



30 January 2026

Dear ,

26538 – Sustainable Farming Scheme

Thank you for your request which I received on 05 January 2026. You asked us to supply the following information:

- Which team of consultants were the main lead in producing the SFS?
- What has been the total cost of producing the SFS, including the original scheme that was shown to be unworkable?
- How many years did it take to formulate the SFS?
- What is the budgeted cost of running the SFS over the next 5 years?

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Which team of consultants were the main lead in producing the SFS?

Our response

Welsh Government have produced the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS). Consultants were not responsible for the production of SFS and therefore the WG does not hold any recorded information.

Third party suppliers, such as research organisations, were used to develop and provide the evidence base for the scheme and to estimate potential impacts of evolving scheme design. These suppliers were not responsible for producing the scheme.

What has been the total cost of producing the SFS, including the original scheme that was shown to be unworkable?

Our response

The total cost of producing the SFS is £2,931,216.83. This relates to evidence provided to inform the development and impact assessment of the scheme.

The WG does not hold any recorded information for costs of staff or resources for policy development time.

How many years did it take to formulate the SFS?

Our response

The Welsh Government has been developing the SFS as its proposed replacement for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) through an iterative process. The first consultation Brexit and our Land was published in 2018. Some parts of the SFS are still under development, with Optional and Collaborative Actions due to be phased in throughout the Transition Period (2026 – 2029).

What is the budgeted cost of running the SFS over the next 5 years?

Our response

Welsh Government published a projected annual budget for SFS of £378.7m (Table 52 page 85 [Sustainable Farming Scheme: full business case with annexes](#)), excluding the departmental running costs of Welsh Government staff supporting policy development and scheme delivery.