area.

#### **Measure 8.3**

The Forest Monitoring & Risk Management Scheme is delivered under Measure 8.3 (prevention of damage to forests) by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The objective of the Scheme is to support monitoring, mitigation and prevention of harmful results from current tree or woodland environment pest or disease outbreaks. The majority of the scheme's funding (75%) is linked to Focus Area 5e with the remaining funds programmed under Priority 4, Focus Area 4a.

The application from NRW was approved in December 2018. To date, NRW have claimed a cumulative total of €0.21m (£0.18m). The overall findings have shown a reduction in *Phytophthora ramorum* across Wales when compared to 2017 and 2018. NRW have met the target for both the Area of Woodlands surveyed and the number of samples tested. NRW has carried out activities as required under this Measure since 1 April 2017. This has been through aerial and ground surveys. Aerial surveys have covered 112,000 ha in 2017 and 138,000 ha in 2018, and 84,000ha in 2019 with a cumulative total 259,000ha. Field surveys have covered 2,150 ha in 2017 and 1,200 ha in 2018 and 930 ha in 2019. The cumulative area surveyed is 4280 ha. This has resulted in a total of 793 Statutory Notices issued in 2019. NRW have carried out minor survey work for *Chalara Dieback* of ash. No activity has been recorded for the 2021 calendar year.

Description	Target	Current
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Area of woodland protected from disease	306,000ha	306,000ha
Area of woodland surveyed for disease	50,000ha	75,217 ha
Samples tested for disease.	25	691

#### **Measure 8.4**

The Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR) scheme under Measure 8.4 (support for restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events) supports the re-stocking of larch woodlands that have been infected or threatened by the fungal pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. There have been eight EOIs opened to date with one more currently open with a total cumulative expenditure of €4.03m spent in the reporting period

By the end of December 2021 a total of 1,333.41ha of woodland has been restocked, with 214 beneficiaries supported.

#### **Measure 8.5**

The Glastir Woodland Management (GWM) Scheme includes only legacy contracts from the previous 2007-2013 RDP and is paid through Measure 8.5 (support for investments improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems) for capital payments and Measure 10.1 (agri-environment climate) for multi-annual, area-based payments. There were no operations, expenditure or land supported under FA 5c for this Measure during the reporting period, as the second Programme amendment approved during 2019 removed Measure 8.5 from Focus Area 5c. Please see Priority 4 & Focus Area 5e sections for further information on Measure 8.5

#### **Measure 10.1**

Delivery under Measure 10.1 (Agri-environment-Climate) includes the Glastir Entry, Advanced and Commons schemes. It also includes multi-annual, area-based payments for existing farm woodlands in Glastir Woodland Management. See Priority 4 section above for information on these Schemes. During the reporting period there were 526 contracts covering 2,211.19 ha under FA5e for Measure 10.1. By the end of 2021 a total of €1.30m in cumulative expenditure had been paid under M10.1 Focus Area 5e. See Priority 4 section of this report for more information on Measure 10 and Glastir.

#### **Measure 16.8**

This Measure (support for drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments) is delivered through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme. To date, €0.06m has been paid to one project. See Priority 4 section above for further information on activity for this Measure.

### **PRIORITY 6**

Measures 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 16 and 19 are programmed under Priority 6. Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measures 1 (Knowledge Transfer) and 2 (Advisory Services) Farming Connect delivery and also Measure 16.1 (EIP) during the reporting period. Also see Priority 3 and Priority 5 sections for information on Measure 16 (Co-operation), Priority 4 for Measure 8 activity also Priority 5 for Measure 7 (Basic Services and village renewal).

During the reporting period expenditure incurred under Priority 6 stood at €108.93m of which €25.95m was

for activity undertaken during 2021. Committed expenditure under this priority totalled €233.31m during 2021, with the highest cumulative commitments under Measure 16 (€118.35m), Measure 19 (€58.92m), Measure 7 (€25.78m) and Measure 6 (€16.87m).

Regarding achievement against Target Indicators under Priority 6 of the Programme for Indicator T20 'jobs created in supported projects' a cumulative total of 12.20 was achieved against a target of 765 by the end of 2020. For Indicator T23 'jobs created in supported projects LEADER' achievement by the end of 2021 was 35.11 against a target of 100. For Indicator T22 'percentage of rural population benefitting from improved services / infrastructures' 3.35%, absolute value of 101,625 was achieved against a baseline of 3,034,975 net population by the end of 2020.

Measures programmed under Priority 6 include;

Focus Area 6a: Measures 6.4 (investments in creation / development of non-agricultural activities), 8.5 improving resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems), 8.6 (investments in forest technologies and forest products), 16.8 (Support for drawing up of forest management plans) and 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food)– *see also Priority 4 section above for Measures 8.5, 8.6 and 16.8*

Focus Area 6b: Measures 7 (Basic Services and village renewal - excluding 7.3 broadband infrastructure), 16.2 (pilot projects, development new products, practices, processes and technologies), 16.3 (co-operator among small operators in joint work processes, sharing facilities and resources and for developing / marketing tourism) and 19 (support for LEADER local development) *see also Priority 5 section above for Measure 7.*

Focus Area 6c: Measure 7.3 (broadband infrastructure)

## **FOCUS AREA 6A**

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measure 2 (Advisory Services) through Farming Connect during the reporting period. During the reporting period under Focus Area 6a a cumulative total of €10.75m had been paid, of which €7.86m was for activity undertaken during 2021. There was €30.15m in cumulative committed expenditure by the end of 2021.

### **Measure 6.4**

There are two main Schemes delivered under Measure 6.4 (support for investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities) one relates to the Food and Drink sector and one for the Tourism sector. These were the main gaps identified in the original intervention logic in the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The Rural Business Investment Scheme - FOOD (RBISF) is a capital investments scheme to support projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales. The €3.76m scheme is open to existing and start up micro & small food and drink processors and manufacturers throughout Wales

This is a capital investment scheme for food and drink processing or manufacturing activities currently not eligible under the Food Business Investment Scheme. The maximum grant for an individual investment



project is 40% of the total eligible cost with a maximum of €0.06m for any individual investment project

RBISF aims to support food and drink processors and manufacturers with capital investment support for projects which offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales

Through these EOI windows, RBISF aims to support up to 40 micro and small food and drink processors and manufacturers with capital investment support for projects which offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales

Programme Level Indicator Targets per agreed Delivery Profile with Scheme Management Unit

O.3 - Number of Operations supported 80 – Achieved 31

O.4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported 80 – Achieved 31

R.21 - Number of Jobs Created 130 – Achieved 111.6

This Scheme was re-opened on 18 February 2021 and is now being administered by Rural Payments Wales.

During 2021, two RBIS (NonAgri) windows were opened for applications, these are to be delivered under focus area 6A. Budget allocation for these measures was €1.7m.

RBIS (Non-Agri) covers capital investments costs and supports projects in Wales that contribute to one or more of the following strategic objectives:

- a) the diversification of the rural economy,
- b) the development of the supply chain for natural products,
- c) increasing the productivity, efficiency and competitiveness of rural businesses.

All projects supported through the RBIS (non-Agri) must make a contribution to one or more of the following thematic objectives:

- promoting and developing the supply chain for natural products
- developing an environmentally-friendly image based on sustainable production methods · increasing resilience of the supply chains to withstand market changes
- promoting technological innovation in both product and processes
- providing career opportunities and skills development at varying skill levels
- diversification into non-agricultural activities in order to offer an alternative income stream to make a business more sustainable.

#### **6.4 – Micro & Small Business Fund MSBF**

This fund is supported through the Welsh Government Rural Communities Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and Welsh

Government. The Micro Small Business Fund (MSBF) is available for micro to small size businesses with fewer than 50 FTE employees and to date we have approved 51 projects totaling €5.55m,

As part of the M6.4 MSBF (Micro Small Business Scheme fund), Visit Wales secured an additional €4.71m in 2017 to increase the total value to €16.47m. However, based on commitments previously totalling €5.18m against 41 projects, Visit Wales reviewed the forecasts, and the current pipeline of projects and requested €7.06m be transferred from M6.4 of to M7.5 in order to better align the programme budgets with current and demand funding forecast. This would have allowed Visit Wales to run a final M7.5 TAIS round in 2019/2020 and fully allocate and deliver both programmes.

Due to the pandemic, priorities within the sector changed with staff moving over onto emergency funding schemes which resulted in VW being unable to further commit to new funding rounds for the remaining budget of €10.59m, on the basis that delivery could not be assured. Discussions took place with RDP to return the €10.59m (gross) from both M7.5 & M6.4 and re-evaluations have been completed to reduce the project costs and grant.

The current figures provided below are the gross figures – i.e. they represent the value of the awards, and don't account for the value claimed back from RDP.

Number of MSBF Projects approved	51
Total Offers committed	€4.17m
Total paid to date	€4.08m
Remaining MSBF uncommitted budget	€156.4k

The actual value committed over 51 projects is therefore €4.24m. This is the total value of the grant award.

The MSBF scheme has been a positive investment 'product' in that it focused grant support, pan Wales, to micro and small tourism enterprises, with particular targeting of rural communities. Regrettably for reasons related to the Covid pandemic and budget it has not been possible to complete the programme as expected. The scheme was suspended as a result and a decision was taken week commencing 15th February 2021 not to pursue any new cases. Most projects completed by March 2021, with a small number (8) continuing into the WG 2021/2022 financial year, expecting to complete by March 2022.

During 2021 additional windows targetting the food and non agri sectors were opened under measure 6.4.

RBIS (Non-Agri) covers capital investments costs and supports projects in Wales that contribute to one or more of the following:

- a) the diversification of the rural economy,
- b) the development of the supply chain for natural products,

c) increasing the productivity, efficiency and competitiveness of rural businesses.

The scheme was open to existing and start up Non-agricultural micro and small enterprises including farmers or members of the farm household diversifying into non-agricultural activities.

All projects supported through the RBIS (non-Agri) must make a contribution to one or more of the following thematic objectives:

- promoting and developing the supply chain for natural products
- developing an environmentally friendly image based on sustainable production methods
- increasing resilience of the supply chains to withstand market changes
- promoting technological innovation in both product and processes
- providing career opportunities and skills development at varying skill levels
- diversification into non-agricultural activities in order to offer an alternative income stream to make a business more sustainable.

During 2021, two EOI windows were opened for this scheme, £3m was allocated across the two windows. Window 1 received 29 applications totalling £927,166.41, ten of these were deemed ineligible, and did not progress to stage two appraisal. Window two received 31 applications, with a grant value of £842,971.94. 17 did not progress to second stage appraisal. Appraisal of these applications was ongoing through 2021.

### **Measure 8.6**

Measure 8.6 is delivered under Focus Areas 5c and 6a of the Programme through the Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS). See Priority 5 section above for further information on this measure.

### **Measure 16.8**

Measure 16.8 is delivered under Focus Area 4a, 5c, 5e & 6a through the Co-operative Forestry Planning Scheme (CFPS). To date, €0.06m has been paid to one project. See Priority 4 section above for further information on this Measure.

### **Measure 16.9**

Measure 16.9 (support for diversification of farming activities into activities concerning health care, social integration, community-supported agriculture and education about the environment and food) is delivered as part of the Co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme (C&SCD). There was no expenditure or cooperation operations supported by the end of 2021 under this Measure.

### **FOCUS Area 6B**

Under Focus Area 6b a cumulative total of €97.08m had been paid during the reporting period, of which

€21.94m was for activity undertaken during 2021. There was €203.91m in cumulative committed expenditure during 2021 with the highest commitments under Measure 16 (€115.11m) and Measure 19 (€61.02m).

As part of the second programme amendment agreed during 2019 Measure 1 was introduced under FA6b. During 2021 there was no new commitments of expenditure under focus area 6b against Measure 1 were made. The cumulative committed expenditure is €3.53m.

## **Measure 7**

### **Measure 7.5**

#### 7.5 - Tourism Amenity Support Scheme (TAIS)

This fund is supported through the Welsh Government Rural Communities Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and Welsh Government. TAIS is open to public, third sector and not for profit organisations, targeting small scale amenity projects in the tourism sector in Wales. Support of between €21,250 and €108,800 is considered, with a total eligible project expenditure cap of €136,000. The aim is to:

- develop small scale quality sustainable tourism facilities
- add value to visitor experience, at the destination level
- deliver quality, innovation and a sense of place.

