

The Department is developing a new Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) that will replace the current 25 year old system. The LPIS is the Department's land database which underpins payments to farmers under area-based schemes such as the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), the Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) the Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme, afforestation schemes, and the Organic Farming Scheme. The overall objective is to ensure the most efficient delivery of €1.6 Billion of EU funded scheme payments to applicants, in line with regulatory requirements.

The new LPIS will provide an improved service for farmers. The following improvements are of particular benefit:

- All land parcels moving to the new LPIS have been re-numbered as part of the changeover to the new system. This is an important simplification for farmers, as the new number will, in general remain the same on the new LPIS.
- Land parcels are positioned as accurately as possible in the new LPIS, which is based on the most up to date Ordnance Survey Ireland mapping standard.
- In general, land parcels with administrative boundaries that are not associated with a real world feature on the ground (such as a hedgerow or a road) are merged into a single parcel in the new LPIS.
- In general, land parcels which have roads or rivers cutting across them are split into separate parcels in the new LPIS.

The new LPIS was first introduced in Louth in 2019, and has been rolled out in an additional five counties (Meath, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, and Longford) in 2020.

The new system is operational in 2020 for (a) all land parcels in the five counties listed whether a farmer is based there or not and (b) for all land parcels declared in other counties by farmers based in the five counties.

e.g. (a) Meath farmer has land in Meath and Dublin so his/her parcels in both counties will be transformed

e.g. (b) Dublin farmer has land declared in Dublin and Meath so only his/her parcels declared in Meath will be transformed.

Information relating to the changeover to the new system has been already been sent to the relevant farmers. This includes a statement of land with details of the parcels held by the farmer in 2019 and the resultant changes to these parcels in 2020 arising from the move to the new LPIS. It is essential that farmers who received this information examine it carefully, in conjunction with the information received in their BPS application pack in preparation for their 2020 online scheme applications. Applicants will be able to review changes to the claimed area and make amendments as appropriate when making their scheme applications online.

If there is a reduction in the eligible area of a parcel as a result of the move to the new LPIS, the Department has reduced the claimed area to match the new eligible area to avoid creating an over claim on that parcel.

If there is an increase in the eligible area of a parcel, the claimed area may be increased by the applicant to the newly determined eligible area, where appropriate.

Applicants are advised to examine the parcel details closely, in conjunction with the information received in the 2020 BPS application pack, to ensure that they have an eligible hectare to accompany each entitlement when making their 2020 application online.

A small number of technical issues arose during the roll out of Louth in 2019, and these issues have been fully investigated in order to minimise the impact on the timely delivery of payments in 2020. The Department will continue to roll out of the new LPIS on a phased basis over the next two years, with all counties expected to be live in the new system by 2022.

Further details, including the presentations that were to have been made during the postponed information sessions, is available at

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/lpisrebuildproject/>