



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Briefing Note

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2012 Dates for the issue of SPS/SFP forms and maps within the UK and Republic of Ireland

1 Background

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been the primary policy tool for the support of agriculture across Europe since its introduction in 1962.

At present the CAP is organised under two pillars – pillar 1 being focussed on direct payment to farmers largely in the form of the Single Farm Payment (SFP) (17 of the 27 EU Member States), and Pillar 2 focussing on wider rural development measures including diversification, habitat/environmental conservation, and wider rural sustainability.

The current SPS/SFP process is initiated by the issuing of Single Application Forms and eligible/entitlement maps to SPS/SFP recipients. Table 1 below sets out the relative timings in which these forms/maps were sent out to scheme participants within the constituent parts of the UK and the Republic of Ireland in 2012. The information

contained in table 1 was obtained through contacting each of the identified paying agencies.

Territory	Paying Agency	Date for issue of Single Application form 2012	Date for issue of land eligibility/entitlement maps 2012
England	Rural Payments Agency	End of March	Start of April
Scotland	Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspection Directorate	Mid-March	Mid-March
Wales	Rural Payments Wales	Mid-March	Mid-March
Northern Ireland	DARD	From 13 to 16 March with an anticipation that they would reach farmers between 22 and 27 March	Issued in 3 batches, the first from 30 March to 3 April, the second on 17 and 18 April and the third from 20 to 24 April
Republic of Ireland	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	Early March	Early March

Table 1: Dates for issuance of Single Application Forms and Land Eligibility/Entitlement maps in 2012 - UK and Republic of Ireland

As evidenced by table 1, with the notable exception of DARD, none of the paying agencies were able to provide a specific date for when they sent out their forms and maps, choosing instead to use terms such as early, mid or late.

Looking at the available data, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, within the Republic of Ireland issued both their Single Application Forms and land eligibility/entitlement maps earlier than was the case in any of the UK jurisdictions.