

# Waters of LIFE Pilot Agri-Environmental Programme Guide To Entry

# **Checklist for Waters of LIFE Programme Entry**

You will need to complete and submit these documents if you would like to join the Waters of LIFE pilot agri-environmental programme.

Document	$\checkmark$
1. Contract offer (signed)	
2. Farm advisor nomination form (signed)	
3. Electronic Funds Transfer mandate form (signed)	
4. Copy of bank statement header	

# 1. I have received my offer pack in the post. What happens next?

Please take your time to review all documentation. You have two weeks from when it arrived to make your decision and submit your entry.

# 2. What are the terms and conditions?

The terms and conditions of the programme are at <u>www.watersoflife.ie/resources</u>. We included this link in the cover page of your offer pack. It is a helpful document which may answer some of your questions.

If you would like to read a paper version, your catchment scientist can give you one. You can also pick one up from your local Waters of LIFE farm-plan clinic.

## 3. I have questions. Who do I talk to?

Please contact your local catchment scientist. He/she will be happy to answer any of your questions and help you with programme entry.

## 4. I would like some help with completing my entry. Where can I go?

Come to one of our farm-plan clinics. You will be able to meet our catchment scientists in person. It will be a one-to-one meeting and all information will be treated as private and confidential.

## 5. If I sign the contract, what am I agreeing to?

By signing the contract you agree to:

- Attend training events on an annual basis
- Choose to work with a local private advisor who is approved by Waters of LIFE
- Allow Waters of LIFE staff to enter your farm and work with you on the programme
- Allow Waters of LIFE to access data from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine that relates to your farm
- The terms and conditions of the Waters of LIFE pilot agri-environmental programme

## 6. If I sign the contract, what are the next steps?

- We will arrange a local training event for you to attend
- Your chosen advisor will complete a runoff risk assessment of your farm with you and submit a plan for proposed supporting actions, which may be finance through the project



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# 7. Why do I need to work with an advisor approved by the project?

Waters of LIFE offers training to all advisors who want to work with the project. This training helps the advisor to carry out the tasks associated with the Waters of LIFE programme. The role of the advisor is to ease any burden on your working with the project. Advisors are paid for by the project so there is no cost to the farmer.

# 8. Do I need to speak to an advisor before signing the contract?

Yes. You'll need to make contact with an advisor from the approved list and confirm their availability to work with you. Also, if you would like your current advisor to work with you on this programme, we can arrange training for them.

# 9. What happens if I sign the contract, but then change my mind about getting involved?

You can exit the programme at any time with one month's notice.

# 10. Some of the details you sent me about my farm are wrong. Can they be fixed?

Yes. Our farm plan is based on satellite mapping. If your lands are shown incorrectly, send us your BISS maps and we'll get the farm plan amended.

# 11. What would be a minimum payment for the first year's involvement?

If you attend all training events and complete a runoff risk assessment in your first year, you can expect to receive €718. This amount could increase significantly based on the habitat scoring of your land and participation in general actions.

## 12. When will I be paid?

Payments for general actions and training are issued quarterly. Payments for habitat scores rely on information from DAFM, which comes late in the year. So these payments are made in the spring time of the following year.

## 14. What is a bank statement header and why do I need to provide one?

Your bank statement header is the top piece of your bank statement which includes:

- The name of your bank
- Your personal details including your name and address
- Your bank details including your account number, IBAN and sort code.

Giving us this information helps us to avoid any mis-payments. We don't need to see any other financial information. You are welcome to cut off the bottom of the page, redact any other information or email us a screenshot from a digital statement with only the required information.

## 15. How do I submit my documentation?

You can post us the documents or email us a scanned version using the details in your cover letter. You can also hand your documents to your catchment scientist in person or to any member of the team at one of the farm clinics.