There has been a significant demand for continued funding via the Visit Wales TAIS programme. This has proved to be the most popular and oversubscribed fund being delivered by Visit Wales. Extending the TAIS scheme by an additional 6m would have allowed VW to support further projects.

We considered that additional funds would meet the demand and deliver and exceed the expected outputs associated with the programme. The third call was launched in Spring 2020, re-branded as the Brilliant Basics Fund. It had 2 elements (a) within eligible wards, and (b) open to pan Wales projects, the latter to be funded via VW core budget. Due to the Covid pandemic this scheme was however put on hold at the completed EOI stage.

Due to the pandemic, priorities within the sector changed with staff moving over onto emergency funding schemes which resulted in VW being unable to further commit to new funding rounds for the remaining budget of €10.58m, on the basis that delivery cannot be assured. Discussions took place with RDP to return the €10.58m (gross) from both M7.5 & M6.4 and re-evaluations have been completed to reduce the project costs and grant. Regrettably for reasons related to the Covid pandemic, the third round was suspended. Most projects completed by March 2021, with a small number (4) continuing into the WG 2021/2022 financial year, expecting to complete by March 2022

The current figures provided below are the gross figures – i.e. they represent the value of the awards, and don't account for the value claimed back from RDP.

Number of TAIS Projects approved – 43

Total Offers Committed - €3.49m

Total Paid to date - €3.23m

Remaining uncommitted TAIS budget - €196k

## **Measure 16**

### **Measure 16.2**

#### **Food Covid Recovery**

Covid-19 impacted the Welsh food and drink sector hugely and threatened business survival. The Welsh Government took action to support the food sector through the immediate impact to the first steps of recovery. In addition, this round aimed to encourage further innovation into under-represented industries that aim to utilise the natural harvest e.g. wool, bracken, herbs, by-products of timber(sap), leather/hides foraging (not exclusive) to increase circular economy activities, add value to primary supply chains and develop collaborative venture/s for the benefit of the whole of the natural harvest supply chains pan-Wales.

To achieve this the Welsh Government had a few, straightforward objectives:

1. Maximise the number of businesses that survive the immediate Covid-19 disruption and sustain supply chain networks within the sector and allied areas.
2. Minimise job losses and create new opportunities.
3. Encourage new sales and marketing opportunities, focusing on market-aligned solutions, which take into account a changing trading landscape, where there is an additional risk of disruption due to Brexit.

A Food Covid Recovery window was opened towards the end of 2020, with a closing date in early 2021 with a budget of £3.5m.

Through this open call, we looked for innovative new developments to focus on business and supply chain **productivity development and/or improvement, business/supply chain resilience, marketing and new markets potential, risk management and new product/business development** in every way. This may include targeted investment in skills, people and technology such as, but not exclusively improving automation, technical excellence, lean principles, collaboration/clusters, efficiencies gained through sustainable practices and workforce development.

This Window aims to support the development of partnership initiatives designed to encourage greater collaboration between food, other non-agri primary products, Public Procurement and tourism sectors, to ensure a consistent approach and reduced duplication.

A total of 16 applications with a grant award request of £9,045,761 were received. A total of 8 applications were selected to submit full applications.

#### **Pilot Actions for Green Growth and the Circular Economy**

This EOI window again opened at the end of 2020, with a closing date in February 2021.

The Welsh Government is committed to enabling a green recovery. If Wales' recovery from the coronavirus pandemic is to be green, it means addressing the well-documented, overarching environmental challenges. Focusing on a green recovery presents the opportunity to both rebuild and rewire our economy in a way that addresses the climate crisis and helps to tackle current levels of inequality, whilst driving better economic outcomes for Wales.

A circular economy means simply to keep resources in use for as long as possible and avoid all waste. The acceleration of the transition to a circular economy as a core part of a green recovery offers the opportunity to shorten supply chains and improve resilience. In the context of the UK continuing outside the EU, improved supply chain resilience will be even more important and enhance Wales' ability to compete on a high quality, rather than lowest cost basis.

Opportunities for investment under this EOI Window include to:

- Support and create further diversity to **increase the resilience of the rural economy**
- Support pilot, **innovative approaches and collaboration** to support social and economic solutions for our natural harvest e.g. wool, bracken, herbs, by-products of timber(sap), leather/hides foraging (not exclusive)
- Strengthen and develop **local supply chains** by reduction of waste and reducing emissions
- Support the development of platforms, clusters and networks to build resilience into **local products** (not just food) and support Wales as a top, sustainable destination to work, live, visit and do business with
- Momentum to accelerate the **transition towards a low carbon economy** for rural communities

The window had an indicative budget of £1m. Of the 22 EOI applications with a grant award request of £8,727,216.44 that were received, 7 were selected and invited to submit full applications. Appraisal was ongoing throughout 2021.

### Measure 16.3

Welsh Government currently deliver two revenue funds that support the tourism industry (private and public sectors) to align their marketing activity to our national campaigns including the Themed Years and Wales Way.

Visit Wales is boosting this regional tourism development via the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF) and Tourism Product Innovation Fund (TPIF) following the approval of a €8.5m investment programme which is part funded via the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP) to support proposals from October 2017 to March 2021.

RTEF – Aimed at regional destination development while TPIF is aimed at working with private sector partnerships and networks to develop new innovative tourism products. Note TPIF is a de minimis grant and RTEF is no aid.

The purpose of the RTEF/TPIF revenue funds are to:

- contribute to the delivery of a 10% growth target set out in the Partnership for Growth: strategy for tourism 2013-2020
- promote and develop distinctive, high quality visitor destinations through the delivery of their destination management plans
- enable destinations to maximise the benefits from aligning with our product-led thematic years and the Wales Way
- encourage closer joint working between tourism consortia, partnerships and trade groups
- develop and improve the product offer to visitors to benefit the tourism sector, rural tourism and local communities
- help grow the tourism economy in a sustainable way.

The fund's beneficiaries include; tourism industry sectorial partnerships, groups and consortia, third sector and Local Authorities/National Park Authorities who are working in partnership or on behalf of the private sectorial partnerships, groups and consortia, Local Authorities and National Park Authorities, also tourism Associations, third sector and private sector organizations working on behalf of Destination Management Partnerships.

The purpose of the TPIF fund is to work with tourism sector partners across Wales to deliver the 10% growth target set out in the tourism strategy by supporting activity which will:

- encourage closer joint working between trade partnerships to improve the product offer and help grow the tourism economy in Wales in a sustainable way
- enable the private sector to maximise the benefits from aligning with the Year of Discovery 2019, future thematic years and The Wales Way
- reflect all or any of the three key themes for promoting tourism to Wales of adventure, culture and landscape

Two rounds of funding for RTEF/TPIF have been launched under this scheme

The total budget for the Regional Tourism Network and Marketing Support project was €3.57m. The RTEF/TPIF scheme was oversubscribed and the budget has been committed in round 1 and 2. This will be spent by March 2021. The marketing element of the programme was awarded €5.95m, of which €4.85m has been claimed to date. An underspend

In terms of the national marketing programme which was awarded €8.24m for the delivery of a national marketing campaign to support the local and regional grant activity via RTEF/TPIF

- M16.3 (P2) - Marketing €8.24m - €6.71m claimed to date, no further claims to be submitted to WEFO. Underspend of €1.53m is being moved to the above Grants re-evaluation have been submitted to WEFO online for authorisation for budget to be moved between expenditure headings

## **Measure 19**

LEADER is a form of Territorial Development. Each Local Action Group (LAG) covers a geographical area and prepares a Local Development Strategy (LDS) which sets out a detailed explanation of the area; an analysis of that area through a SWOT assessment; a series of aims and objectives for the area and proposals for activities or initiatives that would achieve those aims and objectives. There are 18 LAGs covering eligible (non-urban) wards in 21 of the 22 Local Authority Areas in Wales.

Implementation is progressing and the Wales Rural Network Support Unit has loaded information on over 550 Local Action Group pilots from the 18 Local Action Groups onto their database, available on the WG's Business Wales website.

In the first quarter of 2021, The Welsh Government received approval from the European Commission to allow flexibility for schemes under Measure 19 of the European Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP) to use Industrial de-minimis regulation in the remaining years of the programme. By virtue of Article 138 of the EU Withdrawal Agreement, schemes open and operating under RDP 2014-2020 must continue under EU State Aid rules and regulations.

With the continued effects of COVID-19 and with the assistance of the LEADER COVID Guidance introduced in June 2020, the 18 local Action Group areas are continuing to support rural communities to move forward from response to recovery.

Whilst the five Welsh Themes for LEADER (outline below) continue to be considered directly relevant and projects continue to deliver on these themes with the adaptation relevant to recovery following the pandemic.

### **Themes 1:3**

Adding Value to Local Identity

Facilitation pre-commercial development, business partnerships and short supply chains

Exploring new ways of providing local services

Renewable Energy at Community level

Exploitation of digital technology

The following projects are taken from the WRN Website project directory which contains over 800 LEADER projects (and a total of 1,651 RDP projects) - Wales Rural Network | Business Wales - Business Wales ([gov.wales](http://gov.wales))

With the delivery of COP26 in Glasgow, October 2021, the environment is high on all agendas and many local projects are responding to this agenda

There are also four Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) funded under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) who employ the principles of Community-led Local Development to work with Welsh coastal communities. Although Wales does not have multi-funded Local Development Strategies there are nevertheless strong links between the LAGs and the FLAGs and it is recognised that there is a need for good communication throughout implementation to signpost projects to the appropriate fund and



also to share best practice.

To date LEADER in Wales has achieved:

- 54 co-operation projects (47 inter-territorial and 7 trans-national);
- 28 jobs through supported projects;
- 25.5 jobs safeguarded;
- 9,586 stakeholders engaged;
- 31,428 participants supported;
- 106 feasibility studies;
- 109 networks established;
- 68 community hubs;
- 691 information dissemination actions;
- 825 promotional and/or marketing activities.

During the reporting period a cumulative total of €36.96m was paid under Measure 19, the majority of which was under Measures 19.2 (€24.69m) and 19.4 (€10.69m). All of the LEADER allocation under Measure 19 has been committed for the lifetime of the Programme.

### **FOCUS AREA 6C**

Please see Priority 1 section above for information on Measure 1 (Knowledge Transfer) through Farming Connect during the reporting period. Under Focus Area 6c a cumulative total of €1.09m had been paid, of which €0.25m was for activity undertaken during 2021. There was €1.98m in cumulative committed expenditure by the end of 2021.

### **Measure 7.3**

Measure 7 was delivered via a WG operated grant scheme called the Rural Community Development Fund (RCDF). Under RCDF the WG offered grants for eligible interventions designed to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty in rural communities improving conditions which can lead to future jobs and growth. Measure 7 is delivered under three Focus Areas: 5c, 6b and 6c with the majority of the financial allocation for the Measure programmed under Focus Area 6b. Since the start of the scheme in late 2015 there have been a total of seven RCDF EOI rounds. No Expression of Interest Rounds were held under the Rural Community Development Fund during 2020 and the Welsh Government does not anticipate running any further Expression of Interest Round. See Focus Area 5c for Measure 7.2 (investments of small scale infrastructure including renewable energy). See Focus Area 6b for more information on the RCDF. To the end of 2020 Measure 7.3 under Focus Area 6c has supported 3 operations with €0.54m cumulative expenditure. An example of a project funded under Measure 7.3 (RCDF) can be found at; <https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/news-events-and-case-studies/news/innovation-key-very-rural-broadband-deputy-minister-visits-rcdf>

**1.d) Key information on achievements towards the milestones set in the performance Framework based on Table F**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2017, 2018 only

### 1.e) Other RDP specific element [optional]

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### 1.f) Where appropriate, the contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies

As stipulated by the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, article 27(3) on the "content of programmes", article 96(3)(e) on the "content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal", article 111(3), article 111(4)(d) on "implementation reports for the Investment for growth and jobs goal", and Annex 1, section 7.3 on "contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, this programme contributes to MRS(s) and/or SBS:

The WGRC-RDP2014-2020 has made a contribution to the Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy. It's aims are:

- To promote entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a social inclusive and sustainable model of regional develop

The coastal economy is highly relevant to Wales, with 60% of the population living on/near the coast. The support through the RDP contributes to the objectives. Innovation, a cross cutting priority of the programme, has various avenues that areas that affect the coastal economy; through farmer led innovations promoting sustainable practices that impact upon the coastal environment, food centres supporting businesses that contribute to the coastal economy, and local level innovation through LEADER. This activity was heightened during the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic, LEADER groups refreshed their Local Development strategies to support the repurposing of LEADER to ensure it has the tools to support rural and coastal communities to increase resilience and mobilise local supply chains.

