

Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine

Public Accounts Committee Briefing Vote 30 DAFM 2021

20 April 2023

Part 1 Vote 30: DAFM 2021

The gross voted allocation of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in 2021 amounted to €1,826.118m, comprising €1,526.825m in current and €299.293m in capital. In addition, a carry-over of €31.6m capital from the 2020 allocation was permitted meaning the total funds available to the Department in 2021 was €1,857.719m. When the capital carry-over and appropriations in aid of €363.789m are taken into account, the 2021 net vote estimate was €1,493.930m.

Gross Expenditure was €1,692.718m with appropriations in aid of €386.665m resulting in net expenditure of €1,306.053m. The table below summarises the information for 2021.

Table 1 DAFM Financial Summary €m

	2021 Estimate Provision €000m	2021 outturn €000m	Excess +/- saving- €000m
Gross Voted	1,826,118	1,692,718	-133,400
Plus			
Deferred Surrender	31,600		
Supplementary	1		
Total Gross	1,857,719	1,692,718	-165,001
Appropriations in Aid	363,789	386,665	+22,876
Net Vote	1,493,930	1,306,053	

*includes €31.6m capital carried over from 2020.

In addition to the Voted Exchequer funds, the Department is responsible for distributing €1.2bn in “non Voted” funds. These are 100% EU funded monies which relate to the Basic Payment Schemes.

Structure of Vote

The Vote is sub divided into 4 expenditure programmes corresponding to the 4 key Strategic Objectives set out in the current Statement of Strategy (programmes A to D). The programme allocation figures shown in table 2 include the proportion of the Department's administrative budget to be spent in the delivery of each of the Programmes. When shown separately, the 2021 DAFM Administrative Budget allocation was €327.139m of which €214.031m was pay and €113.108 was non-pay. (details on page 13).

Table 2 Overview of Voted expenditure 2021 programmes A to D (€m all figs rounded)

		2021 Allocation after Supplementary Estimate €000m	2021 Outturn €000m	Excess / Saving (-) €000m
Programme A	Food Safety, Animal & Plant and Animal Welfare	322,073	301,657	-20,416
Programme B	Farm/ sector Supports and Controls	930,189	823,914	-106,275
Programme C	Policy and Strategy	428,581	402,846	-25,735
Programme D	Seafood Sector	176,876	164,301	-12,575
Gross Vote		1,857,719	1,692,718	-165,001
Programme E	Appropriations in aid	363,789	386,665	22,876
Net vote		1,493,930	1,306,053	

*includes €31.6m capital carried over from 2020.

The information at sub-head level for 2021 is shown at pages 6 to 13.

Vote performance in 2021

Gross expenditure in 2021 was €1,692.718m, which was 91.1% of the available €1,857.719m.

Much of the Department's Vote comprises schemes and measures that are subject to external factors such as demand from beneficiaries, market and economic and environmental factors, animal disease incidence, and the pace of completion of capital investment and research projects. Despite the continuing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit we continued to carry out our usual business in 2021.

To allow a technical supplementary estimate to take place a token €1,000 was added to the Department's vote. No additional funding was requested. This technical supplementary estimate allowed the Department to make use of €49.8m savings on the Department's vote to provide for spend over several headings.

The Technical Supplementary Estimate allowed savings to be moved to fund -

- An increase in the Sheep Welfare Scheme allocation,
- The Future Growth Loan Scheme (FGLS) which the Department co-funds with the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment. It supports strategic long-term capital investment by SMEs, farmers and fishers
- An early payment to the World Food Programme.
- The Marine Institute
- A Brexit Temporary Fleet Tie-up Scheme managed by Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

