

SRDP 2014 -2020 PROGRAMME MODIFICATION 6**Recommendation required**

1. **The RDOC is invited to offer its opinion on the proposed modifications to the EAFRD operational programme.**

Background

2. Modification 6 will primarily address changes to the co-financing rate and changes to the financial plan and the subsequent impacts on indicators. The modification will also allow for LFASS 2020 at the maximum permissible rates and the removal of the Joint Programme Monitoring Committee (JPMC). Details of the proposed changes are set out in Annex 1.

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	Planned Change	Impact
Financial Plan and indicators	Proposed changes to co-financing rate and financial plan to reflect Ministerial decisions and current financial position, including forecast spend.	<p>Financial plan changes are required to meet forecast spend for schemes by the end of 2020/21 for example increased demand under the Forestry Grant Scheme and new entrants (due to a spike in applications prior to closure), removing underspend for schemes with reduced demand (e.g. BES) or that did not proceed (e.g. broadband), reflecting the maximum permissible to be spent on LFASS through the programme.</p> <p>Modelling is being undertaken to determine appropriate changes to the co-financing rate and financial plan to ensure that all EU funds will be fully utilised.</p> <p>The indicators will need to be adjusted to meet revised scheme budgets and to reflect scheme performance.</p>
LFASS	Introduce payment rates for LFASS 2020 at maximum permissible level	Currently there is no provision for LFASS 2020. Payment rates will be introduced that are at the maximum permissible which is 40% of the 2018 rates.
JPMC	Removal of the JPMC	<p>The JPMC has agreed to no longer operate and has agreed that three Programme Monitoring Committees to be constituted.</p> <p>The existing RDOC will formally act as the monitoring committee as defined in Article 47 of the Common Provisions Regulation and as required by Article 74 of the Rural Development Regulation. EMFF reports as part of the wider UK arrangements and a new Programme Monitoring Committee for the ESF/ERDF programmes has been established.</p>