Similarly the interface between land management practices, river water and coastal environments has been recognised as increasingly important. Many elements of the RDP support farmers and land managers to adopt environmentally friendly practices that will limit the environmental impact of farming on rivers and watercourses in Wales. These include: advice, training and knowledge transfer provision ; the Sustainable Production Grant provides capital grants to farm businesses to improve their environmental performance and window four, run in 2019, focused specifically on water quality; the Glastir suite of agri-environment schemes and the Sustainable Management Scheme.

While the importance of the relationship between environmental land management practices delivered under the RDP and the coastal environment is recognised there is currently an absence of evidence on this relationship in Wales. The Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP), the successor to Glastir Monitoring & Evaluation Programme, is considering ways in which this interface can be better explored.

In terms of improving accessibility/connectivity and creating a socially inclusive and sustainable model of community development the Wales RDP has a number of schemes that contribute to rural and coastal communities as well as businesses in those communities. LEADER is the main mechanisms in Wales and operates closely with the four Welsh FLAGs. With regards to

accessibility/connectivity the CTA community transport solutions project under Measure 16.2 aims to develop sustainable community transport networks across Wales in recognition of the challenges faced in rural communities regarding transport and access. It is noted that tourism plays an increasing role in the Welsh coastal economy, the RDP provides substantial support to this sector through the Micro Small Business fund, the Tourism amenity investment support scheme and the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund. More information on the schemes are in Section 1c of this report.

- ☐ EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- ☐ EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- ☐ Atlantic Sea Basin Strategy (ATLSBS)





**1.g) Currency rate used for conversion AIR (non EUR countries)**

The planning rate of €1 = £0.85 has been used for all commitments / allocation values within the report.

## 2. THE PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE EVALUATION PLAN.

### 2.a) Description of any modifications made to the evaluation plan in the RDP during the year, with their justification

**1. Objectives and purpose:** The objectives and purpose of the Evaluation Plan both remain the same; no additional Programme-specific objectives have been added.

**2. Governance and coordination:** There have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan

**3. Evaluation topics:** There have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan. It is still the intention of the Research, Monitoring & Evaluation (RME) team to structure the evaluation activity in stages across the programme. Higher level programme evaluations broken down into the thematic areas are planned for 2022 and 2023. A number of scheme level evaluations are running concurrently alongside scheme delivery and final evaluations of these are not expected until late 2022 and 2023. These scheme level evaluations will form the primary evidence base that will be used to inform the subsequent programme evaluation stage which will include the thematic priority level evaluations and the ex post evaluation. The purpose of the thematic evaluations will be to consider the contribution of multiple schemes to the specific priority areas of the programme and to assess the complementarity of interventions, in recognition that schemes are not operating in isolation and that the RDP represents a complex area with multiple overlapping objectives and interventions. These thematic priority evaluations will further add to the evidence base for the final ex post evaluation. As highlighted, when it comes to the ex post evaluation the primary evidence base to inform that work should be in place, however flexibility will be built in to the ex post evaluation contract to allow any necessary primary fieldwork to collect data identified as a gap.

**4. Evaluation activities:** There have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan

**5. Data and information management:** Measures continue to be collected through PPIMS, CAPIT, WEFO online (and stored on PPIMS) and RPW online. Land based measures managed by RPW will be collected through CAPIT.

**6. Timeline:** There have been no changes to this part of the evaluation plan.

**7. Communication of evaluation results:** In addition to reports being published on the Wales Rural Network website, all reports will be published on the Welsh Government Statistics and Research Publications page on the Welsh Government website, in order to improve accessibility of evaluation results. There have been no additional changes in the communication strategy beyond those made as part of the modification approved in 2019.

**8. Resources:** A change of staffing resulted in a short period of limited staffing resources in Autumn 2021, which was managed by the redistribution of work to existing team members. This was fully resolved by the end of 2021, resulting in minor changes to the timeframe for delivery of the evaluation plan. The TA budget for evaluation has been reviewed to ensure it is sufficient to deliver the evaluation plan.



## 2.b) A description of the evaluation activities undertaken during the year (in relation to section 3 of the evaluation plan)

Describe activities/problems encountered/solutions in relation to:

1. **Preparing and conducting the assessment of the contribution of the RDP to rural development priorities, of programme results and impacts, including a description of evaluation approach and methods chosen.**

As laid out in the Evaluation Plan, evaluation is conducted at both Programme and scheme level to assess the extent to which schemes are implemented in an efficient way.

### *Current scheme-level evaluations*

- The Strategy team commissioned an evaluation of the **Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Scheme, known otherwise as Farming Connect** in early 2018. The evaluation employed multiple methodologies including longitudinal case studies of Farming Connect activities and regional focus groups undertaken twice over the course of the evaluation. The longitudinal case studies were designed to look at the mechanisms through which Farming Connect activities lead to changes on the farm level as well as offering insights into the outcomes of Farming Connect interactions. The focus groups then acted as a way of verifying and validating the findings coming out of the case study work as well as facilitating collective discussion. The first phase of the evaluation took place in 2018-2019 and culminated in the publication of the interim report in March 2020. The second stage of fieldwork was delayed by both the general election and Covid-19. A draft final report was received in late 2020 with further revisions received in early 2021 prior to publishing in March 2021. The Strategy team are preparing to commission a final impact evaluation of the scheme in 2022, with the final report to be delivered by June 2023.
- The **evaluation of the Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS)** was awarded in late 2019 and incorporated annual reporting milestones. In order to assess the environmental outcomes of the scheme, this evaluation uses secondary data analysis of project level monitoring and evaluation activity. The evaluation makes use of the environmental data captured by the Environment and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP) to assist in assessing the environmental contribution of the scheme. In addition to the assessment of environmental contributions the evaluation seeks to provide an assessment of the value of landscape scale collaborative approaches to land management in terms of improving the sustainability and effectiveness of land management and how working collaboratively may be able to leverage wider economic and social objectives through better collaboration. To do this the evaluation employs a mixed methods approach including longitudinal case studies of project activity, surveys of actors involved in collaboration, and interviews with key individuals and stakeholders.

The evaluation commenced in January 2020. The arrival of Covid-19 in March 2020 led to a slight reconsideration of the fieldwork possibilities. This first phase of fieldwork culminated in a draft report received in December 2020 which provided insights into the processes of the scheme.

The second phase of fieldwork commenced in 2021, with initial contact made with all stakeholders

and projects in August 2021. Stakeholder interviews, project interviews and case study interviews were conducted in the latter half of 2021 and a web survey was launched in September 2021. The first interim report was published in November 2021 which provided a process and Theory of Change evaluation of the scheme.

A second annual report will be delivered in Spring 2022. Due to delays associated with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, a contract extension is being sought until June 2023 in order to increase the scope for fieldwork to assess the outcomes and impacts of projects that have been delayed. Resource shortages within Welsh Government has had an effect on the time taken to access to programme data, this has contributed to the slippages experienced. The final evaluation report was initially due in November 2022, we anticipate that the evaluation contract will need to be extended, and will instead now be delivered in 2023.

- The procurement of an evaluation of **the tourism schemes offered through the RDP** (Micro Small Business Fund under measure 6.4, the Tourism Amenity Investment Scheme under measure 7.5, and the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund and the Tourism Product Innovation Fund both delivered under measure 16.3) was delayed due to Covid-19 and the impact on the tourism sector specifically. Further discussions were held in summer 2021 regarding the feasibility of an evaluation and due to the compounding effect of the ongoing pandemic, associated travel restrictions and resource limitations it was decided to seek an extension to the procurement deadline.

The specification is currently being revised to reflect the change in circumstances and will be procured in Spring 2022. A smaller-scale evaluation is now planned for 2022 based on a change in the methodologies possible. A visitor's survey is no longer planned.

- The Strategy team commissioned research looking at the **Farm Business Grant** (FBG) which offers capital grants to farmers in Wales and is designed to improve the economic and environmental performance of their agricultural holdings. The research aims to consider the reasons behind uptake or non-uptake of the grant, with a focus on the role of attending a Knowledge Transfer Event (KTE). A key objective of the research was to identify the reasons why some farmers do not choose to access the scheme and whether this reflects an issue with the design or implementation of the scheme, broader economic pressures, or whether the workshops are working to encourage farmers to consider whether a grant is the best option. In addition, the research seeks to consider what the grants have enabled applicants to do and the effect on their business.

The research was awarded in late 2019. Fieldwork took place between March 2020 and March 2021 and consisted primarily of a quantitative survey of both applicants and non-applicants to the Farm Business Grant, with 810 completed telephone surveys. The survey was supplemented with qualitative work including focus groups and in-depth interviews with farmers.

Delays to fieldwork due to Covid-19 had a knock-on effect throughout the contract. The pre-election period also led to an additional delay on the fieldwork process. Due to these issues, two requests were made to extend the contract with no additional financial cost. The final report is due to be published in Spring 2022. A follow-up impact evaluation will be procured by the Strategy Team and the final report will be delivered in 2023.

- The procurement of an evaluation of the **Food schemes offered through the RDP** (Food Business Investment Scheme (FBIS) - Priority 3 (focus area a) - Measure 4.2; Rural Business Investment Scheme - Food (RBISF) - Priority 6 (focus area a), Measure 6.4; Project Helix, Cywain and Food Skills Cymru - Measure 1.1) was awarded in December 2021. An inception meeting was held in January 2022 and entered the scoping stage in February 2022.

The main focus of the research is the evaluation of FBIS, the larger of the two schemes, and RBISF, which will involve extensive primary research. A broader review predominantly based on a secondary research approach will comprise of Cywain, Project Helix and Food Skills Cymru, alongside the FBIS and RBISF schemes. The primary fieldwork comprises a survey of grant beneficiaries, interviews with beneficiaries, a counterfactual approach (as detailed in the original Evaluation Plan) comprising of a survey and interviews with non-beneficiaries, and interviews with the delivery team and key stakeholders. The first report will be delivered in December 2022 and second report delivered in spring 2023.

- The Strategy team put together a specification to commission an evaluation of the **Timber Business Investment Scheme (TBIS)** in February 2021. Following procurement, the contract was awarded in October 2021. The inception meeting took place in November 2021 and a theory of change approach adopted. The evaluation comprises a mixed method approach (surveys and questionnaires with a range of stakeholders and a survey of unsuccessful applications). A Theory of Change Co-Production Workshop and fieldwork will take place in 2022, with the final report delivered at the end of 2022.
- An evaluation of the **Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW) scheme** was commissioned in 2021. The inception meeting was held in October 2021, and the Theory of Change and Evaluation Framework report was delivered in January 2022. Regarding research methodologies, the evaluation deploys Welsh Government and Stakeholder Interviews, two surveys, an analysis of project level documentation and data, project level interviews/focus groups, unsuccessful applicant interviews, and in-depth Case Studies. In terms of milestones, an interim report is due in September 2022, with the final evaluation report due in October 2023.
- The Strategy team developed the **evaluation of LEADER** alongside Welsh Government policy

colleagues to provide an assessment of the delivery of the LEADER approach in Wales in the current programme. The evaluation will look to assess the longer term contribution of LEADER by using case studies of LEADER projects from previous programmes. In framing the evaluation, the Strategy team followed guidance from the Evaluation helpdesk to assess the value of LEADER in terms of its contribution to increasing social capital, improving local governance arrangements and its ability to leverage enhanced results and impacts through the projects it funds.