Table 3: Supplementary Estimate 2021

Sub head	New Use of Funds	Original allocation €m	€m change
B.8	Animal Welfare Scheme for Sheep	17.0	+1.5
B.11	Control & Other Support Schemes (the token €1,000 addition to the Vote)	17.720	+0.001
C.9	World Food Programme	0	+25
D.4	Marine Institute Grant	43.990	+5.0
D.5	Bord Iascaigh Mhara	38.750	+11.0
	Sub Total of increase current expenditure allocations		42.501
C.10 capital	SBCI Loan Scheme	11.4	7.3
	Sub Total of increase capital expenditure allocations		7.3
	Total increase		49.801
Sub head	Source of Funds	Original allocation €m	€m change
A2,B2	DAFM IMT and Travel savings	99.513	-8.0
B.3	Agri-Environmental Schemes	290.089	-21.350
B.4	Areas of Natural Constraint	250.0	-1.0
B.12	Other Schemes	0.601	-0.250
C.11	Other Services	19.603	-2.0
D.3	Fisheries	42.907	-4.9
D.6	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	24.810	-2.0
	Sub- total of reduced current Expenditure allocations		-39.5
B.5 capital	Development & promotion of agriculture & food (Farm)	90.911	-3.3
B.10	Forestry and Bio-energy	103.243	-7.0
	Sub Total of reduced capital expenditure allocations		-10.3
	Total of reduced allocations		-49.800

Carry-over

Public financial procedures allow for the carry-over (known as “deferred surrender”) of unspent capital funds in some circumstances subject to approval. Accordingly, DAFM carried forward €31.6m of capital from its 2020 allocation into 2021. (Under the same procedures €19.8m had been carried into 2020 from 2019).

Programme A - Food Safety, Animal & Plant Health & Animal Welfare

Programme A Goal: *To promote and safeguard public, animal and plant health and animal welfare for the benefit of consumers, producers and wider society.*

Table 4: Programme A 2021 Expenditure

	2021 Supplementary Estimate Total	2021 Expenditure Total
	€000	€000
A.1 ADMINISTRATION – PAY	125,081	123,458
A.2 ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	69,545	55,877
A.3 Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare	127,447	122,322
Total	322,073	301,657

Programme B - Farm/Sector Supports & Controls**Programme B Goal:**

Provide income and market supports to underpin the rural economy and the environment.

Table 5: Programme B 2021 Expenditure

	2021 Supplementary Estimate Total €000	2021 Expenditure Total €000
B.1 ADMINISTRATION - PAY	61,206	60,411
B.2 ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	21,968	22,458
B.3 Agri-environmental Schemes	268,739	226,665
B.4 Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme	249,000	246,812
B.5 Development of Agriculture and Food (Farm)	87,611	73,158
B.6 Beef Data & Genomics Programme	85,350	78,068
B.7 Knowledge Transfer	500	58
B.8 Animal Welfare Scheme for Sheep	18,500	17,881
B.9 Early Retirement Scheme	0	(27)
B.10 Forestry and Bio Energy	96,243	69,567
B.11 Control & Other Support Scheme Costs	17,721	14,556

B.12 Other Schemes	351	93
B.13 Carbon Tax Measures	23,000	14,214
Total	930,189	823,914

Programme C - Policy and Strategy

Programme C Goal: Provide the optimum policy framework for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector.

Table 6: Programme C 2021 Expenditure

	2021 Supplementary Estimate Total €000	2021 Expenditure Total €000
C.1 ADMINISTRATION - PAY	17,442	17,216
C.2 ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	7,178	5,706
C.3 Research Quality & Certification	29,893	29,510
C.4 Development and Promotion of Agriculture and Food (Non Farm)	15,422	5,567
C.5 Teagasc Grant	145,793	141,943
C.6 An Bord Bia Grant	52,550	51,550
C.7 Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund	97,500	96,000
C.8 CEDRA Rural Innovation & Development Fund	1,500	1,487
C.9 Food and Donations – World Food Programme	25,000	25,000
C.10 Brexit Response Loan Scheme	18,700	16,198
C.11 Other Services	17,603	12,669
Total	428,581	402,846

Programme D - Seafood Sector**Programme D Goal:**

Deliver a sustainable growth driven sector focused on competitiveness and innovation driven by a skilled workforce delivering value added products in line with market demands.

