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Bia agus Mara  
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Food and the Marine

# Climate Action Performance Payment Scheme (Ash Dieback)

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **1. What is the Climate Action Performance Payment Scheme?**

A Climate Action Performance Payment, totalling €5,000 per hectare will be paid in three instalments to grant aided ash forest owners who clear their sites and replant through one of the Department's Ash Dieback Reconstitution Schemes.

This is in addition to the grants paid for clearance and replanting.

### **2. What reconstitution schemes must I have joined or must I join to qualify for the Climate Action Performance payment?**

If you previously joined one of the following Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine Schemes you are eligible for the Climate Action Performance payment, provided you have replanted:

- Reconstitution Scheme Ash Dieback 2013
- Reconstitution and Underplanting Scheme (Ash Dieback) 2020
- Interim Reconstitution Scheme for Ash Dieback 2023
- Reconstitution for Ash Dieback Scheme 2023-2027

If you planted an ash forest with a grant from the Department and have not yet joined a reconstitution scheme, you may now join the 'Reconstitution for Ash Dieback Scheme 2023-2027'. See details of how to apply at question 9.

### **3. What is the payment rate?**

€5,000 per hectare, in one instalment of €2,500 and two payments of €1,250.

The payments will be made as follows:

- €2,500 can be applied for after 1<sup>st</sup> grant on Ash reconstitution scheme
- €1,250 can be applied for after 2<sup>nd</sup> grant on Ash reconstitution scheme if the forest owner is out of premiums or at the end of their premiums if they are still in receipt
- €1,250 can be applied for the following year

### **4. Who is entitled to claim this payment?**

This payment will be made available to all ash forest owners who own a forest that was established with Ash, with support from the Department and either have or will clear the Ash from their forests and replant with an alternative species through any of the Department's Ash Dieback reconstitution schemes. Ash planted as a component of additional broadleaved planting in conifer plots is not eligible for the Scheme.

Forest owners must enter an ash dieback reconstitution scheme before the end of 2027 in order to be considered for this payment.

## **5. How will the payment be made?**

Ash forest owners become entitled to apply for the CAPP payment once first grant has been paid on a reconstitution scheme. There will be an online facility to apply for the CAPP payment. This application can only be made directly by the forest owner.

The CAPP total payment is €5,000 and this will be paid in 3 instalments:

- €2,500 can be applied for after 1<sup>st</sup> grant on Ash reconstitution scheme
- €1,250 can be applied for after second grant on Ash reconstitution scheme if the forest owner is out of premiums or at the end of their premiums if they are still in receipt.
- €1,250 can be applied for the following year

### **Example 1:**

Forest Owner out of premiums enters new Reconstitution of Ash Dieback Scheme and receives 1<sup>st</sup> grant in 2024 and 2<sup>nd</sup> grant in 2028.

- Can apply for CAPP instalment 1 of €2,500 in 2024
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 2 of €1,250 in 2028
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 3 of €1,250 in 2029

### **Example 2:**

Forest Owner who will receive premiums on their Afforestation contract until 2029, enters new Reconstitution of Ash Dieback Scheme and receives 1<sup>st</sup> grant in 2024 and 2<sup>nd</sup> grant in 2028.

- Can apply for CAPP instalment 1 of €2,500 in 2024
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 2 of €1,250 in 2029
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 3 of €1,250 in 2030

### **Example 3:**

Forest Owner who will receive premiums on their Afforestation contract until 2027, who already entered a reconstitution scheme and has received both a first and second grant.

- Can apply for CAPP instalment 1 of €2,500 in 2024
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 2 of €1,250 in 2027
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 3 of €1,250 in 2028

**Example 4:**

Forest Owner who has received all premiums on their Afforestation contract and has already entered a reconstitution scheme and received both a first and second grant.

- Can apply for CAPP instalment 1 of €2,500 in 2024
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 2 of €1,250 in 2025
- Can apply for CAPP instalment 3 of €1,250 in 2026

**6. How will I apply for the CAPP instalments?**

The Department is developing an easy and accessible system to apply for payments which we expect to roll out as soon as possible. Details of how to apply will be provided by [Circular](#) on our website and these FAQs will be updated. This is a payment to the forest owner and the forest owner will be able to apply directly when the payment falls due.