The evaluation adopted a theory of change approach, principally drawing upon data collected through a mixed methods approach, employing interviews and surveys with Local Action Group members, LAG admin staff, beneficiaries of LEADER funding and broader stakeholders, observations of governance meetings and workshops with Local Action Group members. The evaluation was expected to begin in early 2020 but was delayed by Covid 19 and the redeployment of staff to support the Welsh Government response, and instead commenced in Summer 2020. Fieldwork began in September which involved interviews with LAG managers from all 18 LAGs in Wales. The second phase of the fieldwork was an online survey distributed towards a wide range of LEADER stakeholders, including LAG chairs, LAG managers, and beneficiaries. The final report will be published in Spring 2022.

- The evaluation of the **European Innovation Partnership (EIP)** that is delivered in Wales under the Farming Connect framework was awarded in February 2021. In designing the evaluation a key consideration was the ability to account for variances in project activity and objectives which present challenges for assessments at a ‘scheme’ level and aggregations of project outcomes. Accordingly, the evaluation focuses on the common outcome of ‘innovation’, its value and the conditions that enable or disable its realisation, how or if, innovation in EIP projects is disseminated and adopted more broadly within the sector.

The evaluation adopts a theory of change approach, principally drawing upon data collected through a mixed methods approach of interviews and surveys with the multiple actors involved in EIP delivery, including operational group members, farmers/foresters, Welsh Government policy officials, other UK EIP-AGRI leads and wider industry stakeholders. A survey of unsuccessful applicants provides counterfactual evidence.

The inception meeting took place in March 2021. Initial scoping work involved holding workshops to formulate the evaluation framework and the development of a survey. Initial fieldwork started in December 2021. A midterm report is due in 2022, followed by a final report in 2023.

#### *Non-scheme based activities*

- An evaluation of the **Wales Rural Network Support Unit** was commissioned in August 2020 with fieldwork commencing in the winter of that year. The Wales Rural Network (WRN) is funded by the EAFRD and Welsh Government and supports the delivery of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) in Wales. The evaluation included the development of a logic model and Theory of Change, and methods including a desk based review of relevant documentation, an online survey of the rural

development community, and interviews and workshops with a range of stakeholders across Wales and the UK, including Local Actions Groups (LAGs), beneficiaries of RDP funding, key policy stakeholders, and residents of rural communities. The final report was published in April 2021.

*Evaluations in preparation (contract end date of June 2023)*

- **Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) Evaluation.** The contract for this scheme level evaluation will be procured in early 2022.
- **Rural Community Development Fund Evaluation** -specification in development
- **Co-Operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme** -specification in development
- **Farming Connect** final impact evaluation -specification in development
- **Farm Business Grant** final impact evaluation - specification in development
- **Ex post** evaluation

*Strategy Team research work under development*

- **Farmer Motivation Study** – a specification is being developed to commission a piece of research to understand the motivators and barriers to farmers engaging with the RDP.

*Thematic issues (including those addressed by sub-programmes),*

The Evaluation Plan does not specify thematic issues. The Strategy team continues to liaise on an ongoing basis with Programme and scheme managers to identify relevant thematic issues to be captured by evaluations as they arise in the implementation and delivery of the Programme.

*Cross-cutting objectives (sustainable development, climate change and innovation).*

Questions around the cross cutting issues are built into all evaluation specifications to capture information across the breadth of programme activity. Moreover where elements of the programme are directly contributing to these areas, specific evaluation work is planned to capture the scale and nature of the contributions to these areas.

For example, in relation to providing evidence on Climate Change adaptation and sustainable development, the Environmental and Rural Affairs Monitoring and Modelling Programme (ERAMMP) continues to be managed by the relevant scientific experts as stated in the Evaluation Plan. The ERAMMP National Field Survey assesses the effects of the Glastir sustainable land management scheme by surveying land inside and outside of the scheme, reporting on national trends in our countryside. The National Field Survey went ahead in 2021, with an excellent 73% permission rate, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. This made for a successful year of monitoring, with 27 surveyors covering the whole of Wales and collecting botanical, woodland, pollinator, soils, historic features and freshwater data. During 2022 the National Field Survey will cover another 80+ preselected 1km squares which will provide us with a full sample population to then undertake full evaluation of the effectiveness of Glastir in delivering its environmental objectives.

The Cross Cutting Themes Evaluation will examine the integration of environmental sustainability into the Programme.

## **2.c) A description of activities undertaken in relation to the provision and management of data (in relation to section 4 of the evaluation plan)**

Describe activities/problems encountered/solutions in relation to:

### **1. Preparing and running the operations database to collect data and information for evaluation,**

There have been no changes during 2021; the eCohesion requirement (concerning electronic information exchange with beneficiaries) continues to be met. Measures continue to be collected through the Programme and Project Monitoring Information System (PPIMS). PPIMS is a tried and tested system possessing features that captures the programme requirements of the Pillar 2 socio-economic programme and schemes. Land based measures managed by RPW continue to be collected through CAPIT.

### **2. Screening data and information sources/providers to ensure the application of robust evaluation methods (including conducting the counterfactual analysis),**

The Strategy team has liaised with the WG's Agricultural Statistics team to undertake some pilot analysis, with a view to informing the development of more robust impact evaluation techniques in the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020. It is envisaged that impact evaluation work with non-farm business beneficiaries would utilise business datasets held by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It is a requirement of the ONS that access to their business datasets is restricted to approved researchers, so it is essential that the commissioning of this impact evaluation work stipulates that the project team must consist of researchers with these approvals in place from the ONS. It is also hoped that administrative records may be used to help assess the impact of agricultural support initiatives on farm turnover and employment and initial discussions have taken place with the WG's administrative data research unit to explore the feasibility of this. It is proposed that a theory-based approach would be taken in evaluating the impact of LEADER. The Strategy Team has continued to meet with LAGs to discuss evaluation approaches.

The Strategy team is continuing to liaise with the ERAMMP project team to ensure the most effective approach to conducting Farms surveys that will meet the multiple requirements of different areas of evaluation. In recognition of this, and concerns around survey burden more broadly, the Strategy team are working with other teams in the Welsh Government to consider ways in which a more integrated approach to surveying across the RDP is achieved.

### **3. Agreements with data providers and necessary arrangements/legal steps to include the identified providers' data in the databases used in the RDP evaluation,**

The WEFO PPIMS system has been extended to allow reporting on the socio-economic aspects of the RDP. In order to be able to report on the information held within the PPIMS environment Business Objects software is used in conjunction with other IT solutions. Business Objects allows Programme wide reporting through the amalgamation of high level data held within other data bases, such as PPIMS.

The Strategy team is working to ensure that schemes include legally correct consent statements for beneficiaries so that where their consent is given their details can be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes. This would also include linking beneficiaries' details to wider datasets as part of a counterfactual evaluation design. The Strategy team has produced some guidance in relation GDPR that has been

distributed through the Wales rural network and outlines the basis for data collection under the RDP.

#### **4. Arrangements to fill data gaps and collect missing information.**

The intention is that where data gaps exist, surveys would be used to collect missing information. Beneficiary surveys are included in the Evaluation Plan, as these provide information that complements the monitoring data – how these surveys will be delivered are under review. As discussed above, the Strategy team are currently working with other parts of the WG to approaches to surveying farm businesses to avoid survey fatigue. For non-agricultural businesses it is proposed that rather than doing a single survey of all businesses it is likely that survey work will be incorporated into scheme level evaluation activity to ensure the surveys are of most relevant to the businesses supported.

Where survey work is not possible it is the intention of the Strategy team to use more qualitative methods with relevant stakeholders to provide assessments of support offered through the RDP.

**2.d) A list of completed evaluations, including references to where they have been published on-line**

<b>Publisher/Editor</b>	Welsh Government
<b>Author(s)</b>	SQW
<b>Title</b>	An evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Scheme
<b>Abstract</b>	The evaluation was undertaken in two phases. Throughout, the focus of the evaluation was predominantly on the 2014-20 programme period, which formally ended (in terms of delivery) in August 2019. However, the fieldwork for Phase 2 took place shortly after the launch of the Farming Connect refresh (an extension to August 2022); whilst some consultees were able to reflect on the potential benefits arising from the refresh, it was too early to comment on this, or to evidence effects in practice. Total programme expenditure over the 2014-20 contract period (to August 2019) was £25.72m, very close to budgeted spend of £25.73m. The programme performed well against target outputs for that contract, and offered a broad range of support, reflecting the differing needs, stages of development and preferred learning styles found across the farming sector. The programme is 'well known' and 'trusted' across Wales, and the longevity, stability and continuity of Farming Connect has been important.
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://gov.wales/evaluation-knowledge-transfer-innovation-and-advisory-services-programme#:~:text=Evaluation of the knowledge transfer, innovation and advisory, sector as part of the Farming Connect Service.">https://gov.wales/evaluation-knowledge-transfer-innovation-and-advisory-services-programme#:~:text=Evaluation of the knowledge transfer, innovation and advisory, sector as part of the Farming Connect Service.</a>

<b>Publisher/Editor</b>	Welsh Government
<b>Author(s)</b>	Miller Research
<b>Title</b>	Wales Rural Network Support Unit Evaluation
<b>Abstract</b>	The WRNSU is the Support Unit and secretariat administrating the Welsh National Rural Network (NRN) which was established to support the delivery of the RDP in Wales. A key focus of the evaluation was to determine the value the network and support unit have had, in order to highlight key benefits and services that might be safeguarded in any ongoing RDP programme or future iterations and organisation of rural development in Wales.
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/sites/walesruralnetwork/files/2021%20-%20WRNSU%20-%20Evaluation%20Report%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf">https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/sites/walesruralnetwork/files/2021%20-%20WRNSU%20-%20Evaluation%20Report%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf</a>



<b>Publisher/Editor</b>	Welsh Government
<b>Author(s)</b>	OB3
<b>Title</b>	Sustainable Management Scheme: process evaluation and theory of change report
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This first annual update report sets out the theory of change for the Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) and presents the main findings of a process evaluation.</p> <p>This report involved desk-based research, including an analysis of programme documentation and monitoring data, as well as fieldwork with Welsh Government officials, key stakeholders, project leads and other project contributors. It is important to note that this first report focused on the management and implementation of the scheme and the nature of the collaboration. Subsequent reports, and the final report in particular will report more fully on programme outcomes and impacts</p>
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://gov.wales/sustainable-management-scheme-process-evaluation-and-theory-change-report">https://gov.wales/sustainable-management-scheme-process-evaluation-and-theory-change-report</a>

## 2.e) A summary of completed evaluations, focussing on evaluation findings

Please summarize the findings from evaluations completed in 2020, per CAP objective (or RDP priority, where appropriate).

Report on positive or negative effects/impacts (including the supporting evidence). Please don't forget to mention the source of the findings.

### **Evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Programme**

An evaluation of the Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Advisory Services Programme, otherwise known as **Farming Connect**, was undertaken in two phases: first, in 2018 through to early 2019; and second, in late 2019 to mid-2020. The final report draws together findings from both phases and was published in June 2021.

The main findings, as presented in the report, are provided below:

- The programme has performed well and is 'well known', 'trusted' and 'well respected' in the sector in Wales.
- The range of support and flexibility offered by the programme was positive and enabled engagement with farmers with varying needs and varying capacity.
- Engagement with the programme has been good with Farming Connect engaging with a large number of farm businesses. There are however questions around whether future support should focus on more in depth support with fewer farm businesses.
- Farming connect plays an important role in creating the foundations for change in supported farm businesses. It is leading to small scale incremental changes that are, on aggregate, having a positive contribution to the agricultural sector.

### **Sustainable Management Scheme**

Evidence for this first annual evaluation report was mainly from projects funded via the first three funding windows when no facilitation support service was on offer.

The findings of the work are as follows:

- The SMS adopts the principles of Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR), which were firmly embedded within the application process and funding provision. The landscape scale approach to funding allows for expansive place-based project partnerships that can generate much wider, community level benefits and strengthen collaborations
- The SMS is delivering against its aims and objectives; projects are achieving their targets and outputs
- Feedback from projects suggests that they understood the aims of the SMS and the principles of SMNR. The introduction of a facilitation support service played a crucial role and is recommended from the outset of a funding scheme in future.
- The SMS was a popular funding scheme. High demand for the scheme and the high quality of EoIs submitted has meant both increased competition and quality over each funding round. As a result, a number of high quality projects were unsuccessful the later funding windows.
- The decision-making process was robust and largely appropriate, recommendations included simplifying and reducing the length of the forms, streamlining and speeding up the process, adopting

a more holistic approach to the assessment process, and closer involvement with policymakers, NRW strategic staff and those with an understanding of regional priorities.