Table 7: Programme D 2021 Expenditure

	2021 Supplementary Estimate Total €000	2021 Expenditure Total €000
D.1 ADMINISTRATION - PAY	10,302	10,168
D.2 ADMINISTRATION – NON-PAY	6,417	5,015
D.3 Fisheries	38,007	36,375
D.4 Marine Institute Grant	48,990	48,351
D.5 Bord Iascaigh Mhara Grant	49,750	45,900
D.6 Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	22,810	18,042
D.7 Haulbowline Remediation Project	600	450
Total	176,876	164,301

Appropriations-in-aid

The Department's budgeted total appropriations-in-aid for 2021 was €363.789m, over 80% of which was to EU co-funding. However actual appropriations in aid were €386.665m, the difference due to a funding rate of 85% in 2021, which was reimbursed from the EU in December 2021.

The bulk of the EU transfers arise under the RDP 2014-2020 with the remainder relating to fisheries (EMFF) animal health measures (veterinary fund co-funding for BSE, TB etc), and some relatively minor co funding amounts relating to market support technical costs etc.

The balance of receipts relates to charges for inspection and certification services e.g. inspection of meat and dairy premises, certification of live animal exports, laboratory services as well as pension levy deductions and other salary refund receipts.

Table 8: 2021 Receipts Realised

	2021 Appropriations in Aid (Receipts) Realised	(€000)
E.1	Recoupment of Salaries, etc. of officers on loan to outside bodies	605
E.2	Forfeited Deposits & Securities under EU intervention, export refund etc.	364
E.3	Refunds from Veterinary Fees for inspection at poultry and other meat plants	17,247
E.4	Receipts from Veterinary Fees for Live Exports	871
E.5	Receipts from fees for dairy premises inspection services	4,712
E.6	Receipts from Sale of Vaccines, livestock, farm produce, etc. at Veterinary Research Laboratory and farm at Abbotstown; recoupment of quarantine expenses at Spike Island	559
E.7	Receipts from Seed Testing fees, certification fees, licensing fees, pesticides, registration fees, etc. and receipts from Backweston Farm	3,415
E.8	Receipts from farmer contributions towards the cost of eradicating bovine disease	7,866
E.9	Land Commission receipts	173
E.10	Other Receipts	7,579

E.11	Market Intervention expenses and financing costs for other FEOGA(Guarantee) section measures	0
E.12	Intervention Stock Losses, etc.	866
E.13	EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)	311,939
E.14	Veterinary Fund	4,711
E.15	Other Guarantee Receipts from EU (Agriculture)	41
E.16	Proceeds of Fines and Forfeitures in respect of Sea Fisheries	171
E.17	Receipts under the 1933 Foreshore Act and the 1954 State Property Act	147
E.18	EU –Recoupment in respect of expenditure on the Conservation & Management of Fisheries	0
E.19	Aquaculture Licence Fees	772
E.20	EU Receipts for EMFF	13,042
E.21	EFF (Fisheries) 2007-2013	0
E.22	Receipts from Sustainable Foods Systems Ireland	113
E.23	Receipts from additional superannuation contributions on public service remuneration	10,096
E.24	NGEU Receipts	1,258
E.25	Forestry licencing receipts	118
	Total Receipts	386,665

Table 9: Administrative Budget Expenditure for 2021

	2021 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET ESTIMATE AND OUTTURN	2021 Estimate Provision €000	2021 Expenditure Total €000
	Administration		
i	SALARIES, WAGES AND ALLOWANCES	214,031	211,253
ii	TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	7,299	5,400
iii	TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES	7,918	5,357
iv	POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	5,302	4,348
v	OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND EXTERNAL IT SERVICES	59,581	48,489
vi	OFFICE PREMISES EXPENSES	23,473	15,456
vii	CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND VALUE FOR MONEY AND POLICY REVIEWS	218	192
viii	SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF THE EU	870	1,088
ix	LABORATORY SERVICES	8,447	8,726
	Total	327,139	300,309