**7. When will CAPP payments commence?**

The Department will commence payments before the end of the year.

**8. Will the CAPP be subject to income tax?**

The Climate Action Performance Payment will be exempted from income tax by virtue of section 232(2) TCA.

**9. I have not applied under any reconstitution scheme for ash dieback. What should I do?**

You should contact a **Registered Forester** and ask them to make an application on your behalf under the Reconstitution for Ash Dieback 23-27. Details of the scheme can be found here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/15355-reconstitution-ash-dieback-scheme-2023-2027/>. The Climate Action Performance Payment will only be made once you have cleared and replanted sites under a Department reconstitution scheme for ash dieback. You can find the full list of Registered Foresters at [gov - List of registered foresters \(www.gov.ie\)](#).

## 10. What supports are available for Site Clearance and Replanting?

Owners of forests affected by Ash Dieback may apply for support under the Reconstitution Scheme for Ash Dieback, which opened on 24th July 2023 and is part of the new Forestry Programme.

This scheme includes the following features:

- 100% increase in the site clearance grant rate, from €1,000 to €2,000 per hectare.
- Enhanced replanting grant rates under the new Forestry Programme 2023-2027; depending on forest type: for conifer forests (FT12) that is an additional €3,858/ha; if the landowner chooses to replant with native trees that is €6,744/ha, and €8,555/ha for agroforestry. In addition, grants of €2,880/ha are also available for Deer Fencing for FT 1 to 11.
- For clearing the site and replanting, the range of payment to landowners entering the scheme is from €5,858 up to €10,555/ha.
- Those applicants whose sites are still in premium will continue to receive the premium due for the remaining years.
- For those in receipt of farmer rate of premium, a top up premium equal to the difference between the equivalent forestry type and the existing premium will be paid. This will be calculated for the remaining years left in premium and paid in a single sum.
- For those in receipt of non-farmer rate of premium a top up €300 will be paid per hectare, calculated for the remaining period left in premium and paid in a single sum.
- Full Terms and Conditions can be found here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/15355-reconstitution-ash-dieback-scheme-2023-2027/>

### **Grant Rates for forest types (FT) which may be replanted in place of Ash:**

- FT1 Native forests €6,744
- FT6 Broadleaf, mainly oak/beech €6,744
- FT 7 Diverse Broadleaf €4,314
- FT 8 Agroforestry €8,555
- FT 10 Continuous Cover Forestry €5,421
- FT 11 Mixed high forests: Diverse Conifer, minimum 20% broadleaves €4,452
- FT 12 Mixed high forests with mainly Sitka spruce, minimum 20% broadleaves €3,858

## 11. What is a De Minimis declaration?

All CAPP payments will be paid in line with de minimis rules and forest owners applying to this Scheme will need to make a De Minimis declaration. De Minimis are payments which are exempt from EU State Aid control but must be under a certain threshold.

It's therefore important to familiarise yourself with the de minimis rules as set out under this regulation Commission Regulation (EU) **2023/2831**) [Regulation - EU - 2023/2831 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#).

The Declaration you make will show that you are aware of the rules and you must include details of any de minimis payments received during the previous rolling three-year period. If the cumulative amount of all de minimis payments received during the 3-year rolling period exceeds €300,000 the payment cannot be made, and payments made in excess of €300,000 will be recouped. The threshold of €300,000 includes all De Minimis payments regardless of the granting Department or agency, including those granted under other De Minimis Regulations such as Agricultural or Fisheries.

## 12. Are any of my existing forestry payments issued under De Minimis aid?

The following Forestry Schemes have De Minimis payment elements:

- Afforestation Scheme 2007-2013 - Non-farmer premium amount exceeding €150/ha for years 1-15 and 100% of farmer premium payments for years 16-20
- Reconstitution of Woodland (Windblow) Scheme 2016
- Reconstitution of Woodland (Drought) Scheme 2019
- Afforestation Scheme 2014-2020, premiums 13-15
- Afforestation Scheme 2014-2020 – Forestry for Fibre GPC 12 (premiums only)
- Reconstitution of Woodland Scheme (Frost) 2022
- Interim Afforestation Scheme (via General De Minimis) 2023
- Interim Forest Road Scheme (via General De Minimis) 2023
- Interim Reconstitution Scheme for Ash-dieback (via General De Minimis) 2023