- An administration capacity issue within Welsh Government delayed the assessment process. The rigid and unclear requirements for financial claims reporting, and the lack of communication and timely response to queries hampered progress for several of the funded partnerships.
- The SMS places a significant emphasis on collaboration; most projects reported strengthened existing collaborations with broadened impact, with less evidence of stimulating new, sustainable collaborations.
- Recommendations for similar future schemes include adopting a 5+ year delivery timescale so that wider, longer-term ecosystem benefits and socio-economic outcomes that takes several years to fully materialise can be reported upon.
- SMS projects are making a strong contribution projects to the cross-cutting themes, the RDP cross-cutting objectives and, to the aims of the Welsh Government's Welsh language strategy.

### **Wales Rural Network Support Unit evaluation**

#### **Key Findings:**

- There is a clear need for a rural network function in rural development. Most stakeholders agreed with this assertion, noting the benefits of encouraging interaction between stakeholders, disseminating information to the rural development community, and supporting the implementation of LEADER.
- The WRNSU has faced challenges to its operations due to resource constraints.
- The WRN Support Unit staff were seen as competent, knowledgeable and had good experience within rural development, including extensive contacts and relationships with stakeholders representing traditional rural sectors. European stakeholders noted that the Support Unit was an effective NRN support unit, particularly at representing and championing Welsh rural development at international events.
- There was a lack of awareness of the remit and activities of the WRNSU among rural development stakeholders outside of the LEADER Programme.
- While members of the WRN Steering Group recognised its potential value to the delivery of the WRN, the steering group was perceived by stakeholders spoken to as 'rubber-stamping exercise', lacking in the authority to 'steer' the WRNSU in its operations.
- There was concern among stakeholders that the WRN was not being delivered to its full remit, with a lack of proactive engagement noted as a common theme. Stakeholders acknowledged that this appeared to be due to issues with significant changes in staffing which had been an impediment to the delivery of the WRN.
- The communications function of the WRNSU was viewed positively by stakeholders and is the clearest and best example of it fulfilling its remit.
- While the WRNSU has facilitated networking events during the current programme period, there was a perception among stakeholders of a drop-off in the number of events held between 2017 and early 2020, pointing to difference between stakeholder expectations and the number and types of events held.
- Recognition from stakeholders of the positive developments in 2020 in the form of virtual events organised and hosted by the WRNSU, capitalising on the shift to online meetings in order to host networking events and workshops.
- LAGs were on the whole critical of a lack of proactive facilitation of networking and cooperation on a Wales-wide level. LAGs predominately networked regionally within Wales, and these interactions

were generally borne from existing relationships, with little facilitation from the WRNSU.

## 2.f) A description of communication activities undertaken in relation to publicising evaluation findings (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

<b>Date / Period</b>	06/04/2022
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated</b>	For the Wales Rural Network Support Unit evaluation, a steering group was formed of key stakeholders. The evaluation report was published in Welsh and English simultaneously on the Wales Rural Network site and the Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services webpage to maximise its reach.
<b>Overall organiser of activity/ event</b>	The Research and Monitoring evaluation team worked with the Wales Rural network and other Welsh Government staff to publish the reports.
<b>Information channels/ format used</b>	The report were published on the Welsh Government Statistics and Research Webpage, and the Wales Rural Network website and alongside an accessible executive summary.
<b>Type of target audience</b>	It is the aim that the publication on the Welsh Governments Statistics and research webpage would reach other research and academic stakeholders while the Wales Rural Network webpage would allow better engagement with rural stakeholders.
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	0
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/sites/walesruralnetwork/files/2021%20-%20WRNSU%20-%20Evaluation%20Report%20-%20Summary.pdf">https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/sites/walesruralnetwork/files/2021%20-%20WRNSU%20-%20Evaluation%20Report%20-%20Summary.pdf</a>

<b>Date / Period</b>	19/09/2021
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings</b>	For the ongoing LEADER evaluation, a presentation of findings, conclusions and recommendations was delivered by the evaluators to MA staff, the Strategy Team and wider relevant WG staff working across the RDP, in September 2021.

<b>discussed/ disseminated</b>	
<b>Overall organiser of activity/ event</b>	The Research and Monitoring evaluation team worked with the Wales Rural network and other Welsh Government staff to publish the reports.
<b>Information channels/ format used</b>	The report were published on the Welsh Government Statistics and Research Webpage, and the Wales Rural Network website and alongside an accessible executive summary.
<b>Type of target audience</b>	It is the aim that the publication on the Welsh Governments Statistics and research webpage would reach other research and academic stakeholders while the Wales Rural Network webpage would allow better engagement with rural stakeholders.
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	0
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/evaluation-and-research">https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/evaluation-and-research</a>

<b>Date / Period</b>	05/03/2020
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated</b>	The evaluation of the KTIAS was published in Welsh and English simultaneously on the Wales Rural Network site and the Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services webpage to maximise its reach.
<b>Overall organiser of activity/ event</b>	The Research and Monitoring evaluation team worked with the Wales Rural network and other Welsh Government staff to publish the reports.
<b>Information channels/ format used</b>	The report were published on the Welsh Government Statistics and Research Webpage, and the Wales Rural Network website and alongside an accessible executive summary.
<b>Type of target audience</b>	It is the aim that the publication on the Welsh Governments Statistics and research webpage would reach other research and academic stakeholders while the Wales Rural Network webpage would allow better engagement with rural stakeholders
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	0
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/evaluation-and-research">https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/evaluation-and-research</a>

<b>Date / Period</b>	01/03/2021
<b>Title of communication activity/event &amp; topic of evaluation findings discussed/ disseminated</b>	The process evaluation of the SMS was published in Welsh and English simultaneously on the Wales Rural Network site and the Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services webpage to maximise its reach.
<b>Overall organiser of activity/ event</b>	The Research and Monitoring evaluation team worked with the Wales Rural network and other Welsh Government staff to publish the reports.
<b>Information channels/ format used</b>	The report were published on the Welsh Government Statistics and Research Webpage, and the Wales Rural Network website and alongside an accessible executive summary.
<b>Type of target audience</b>	It is the aim that the publication on the Welsh Governments Statistics and research webpage would reach other research and academic stakeholders while the Wales Rural Network webpage would allow better engagement with rural stakeholders.
<b>Approximate number of stakeholders reached</b>	0
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/evaluation-and-research">https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/evaluation-and-research</a>

## 2.g) Description of the follow-up given to evaluation results (in relation to section 6 of the evaluation plan)

Reference shall be made to the evaluation plan, any difficulties encountered in implementation shall be described, together with solutions adopted or proposed.

<b>Evaluation result relevant for follow-up (Describe finding &amp; mention source in brackets)</b>	In the evaluation of the knowledge transfer, innovation and advisory services programme final report, it was noted that there was evidence of the programme promoting innovation, for example, through the Diversification and Innovation Show in October 2019 which attracted 1,500 attendees. Whilst planning of the event took place during the evaluation period, the event itself was held after the evaluation period and therefore the activity could not be evaluated.
<b>Follow-up carried out</b>	Based on the findings of the report, the Strategy team have decided to commission a follow-up impact evaluation of Farming Connect to explore the issues identified further. This will be commissioned in 2022, with the final report delivered in 2023.
<b>Responsible authority for follow-up</b>	Managing authority

### **3. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND THE MEASURES TAKEN**

#### **3.a) Description of steps taken to ensure quality and effectiveness of programme implementation**

##### **Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC)**

The WG has established a single Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) for Wales European Structural and Investment (ESI) Fund programmes. The All Wales ESI PMC was officially constituted on 5 December 2014 following approval of the Structural Funds programmes and was formally established for the WGRC-RDP 2014-2020 in May 2015 following EC approval of the Programme. During 2021 the PMC met virtually due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic three times in total; in February, May and December..

##### **Modifications**

The fourth modification was submitted and approved in early 2021. The Welsh Government worked on the fifth programme amendment and informally discussed proposals to amend allocations.

##### **Covid**

Covid 19 pandemic has presented many challenges in programme delivery leaving some schemes and projects with a delay in implementation and claims. Where it has been possible the WG have accommodated this by extending deadlines and working with the customer / community to support IT issues. Additional monitoring was put in place for the LEADER programme and the larger contracts to ensure a risk based approach was in place at the earliest opportunity. The WG farm advisory services and WRN moved to online webinar/teams workshops and increased presence through our online marketing and promotion channels such as Twitter, Face Book and Website, which have proved to be successful in promoting the programme best practice, activity and scheme information to rural communities and businesses.

The Welsh Government noted a delay in spend in the 2021 reporting year, due to Covid 19. This is due to a delay in implementation of the projects on the ground, especially in the socio economic measures, including tourism and cooperation related projects.

##### **EC Audit**

In April 2021 EC auditors conducted a remote conformity audit mission in Wales. The audit reviewed several socio economic measures under the RDP, and identified issues relating to competitive tendering controls for projects. The auditors consider that the Welsh Government approach, in conducting such checks at the end of the project (during the in situ visit) creates a risk to two key controls under European funding rules. A previous EC audit mission undertaken in 2018 did not identify this issue

Where EC audit identifies a risk to key controls the EC will apply financial corrections (disallowance). In order to mitigate or reduce the level of disallowance the paying agency is drawing up a corrective action plan to bring forward competitive tendering checks. This work will continue to significantly impact on the BAU functions of paying agency in 2022, in delivery of RDP schemes.

Whilst the corrective actions will benefit future in-situs and claims, project sponsors have raised concerns concerning the administrative burden being imposed on them. RPW has already met with Menter a Busnes, Wales Environment Link Group, LEADER and SMS Groups to resolve issues.



- RPW aims to complete the appraisal of projects within 90 days of receipt of a full application however this will depend on the complexity of the case and the completeness of each application.
- All applications are subject to comprehensive due diligence and eligibility checks before grant applications can be approved.
- RDP socio-economic schemes include projects of significant scale and value and these require appropriate appraisal scrutiny before they can be approved by RPW.
- All payment claims and supporting documents must be carefully considered to ensure compliance with the scheme rules and EC Regulations. RPW is required to apply penalties where procurement requirements have not been met and may only make payments based on eligible, defrayed expenditure.
- All beneficiaries must retain supporting evidence of project expenditure and ensure any competitive tendering and procurement for their project is carried out in accordance with the scheme rules and technical guidance.
- Evidence of expenditure must be provided with every claim submitted, however compliance with the tendering and procurement process has to date been verified during the in-situ visit or inspection towards the end of the project period.
- A recent European Commission (EC) audit instructed Rural Payments Wales (RPW) to verify compliance with the tendering and procurement process before payments are made.
- Beneficiaries are aware of the need to maintain such evidence throughout the lifetime of the project, demonstrating they have satisfied these requirements. In accepting the grant offer they agree to this information being retained and made readily available at any time when requested by the Welsh Government.

## **Error Rates**

### Error Rates (EAFRD IACS)

For the 2020 claim year the Paying Agency took advantage of the Derogation in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/532 reducing the minimum inspection rates required due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

For Measure 08 there were 70 (€11,415) cases subject to reduction, of which 2 (€117.21) was identified at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of €163. Reductions were all applied for simple over declaration.

For Measure 10 there were 167 (€90,581) cases subject to reduction, of which 28 (€5229.9) were identified at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of €542.40 and 99% of the reduction (€89,819) was due to beneficiaries not respecting their contractual commitments as opposed to over declaring areas.

There were 20 cases where the reduction was in excess of €1,000, none of which were identified at inspection. The most significant reduction (€9,476.4) was applied to a single beneficiary under the Glastir Commons Scheme for failing to respect their contractual stocking requirements.

For Measure 11 there were 47 (€3,308.1) cases subject to reduction, of which 16 (€2,160.4) were identified

at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of €70.48, and of the 47 cases, 8 were significant enough to result in an over-declaration penalty.

There were no cases where the reduction was in excess of €1,000. The most common cause of reduction was over declaration of land area (47 cases), with the remainder due to beneficiaries not respecting their contractual commitments. The most significant reduction (€787.27) was as a result of over declaration of land area.

The error rate for measures 08, 10 and 11 are low and administrative checks are generally effective at identifying beneficiary error.

Under the requirements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/532 the rate of error identified in 2020 year is not used to consider the inspection rates for the 2021 year (the previous year's findings are applied instead), therefore the inspection rate for measure 10 will be maintained above the 5% minimum requirement.

#### Error Rates (EAFRD NIACS)

For the 2020 claim year the Paying Agency took advantage of the Derogation in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/532 reducing the minimum inspection rates required due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

For EAFRD Non IACS 2020 there were 136 (€558,117.1) cases subject to reduction, of which 15 (€8,711.7) were identified at inspection. The average reduction was for a value of € 4,103.8) and of the 136 cases, 9 were significant enough to result in an over-declaration penalty.

The most significant reduction (€245,150.16) occurred in a project where number of eligible transactions were removed under obvious error as they had been included under an incorrect cost heading.

Under the requirements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/532 the rate of error identified in 2020 year is not used to consider the inspection rates for the 2021 year (the previous year's findings are applied instead), therefore the inspection rate will be maintained at the 5% level.

#### **Aid Recovered**

#### **New RDP Aid Recovered and reallocated during 2021 Calendar Year**

#### **RDP 2014-2020 - Aid Recovered & Reallocated - 01 January to 31 December 2021**

Sub Measure	Focus Area	Value (EUR)	Value (GBP)
1.1	3a	-45,817.13	-40,976.80
<b>1.1 Total</b>		<b>-45,817.13</b>	<b>-40,976.80</b>
4.1	2a	-2,928.06	-2,567.30
<b>4.1 Total</b>		<b>-2,928.06</b>	<b>-2,567.30</b>
4.2	3a	-19,666.62	-17,389.89
<b>4.2 Total</b>		<b>-19,666.62</b>	<b>-17,389.89</b>
4.4	5d	-371.75	-316.36
	P4	-274,018.94	-239,350.53
<b>4.4 Total</b>		<b>-274,390.69</b>	<b>-239,666.89</b>

7.2	5c	-5,912.56	-5,218.52
<b>7.2 Total</b>		<b>-5,912.56</b>	<b>-5,218.52</b>
7.3	6c	-7,471.63	-6,620.09
<b>7.3 Total</b>		<b>-7,471.63</b>	<b>-6,620.09</b>
7.4	6b	-13,604.45	-12,155.36
<b>7.4 Total</b>		<b>-13,604.45</b>	<b>-12,155.36</b>
7.5	6b	-8,191.20	-7,252.75
<b>7.5 Total</b>		<b>-8,191.20</b>	<b>-7,252.75</b>
7.7	6b	-4,677.61	-4,022.17
<b>7.7 Total</b>		<b>-4,677.61</b>	<b>-4,022.17</b>
8.1	5e	-15,931.33	-13,587.58
	P4	-45,095.79	-37,872.06
<b>8.1 Total</b>		<b>-61,027.12</b>	<b>-51,459.64</b>
8.5	P4	-2,325.56	-2,067.00
<b>8.5 Total</b>		<b>-2,325.56</b>	<b>-2,067.00</b>
8.6	6a	-440.02	-387.49
<b>8.6 Total</b>		<b>-440.02</b>	<b>-387.49</b>
10.1	5d	-5,818.63	-5,103.63
	5e	-2,618.02	-2,275.75
	P4	-120,596.70	-104,429.76
<b>10.1 Total</b>		<b>-129,033.35</b>	<b>-111,809.14</b>
11.2	P4	-10,691.60	-9,328.47
<b>11.2 Total</b>		<b>-10,691.60</b>	<b>-9,328.47</b>
16.2	6b	-17,388.24	-15,312.46
<b>16.2 Total</b>		<b>-17,388.24</b>	<b>-15,312.46</b>
16.5	P4	-2,646.79	-2,321.68
<b>16.5 Total</b>		<b>-2,646.79</b>	<b>-2,321.68</b>
19.2	6b	-446.57	-394.77
<b>19.2 Total</b>		<b>-446.57</b>	<b>-394.77</b>
20.1	zz	-149,319.69	-127,190.51
<b>20.1 Total</b>		<b>-149,319.69</b>	<b>-127,190.51</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>-755,978.89</b>	<b>-656,140.93</b>

**To note:**  
**Total of New RD Plan (2014-2020) recovered debts only**  
**All debt recoveries from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021**

### 3.b) Quality and efficient delivery mechanisms

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) <sup>1</sup>, proxy automatically calculated

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation <sup>2</sup>	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative <sup>3</sup> )
Fund specific methods CPR Article	651,590,163.00	36.67	30.46

67(5)(e)			
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<sup>1</sup> Simplified Cost Options shall be intended as unit cost/flat rates/lumps sums CPR Article 67(5) including the EAFRD specific methods under point (e) of that article such as business start-up lump sums, flat rate payments to producers organisations and area and animal related unit costs.

<sup>2</sup> Automatically calculated from programme version's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

<sup>3</sup> Automatically calculated from declarations of expenditure's measures 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18

### Simplified Cost Options (SCOs), based on specific detailed MS data [optional]

	Total RDP financial allocation [EAFRD]	[%] planned SCO coverage out of the total RDP allocation	[%] realised expenditure through SCO out of total RDP allocation (cumulative)
Total CPR Article 67(1)(b)(c)(d) + 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00		
Fund specific methods CPR Article 67(5)(e)	651,590,163.00		

### E-management for beneficiaries [optional]

	[%] EAFRD funding	[%] Operations concerned
Application for support		
Payment claims		
Controls and compliance		
Monitoring and reporting to the MA/PA		

### Average time limits for beneficiaries to receive payments [optional]

[Days] Where applicable, MS deadline for payments to beneficiaries	[Days] Average time for payments to beneficiaries	Comments

## **4. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAMME PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS**

### **4.a) Action taken and state of play as regards the establishment of the NRN and the implementation of its action plan**

4.a1) Actions taken and state of play as regards establishment of the NRN (governance structure and network support unit)

#### **GOVERNANCE**

The Wales Rural Network (WRN) is a partnership of organisations, enterprises, administrations, and individuals open to any stakeholder with an interest in rural development. Stakeholders are involved in the governance and activities of the WRN through the external Steering Group (see below).

#### **WALES RURAL NETWORK SUPPORT UNIT (WRNSU)**

This update covers the period from 1st January to 31st December.

##### **Network Support Unit Staff**

Wales Rural Network Managers each have responsibility for networking and communication across the Rural Development Programme. Responsibilities are split across schemes and LAG regional areas on a geographical basis.

The WRNSU currently comprises of a Head of Network (0.5FTE) supported by three Network Managers (2.5FTE), one Website Manager & Content Author (1 FTE) and a Finance Manager (0.8FTE).

The WRNSU's role has continued to evolve over the last 12 months. COVID-19 has changed the way we work, with a greater focus on digital communications and sharing of best practice amongst stakeholders in response to the pandemic.

The WRNSU continue to maintain strong relationships with the Local Action Groups and Policy Leads, facilitating the networking process and the engagement of stakeholders by sharing information, best practice and expertise across Wales and the UK. WRNSU organise virtual events, seminars, workshops etc. to inform public and potential beneficiaries about the RDP and the activities it supports.

As we are nearing the end of the programme period, the WRNSU role has shifted, there is greater emphasis on learning from best practice and the promotion of the projects that have received RDP funding. Further

information on our work can be found on the WRN web pages;  
[www.businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork](http://www.businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork)

## **WALES RURAL NETWORK STEERING GROUP (WRNSG)**

### **WRN Steering Group**

The WRNSG is specifically tasked with advising and assisting with the development of a work-plan for WRNSU, which involves stakeholders, improves the quality of RDP implementation, informs the broader public and potential beneficiaries about the RDP, and fosters innovation.

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4 Meetings have been held during 2021. A regular update of the WRNSU work is given to members at each of the meetings. One of the main points towards the end of 2021 was the Celebrating Rural Event in June 2022, the SG have fed in ideas for the event and the event contractors presented to the panel in December 2021.

The network managers updated on their ongoing work with stakeholder engagement and an events timetable.

Further information on the Steering Group can be found at  
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/steering-group>

#### **4.a2) Actions taken and state of play as regards the implementation of the action plan**

### **COLLECTIONS OF EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS (ART. 54 3B(I) OF REG. 1305/2013)**

The WRN web pages continue to promote all the RDP socio – economic measure approved projects.

For a current list of all approved 2014-2020 RDP Socio-economic projects see: Rural Development Programme Funding | Business Wales - Business Wales ([gov.wales](http://gov.wales))

LEADER projects are available via an interactive map. All LEADER groups in Wales have been issued with a profile for the website and must upload the project details once it has been approved by the Local Action Group (LAG). The projects can be viewed by themes and/or areas. The projects also provide contact details, further information and a link to a case study if applicable.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/local-action-groups-and-projects>

All other RDP projects are also available on the website and appear on a separate interactive map. These projects can also be viewed online using the search box.

A total of 1654 RDP funded projects are currently available to view.

Our dedicated WRN Website Manager and Content Author regularly updates the website with news, events, publications and case studies concerning RDP. News and events | Business Wales - Business Wales (gov.wales)

#### **FACILITATION OF THEMATIC AND ANALYTICAL EXCHANGES (ART. 54 3B(II) OF REG. 1305/2013)**

See section 4b for information on publications, website and social media strategy.

#### **PROVISION OF TRAINING AND NETWORKING TO LAG (ART. 54 3B(III) OF REG. 1305/2013)**

Wales Rural Network Managers each have responsibility for networking and communication across the Rural Development Programme. Responsibilities are split across schemes and LAG regional areas on a geographical basis. WRNSU have successfully organised a number of events to support and promote the RDP 2014-2020.

With the COVID-19 restrictions remaining in place the WRNSU have continued to arrange and manage virtual events through Microsoft Teams. These have included:

- January 2021 - Optimising Wales' Food and Natural Harvest – Virtual Event
- March 2021 - Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Development in Wales – Virtual Event
- June 2021 - Delivered an information event for LAGs following the addition of De-minimis State Aid to the LEADER Programme – Virtual Workshop
- September 2021 – Delivered a LEADER workshop in response to the EU corrective actions – Virtual Workshop
- December 2021 – Delivered a Sustainable Management Scheme mentoring workshop - Virtual

Commissioned two Contracts this year to collate and promote Best Practice examples:

- Celebrating Rural Development – Communications / Publicity Campaign
- Celebrating Rural Development – Event – 9th & 10th June 2022

## **PROVISION OF NETWORKING FOR ADVISERS AND INNOVATION SUPPORT**

### **SERVICES (ART. 54 3B(IV) OF REG. 1305/2013)**

WRNSU work closely with policy leads to promote and disseminate information to advisors. Lead officers within the WRNSU have been identified for RDP schemes. Dividing responsibility for networking and communications in this way improves the overall service provided to stakeholders as well as developing WRNSU managers' knowledge of the Programme. This knowledge is built up by regular communications and attending meetings with the scheme leads.

### **SHARING AND DISSEMINATION OF M&E FINDINGS (ART. 54 3B(V) OF REG. 1305/2013)**

#### **UK National Rural Network (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales)**

Wales continued to participate in UK NRN teleconference meetings between the four UK NRNs until April 2021 when other regions' programmes came to an end. These meetings provided an excellent opportunity to discuss RDP stakeholder issues and agree consistent responses to issues affecting the UK as a whole.

WRN continues to work with colleagues from Scotland, their LEADER programme continues until December 2021 around sharing of Best Practice.

Scottish Network working on a replacement CLLD fund. With the Scottish LEADER programme finishing the end of December 2021. They have secured two additional months of funding to keep local LEADER delivery staff in post while they work through options. WRN still in close dialogue with SRN.

Until April 2021 the UKNRN was specifically tasked with working across the UK regional administrations to develop the following areas:



- Stimulate closer NSU relations and increase understanding and awareness of activities occurring;
- Share best practice approaches to networking & communicating with stakeholders, this will include:
  - The development of effective case studies;
  - The use of digital communications including, i.e. producing short films, social media, etc.
  - Engage with stakeholders/beneficiaries through thematic events to enable:
  - Stakeholders to influence the implementation of RDPs;
  - Facilitate the sharing of good practice and innovation through use of workshops, conferences, open space groups, etc. to support the development and resilience of rural communities.
  - Facilitate the opportunities for networking and communications with stakeholders;
  - Facilitating Cooperation & Innovation through the following:
    - Share information regarding projects to enable innovation between regions;
    - Hold regional cooperation events across UK NSUs with Operational Groups to encourage sharing of projects ideas;
  - Share best practice concerning Finance & Audit / Monitoring and Evaluation

Information and findings are also shared via the WRNSU newsletter and Website see section 4b and <https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/evaluation-and-research>

**THE NETWORK COMMUNICATION PLAN (ART. 54 3B(VI) OF REG. 1305/2013)\*** *\*this point could be treated under following section 4b of the AIR*

#### **ACTIVITIES REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENRD (ART. 54 3B(VII) OF REG. 1305/2013)**

The WRNSU are no longer able to have representation at EU events and workshops as restrictions are in place by UK Government due to Brexit. Attending ENRD activities has fallen into this category.

#### **4.b) Steps taken to ensure that the programme is publicised (Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014)**

##### **WRN Communications/Work Plan**

##### **WRN Website / IT Development**

##### **New Website**

The WRN purpose built website can be found on the Business Wales Platform :  
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/>

The new website has enabled the WRNSU to continue to improve methods, practices and processes for external communication. External Local Action Groups continue to have responsibility for publishing project examples.

We have a section that consists of two interactive maps, visually promoting all funding awarded to date with details on the relevant projects. The web pages are linked to our social media channels supporting external communication via other channels with at least 2 pieces of information added to the website on a daily basis. There are over 1600 projects (including LEADER) published on the interactive Project pages, numerous now contain links to live web pages.

There have been 84,584 website hits from January - December 2021. (We were not able to gather any analytic data between May and June though as there was an error with Google so we suspect the true number will be more than 84,584.) In addition, there was an election period between 26 March 2021 and 06 May 2021, which meant we weren't able to post as much content on Social Media as we would have liked. Resulting in less traffic going to the Website.

The homepage has been updated to include 'tiles' or 'cards' linking to other Government websites and also to pages within our website.

WRNSU has been working with IT contractors S8080 to improve the website, which was completed at the end of 2021. We have developed two new sections for the website, a new look and place for the case studies to sit and a section called "A Celebration of RDP Past & Present". Where we thought it was an ideal time to look back at some of the achievements of the programme over the years and celebrate the difference that the funding has made for Rural Wales.

### **Social Media**

Promotional tweets, re-tweets with quotes and Facebook posts regarding scheme windows and RDP activities are posted daily. This has resulted in Twitter followers increasing by circa.122 to 1877 in 2021 and Facebook seeing a steady increase to 437 followers in 2021. Regular tweets / Facebook posts; re-tweets with quotes and promotional tweets / Facebook posts regarding scheme windows and scheduled on a regular basis while EOIs are open. A monthly Social Media post goes out to promote a different case study every month.

WRN have had a business case to set up a YouTube channel and Instagram account approved and are in the early stages of setting these up.

The Analytics received show that the number of followers and 'likes' have increased, but the number of hits / posts / engagement has seen a decrease. This is to be expected at this stage in the Programme with fewer events and EOI windows to promote etc. There have been 84,584 website hits from Jan - December 2021. (We were not able to gather any analytic data between May and June though as there was an error with Google so we suspect the true number will be more than 100,000.) In addition, there was an election period between 26 March 2021 and 06 May 2021, which meant we weren't able to post as much content on Social Media as we would have liked. Resulting in less traffic going to the Website.

**2020**

**2021**

**Difference 2020-2021**

**No of Website Hits**

148,684

84,584

-64,100

**No of Twitter Followers**

1,755

1877

122

**Tweets**

764

419

-345

**Twitter Engagement**

952

674

-278

**No of Facebook Profile Likes**

359

437

78

**Facebook Posts**

1,145

494

-651

### **Facebook Engagement**

1,161

445

-716

Links to social media platforms can be found here:-

<https://twitter.com/WalesRuralNet> and <https://www.facebook.com/walesruralnet>

-

### **WRNSU Communications & Publicity**

WRNSU continue to approve all press releases and provide external communication support to beneficiaries. Regular uploads of written Case Studies are made to the site with 40 Case studies written and shared in the period Jan - Dec 2021.

The WRNSU procured a contractor who undertook an evaluation exercise and the findings were published in an Evaluation Report which can be found here:

2021 - WRNSU - Evaluation Report - Summary.pdf (gov.wales)

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The continued pandemic restricted the production of any new video footage but a Highlights Video was produced using previous footage, showcasing what RDP Funding has meant to projects around Wales. This has been shared on the WRN website and via our newsletters - <https://youtu.be/-LwB1EFmRaI>

The WRNSU produces its own newsletter as well as contributing to other publications. These include:

- **WRNSU Newsletter provides information regarding schemes, EOI window dates, news stories and case studies from Wales, UK, Europe and beyond - 26 editions in 2021; WRN Newsletter subscribers continue to steadily rise month on month and have increased to 14,059 in December across the English and Welsh versions.**
- The editions above include an additional newsletter which was produced by the WRNSU to highlight good practice examples. The monthly Newsletters – Celebrating Rural, concentrate on a different funding stream for each edition, the first focused on how LEADER Local Action Groups in Wales pro-actively supported their rural communities during the pandemic.

**<https://businesswales.gov.wales/walesruralnetwork/wrn-support-unit/newsletter>**

- Gwlad e-newsletter is WG's fortnightly e-newsletter for farm and forestry businesses and all those involved with agriculture in Wales. Including details on schemes and news stories that target this sector. Gwlad magazine has 16,034 subscribers - 22 updates via Gwlad e-newsletter (11 English; 11 Welsh) have been provided between January - December 2021.  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWALES/bulletins/27f657a>
- Climate Change Newsletter, formerly Natural Resources e-Bulletin: Includes the latest legislative and policy updates on the Welsh Government's commitment to our climate, energy, waste, water and land in ways that will protect our natural environment for future generations. The Bulletin has 11,476 subscribers  
8 updates around scheme windows provided to Natural Resources newsletters (4 English; 4 Welsh) – it was decided when the newsletter changed to be Climate Change, WRN contributions were no longer relevant to the content.  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWALES/bulletins/21d0672>
- **12 updates around scheme windows provided to EU Funds newsletters (6 English; 6 Welsh) between January - December 2021. EU Funds Bulletin has 13,366 Subscribers - Latest news on EU funds in Wales (govdelivery.com)**
- **6 updates (3Welsh; 3 English) for Farming Spring, Summer & Winter newsletter which is launched in spring, Summer and Winter each year. Agriculture: spring update 2021 | GOV.WALES Agriculture: summer update 2021 | GOV.WALES Agriculture: winter update 2021 | GOV.WALES**

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All the above newsletters include a promotional link to the WRN website in each edition.

### **Raising the Profile with Welsh Ministers**

The WRNSU along with the MA and scheme leads ensure that the Welsh Ministers are kept up to date with EAFRD funding. Funded projects are highlighted to Welsh Ministers at every opportunity.

Regular social media updates on RDP activity are publicised by our ministers.

### **Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)**

The WRNSU as part of the Welsh Government, is obliged to embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act in all aspects of WRNSU work. The Act requires Welsh public bodies to think more about the long-term, to work better with people, communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach – helping us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

## **5. ACTIONS TAKEN TO FULFIL EX ANTE CONDITIONALITIES**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2015, 2016 only

**6. DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PROGRAMMES**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only

## **7. ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only



## **8. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN ARTICLES 5, 7 AND 8 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2016, 2018 only



## **9. PROGRESS MADE IN ENSURING INTEGRATED APPROACH TO USE EAFRD AND OTHER UNION FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

This section applies to AIR(s) 2018 only

**10. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)**

30A. Has the ex-ante assessment been started ?	No
30B. Has the ex-ante assessment been completed ?	No
30. Date of completion of ex-ante assessment	-
31.1. Has selection or designation process already been launched ?	No
13A. Has the funding agreement been signed ?	No
13. Date of signature of the funding agreement with the body implementing the financial instrument	-

## **11. ENCODING TABLES FOR COMMON AND PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND QUANTIFIED TARGET VALUES**

See Monitoring Annex

## Annex II

Detailed table showing implementation level by Focus areas including output indicators

Focus Area 1A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1A	T1: percentage of expenditure under Articles 14, 15 and 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (focus area 1A)	2014-2021			13.93	51.12	27.25
		2014-2020			10.04	36.84	
		2014-2019			6.74	24.73	
		2014-2018			3.76	13.80	
		2014-2017			1.19	4.37	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1B	T2: Total number of cooperation operations supported under the cooperation measure (Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects...) (focus area 1B)	2014-2021			230.00	48.12	478.00
		2014-2020			176.00	36.82	
		2014-2019			86.00	17.99	
		2014-2018			60.00	12.55	
		2014-2017			2.00	0.42	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 1C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
1C	T3: Total number of participants trained under Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 (focus area 1C)	2014-2021			86,231.00	255.76	33,716.00
		2014-2020			57,944.50	171.86	
		2014-2019			22,587.00	66.99	
		2014-2018			10,079.00	29.89	
		2014-2017			5,021.00	14.89	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					

Focus Area 2A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
2A	T4: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investments in restructuring or modernisation (focus area 2A)	2014-2021	13.07	129.68	13.07	129.68	10.08
		2014-2020	10.18	101.00	10.18	101.00	
		2014-2019	6.50	64.49	6.50	64.49	
		2014-2018	2.99	29.67	1.47	14.59	
		2014-2017	0.29	2.88	0.07	0.69	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	92,857,976.56	85.92	58,957,595.63	54.55	108,071,242.93
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	34,682,861.15	104.49	27,426,982.82	82.63	33,192,576.29
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			4,166,357.68	108.76	3,830,684.80
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			14,574.56	145.60	10,010.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	7,155,119.70	96.54	5,784,772.49	78.05	7,411,485.58
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			4,218.14	142.36	2,963.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	50,401,245.71	103.90	25,458,490.76	52.48	48,511,256.74
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			63,646,226.90	52.59	121,013,435.96
M04.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			25,458,490.76	52.67	48,334,786.15
M04.1	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021			3,152.00	129.66	2,431.00
M04.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021					176,470.59
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	618,750.00	3.26	287,349.56	1.52	18,955,924.32

Focus Area 2B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
2B	T5: percentage of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers (focus area 2B)	2014-2021					0.73
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
2B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,852,715.01				
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,240,943.91				
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	611,771.10				



Focus Area 3A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
3A	T6: percentage of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations (focus area 3A)	2014-2021	0.76	111.10	0.76	111.10	0.68
		2014-2020	0.76	111.10	0.76	111.10	
		2014-2019	0.70	102.33	0.70	102.33	
		2014-2018	2.11	308.44	0.41	59.93	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
3A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	132,057,668.80	72.21	75,504,253.44	41.29	182,867,907.42
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	53,422,643.17	89.60	31,290,883.01	52.48	59,625,878.49
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			29,780,452.81	51.60	57,719,262.16
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			63,559.40	373.97	16,996.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	589,895.26	77.72	592,398.54	78.05	758,984.70
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			433.76	143.16	303.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	74,362,764.05	97.44	40,653,477.47	53.27	76,315,441.90
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			125,483,215.14	65.77	190,788,604.75
M04.1 M04.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			101.00	84.17	120.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,682,366.32	7.98	2,967,494.42	6.43	46,167,602.33
M16.4	O9 - Number of holdings participating in supported schemes	2014-2021			184.00	111.52	165.00

Priority P4							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
P4	T13: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2021					0.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	T11: percentage of forestry land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2021					0.00
		2014-2020					
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	T8: percentage of forest/other wooded area under management contracts supporting biodiversity (focus area 4A)	2014-2021			0.99	36.66	2.70
		2014-2020			0.83	30.73	
		2014-2019			0.77	28.51	
		2014-2018			0.75	27.77	
		2014-2017			0.23	8.52	
		2014-2016			0.20	7.41	
		2014-2015			0.01	0.37	
	T12: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion (focus area 4C)	2014-2021			4.89	98.09	4.99
		2014-2020			4.81	96.48	
		2014-2019			4.75	95.28	
		2014-2018			4.46	89.46	
		2014-2017			4.46	89.46	
		2014-2016			4.36	87.45	
		2014-2015					
	T10: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management (focus area 4B)	2014-2021			6.92	50.03	13.83
		2014-2020			6.90	49.89	
		2014-2019			6.62	47.86	
		2014-2018			6.22	44.97	
		2014-2017			6.22	44.97	
		2014-2016			3.14	22.70	
		2014-2015					
	T9: percentage of	2014-2021			64.48	166.38	38.75

	agricultural land under management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscapes (focus area 4A)	2014-2020			63.19	163.06	
		2014-2019			54.82	141.46	
		2014-2018			44.72	115.40	
		2014-2017			44.72	115.40	
		2014-2016			20.94	54.03	
		2014-2015			1.60	4.13	
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
<b>P4</b>	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	445,506,068.97	105.88	293,797,073.68	69.82	420,766,767.44
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	6,870,959.93	137.07	5,892,861.37	117.56	5,012,790.94
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			3,174,086.90	200.78	1,580,881.54
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			5,469.52	331.49	1,650.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	2,868,054.64	85.98	2,163,700.47	64.87	3,335,664.05
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			1,153.36	45.50	2,535.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	90,938,371.76	150.88	53,432,073.37	88.65	60,272,252.33
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			53,432,073.37	88.65	60,272,252.33
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			9,137.00	82.17	11,120.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	23,524,165.52	82.53	17,217,254.59	60.40	28,504,025.61
M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			11,880,519.49	47.95	24,778,744.59
M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			1,178.77	47.19	2,498.00
M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			2,108.42	21.08	10,000.00
M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	50.00
M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			163,927.00	114.76	142,845.14
M08.3	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021					1.00
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			5,170,699.68	144.74	3,572,435.88
M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			502.00	124.57	403.00
M08.5	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			3,094.75	36.84	8,400.00

M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	258,292,412.24	98.05	176,042,678.73	66.83	263,420,372.71
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			247,745.80	38.99	635,399.00
M11	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	33,080,424.31	107.44	26,793,245.11	87.02	30,790,985.27
M11.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	11,153.00
M11.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			60,387.37	105.41	57,287.00
M15	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	0.00				
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	29,931,680.57	101.70	12,255,260.04	41.64	29,430,676.53

Focus Area 5B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5B	T15: Total investment for energy efficiency (€) (focus area 5B)	2014-2021	14,772,957.65	72.66	14,772,957.65	72.66	20,331,285.75
		2014-2020	14,254,387.60	70.11	14,254,387.60	70.11	
		2014-2019	13,996,168.15	68.84	13,996,168.15	68.84	
		2014-2018	11,587,950.75	57.00	9,380,795.88	46.14	
		2014-2017	1,586,895.45	7.81	1,586,895.45	7.81	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	13,098,853.39	134.38	6,929,789.61	71.09	9,747,789.26
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.17	82.82	862,144.84
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			109,850.09	110.40	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			378.56	145.60	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	201,501.01	96.54	162,909.63	78.05	208,720.79
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			120.73	145.46	83.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	11,687,123.84	139.32	5,909,183.06	70.44	8,388,590.74
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			14,772,957.65	72.66	20,331,285.75
M04.1 M04.2 M04.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			924.00	323.08	286.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	309,375.00	107.30	143,674.75	49.83	288,332.89

Focus Area 5C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5C	T16: Total investment in renewable energy production (€) (focus area 5C)	2014-2021	2,414,357.44	8.73	2,414,357.44	8.73	27,669,013.48
		2014-2020	2,195,851.24	7.94	2,195,851.24	7.94	
		2014-2019	979,025.41	3.54	979,025.41	3.54	
		2014-2018	1,633,794.74	5.90			
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	21,931,552.12	127.40	2,161,533.00	12.56	17,214,899.82
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.02	82.82	862,144.84
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			109,849.96	110.40	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			378.56	145.60	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	158,758.93	96.54	128,352.99	78.05	164,446.68
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			95.55	144.77	66.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	18,367,002.28		0.00		0.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	636,683.54	9.15	317,313.90	4.56	6,957,526.38
M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			5.00	2.54	197.00
M07.2 M07.3 M07.4 M07.5 M07.6 M07.7 M07.8	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			823,556.52	9.86	8,349,031.65
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,558,878.83	20.17	858,169.32	11.10	7,727,992.73
M08	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021					100.00
M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			858,169.32	11.10	7,727,992.73
M08.6	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			2,002,579.18	10.37	19,319,981.83
M16	O1 - Total public	2014-2021	309,375.00	20.59	143,674.77	9.56	1,502,789.19

	expenditure						
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Focus Area 5D							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5D	T18: percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (focus area 5D)	2014-2021			8.55	203.56	4.20
		2014-2020			8.33	198.32	
		2014-2019			6.40	152.37	
		2014-2018			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2017			4.42	105.23	
		2014-2016			3.11	74.04	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5D	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	28,158,602.72	100.67	20,043,063.51	71.66	27,970,361.75
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.04	82.82	862,144.84
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			109,850.11	110.40	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			378.56	145.60	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,419,057.02	96.54	1,147,278.67	78.05	1,469,900.37
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			838.16	142.54	588.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	15,149,137.78	155.72	8,434,740.70	86.70	9,728,592.04
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			19,388,612.53	80.07	24,214,014.53
M04.1 M04.3 M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			1,248.00	25.51	4,893.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	10,380,179.38	74.73	9,603,347.33	69.14	13,889,991.76
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			89,758.52	150.08	59,807.08
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	309,375.00	15.32	143,674.77	7.11	2,019,732.74

Focus Area 5E							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
5E	T19: percentage of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation (focus area 5E)	2014-2021			0.19	84.45	0.22
		2014-2020			0.18	80.00	
		2014-2019			0.18	80.00	
		2014-2018			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2017			0.13	57.78	
		2014-2016			0.03	13.33	
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
5E	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	36,183,315.58	148.39	16,948,346.47	69.51	24,384,108.96
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	900,853.54	104.49	714,022.17	82.82	862,144.84
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			109,849.96	110.40	99,498.31
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			378.56	145.60	260.00
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	657,975.10	112.62	316,943.71	54.25	584,240.95
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			110.66	33.94	326.00
M04	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,249,416.88	48.86	2,493,544.46	37.50	6,650,128.32
M04	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			2,493,544.46	37.50	6,650,128.32
M04.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			1,536.00	19.55	7,857.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	28,987,607.26	193.52	11,841,515.62	79.05	14,979,426.43
M08.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			7,629,675.30	130.77	5,834,525.71
M08.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			328.85	39.53	832.00
M08.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	7,000.00
M08.2	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021					50.00
M08.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			0.00	0.00	428,535.42
M08.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			4,026,934.88	68.22	5,902,567.39
M08.5	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			184,905.44	6.59	2,806,797.91



M08.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			139.00	35.37	393.00
M10	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,889,523.09	196.07	1,377,635.13	142.95	963,688.46
M10.1	O5 - Total area (ha)	2014-2021			1,935.26	64.05	3,021.60
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	497,939.71	144.55	204,685.38	59.42	344,479.96

Focus Area 6A							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
6A	T20: Jobs created in supported projects (focus area 6A)	2014-2021			12.20	1.59	765.00
		2014-2020			12.20	1.59	
		2014-2019			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2018			2.00	0.26	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6A	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	30,051,763.78	233.45	10,751,570.73	83.52	12,872,692.56
M02	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	310,529.80	73.72	328,781.17	78.05	421,236.51
M02.1	O13 - Number of beneficiaries advised	2014-2021			241.63	143.83	168.00
M06	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	16,867,573.90	158.88	4,616,772.76	43.49	10,616,799.66
M06	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			4,621,549.87	10.00	46,238,128.70
M06.2 M06.4	O4 - Number of holdings/beneficiaries supported	2014-2021			2.00	0.59	340.00
M08	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	9,636,284.71	623.77	4,944,950.44	320.09	1,544,856.72
M08	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021					20.00
M08.6	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			4,944,950.44	320.09	1,544,856.72
M08.6	O2 - Total investment	2014-2021			12,513,681.57	324.01	3,862,141.80
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,237,375.37	1,117.11	861,066.36	297.12	289,799.67

Focus Area 6B							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
6B	T23: Jobs created in supported projects (Leader) (focus area 6B)	2014-2021			35.11	35.11	100.00
		2014-2020			9.00	9.00	
		2014-2019			4.00	4.00	
		2014-2018			12.00	12.00	
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	T22: percentage of rural population benefiting from improved services/infrastructures (focus area 6B)	2014-2021			3.35	7.36	45.53
		2014-2020			3.24	7.12	
		2014-2019			0.67	1.47	
		2014-2018			1.93	4.24	
		2014-2017			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
	T21: percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies (focus area 6B)	2014-2021			45.53	100.01	45.53
		2014-2020			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2019			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2018			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2017			45.53	100.01	
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6B	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	201,908,613.38	156.93	96,408,110.55	74.93	128,664,000.09
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	3,529,411.77	94.81	216,513.23	5.82	3,722,729.85
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			216,513.23	5.82	3,722,729.85
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			924.00	23.75	3,890.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	22,976,939.13	102.92	18,750,157.75	83.99	22,324,928.45
M07.1	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			10.00	55.56	18.00
M07.1 M07.2 M07.4 M07.5 M07.6	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	2014-2021			101,625.00	7.35	1,381,745.00

M07.7 M07.8							
M07.2	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			2.00	3.57	56.00
M07.4	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			96.00	82.76	116.00
M07.5	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			33.00	22.00	150.00
M07.6	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			15.00	42.86	35.00
M07.7	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			7.00	28.00	25.00
M16	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	114,381,275.95	240.63	40,482,630.45	85.16	47,534,919.43
M19	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	61,020,986.53	110.78	36,958,809.12	67.10	55,081,422.36
M19	O18 - Population covered by LAG	2014-2021			1,381,745.00	100.00	1,381,745.00
M19	O19 - Number of LAGs selected	2014-2021			18.00	100.00	18.00
M19.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			58,171.37	117.34	49,573.28
M19.2	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			24,692,340.20	64.39	38,347,686.25
M19.3	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			1,521,693.39	39.58	3,844,683.28
M19.4	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			10,686,604.16	83.23	12,839,479.55

Focus Area 6C							
FA/M	Target indicator name	Period	Based on approved (when relevant)	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Target 2025
6C	T24: percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services/infrastructures (ICT) (focus area 6C)	2014-2021			0.62	3.76	16.47
		2014-2020			0.43	2.61	
		2014-2019					
		2014-2018					
		2014-2017					
		2014-2016					
		2014-2015					
FA/M	Output Indicator	Period	Committed	Uptake (%)	Realised	Uptake (%)	Planned 2023
6C	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,982,187.96	108.76	1,090,923.73	59.86	1,822,577.83
M01	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	450,426.78	104.49	357,010.99	82.82	431,072.42
M01.1	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021			54,924.91	110.40	49,749.15
M01.1	O12 - Number of participants in trainings	2014-2021			189.28	145.60	130.00
M07	O1 - Total public expenditure	2014-2021	1,531,761.18	110.08	733,912.74	52.74	1,391,505.41
M07.3	O15 - Population benefiting of improved services/infrastructures (IT or others)	2014-2021			18,880.00	3.78	500,000.00
M07.3	O3 - Number of actions/operations supported	2014-2021			36.00	225.00	16.00

## Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Checksum	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Warnings Explanation Table 21	Other annex	22-06-2023		Ares(2023)4361479	3441544628	Warning Explanation Table 21	23-06-2023	nwillap
AIR Financial Annex 2014UK06RDRP004	Financial annex (System)	14-06-2023		Ares(2023)4361479	1000359791	AIRfinancialAnnex2014UK06RDRP004_en.pdf	23-06-2023	nwillap
Wales RDP 2021 AIR summary	Citizens' summary	20-06-2023		Ares(2023)4361479	1204867588	Wales RDP 2021 AIR summary	23-06-2023	nwillap

