

Green, Low carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) – ‘the Scheme’
Extension of contracts approved under Tranches 1 and 2
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4. Payment rates

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- a) What are the GLAS payment rates for the extension period? Will be the payment rates be the same?
- b) Will I need to do anything additional?

5. Penalties

- a) If a penalty is applied to my contract in the additional year (2021), will there be clawback on the action or on my full contract for the full 6 years or just for the extra year (year 6/2021)?

1. What does ‘extension of contract’ mean?

It means that the duration of contracts entered into under Tranches 1 and 2 of GLAS, which are due to expire on 31 December 2020, may be extended for one additional year – to 31 December 2021. It is not open to new entrants.

NOTE: As what is being offered is an extension to the duration of the contract, the terms and conditions as applied from the start of the contract will continue to apply, with some updates as outlined in Circular 5/2020. The pre-existing Terms and Conditions and GLAS Circulars dealing with, for example, transfers, force majeure and other situations which may arise during the course of the contract, will continue to apply.

2. Application Process

a) How do I apply for the extension?

An information pack has issued to all relevant participants, in which you got a letter telling you how you to apply, and two circulars – summarizing updates to Terms and Conditions and the Specifications – and a list of your current actions.

There are two ways in which you may apply:

- By agfood.ie where there is a screen where you can reply Yes or No
 - This screen may be accessed by clicking into the relevant GLAS application after you log in.
 - For agents a list of the GLAS contracts that you are associated with will be displayed.
 - Clicking into the GLAS 1 or 2 Proposal status will bring up the extend contract button → Clicking this will bring you into the screen where you will be asked if you wish to extend your contract → Select ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ from the drop down menu.

Or

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- By replying to an SMS/text message from Department, within 3 days of receipt of the SMS:-
 - using the text option, you have to reply ‘DAFM Y’ if you wish to extend
 - if you do not wish to extend, please reply ‘DAFM N’
 - It is important that you include the first four letters ‘DAFM’ in your reply with a space before the Y or N.

b) I did not receive information pack/offer to extend – why not?

The offer to extend is only being made to GLAS participants in Tranches 1 and 2 who have a valid GLAS contract on 31st December 2020 so only those participants received the information pack and letter.

(There is still a year to run in the contracts entered into in Tranche 3 of GLAS so requirement for extension to cover 2021 does not arise – so letters did not issue to those in Tranche 3)

If you are in Tranche 1 or 2, you may not have received the offer as your contract may be held or under review for some reason – for example:

- In the process of being transferred (where a GLAS participant has recently requested to transfer their GLAS contract and this is currently being processed)
- If the holder of the GLAS contract is deceased – in that case, the contract must be transferred to a person eligible for such transfer before an extension may be offered. Please note that all GLAS contract transfer requests must be made in advance, in writing, to GLAS Section of the Department. Information on transfers, and how to request a transfer, is contained in Circular 01/2019 which is available on the Department’s website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/01476-glas-2019-circulars/>
- The GLAS contract is currently being appealed so is held pending the outcome of the appeal. Subject to the outcome of the appeal, an extension may then be offered.

The extension will require the participant to continue to undertake the actions approved under the initial contract from 1 January 2021 (unless land no longer in possession due to expiry of land lease /rental – see below) to 31 December 2021. If the above issues are resolved in time, the Department will advise you in relation to possible extension as part of response to issue itself.

If, to the best of your knowledge, your contract does not fall into any of those categories and you have not received a letter, please contact the Department by either:

- emailing glas@agriculture.gov.ie quoting your herd number and details or
- by phone call to LoCall 0761 064451

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c) I didn't get offer by SMS?

Contract holders/participants who have previously opted out of the Department's SMS service will not receive the SMS to extend their GLAS contract and must therefore access the GLAS extension screen through agfood.ie to record their response.

SMS message did not issue to Partnerships with a GLAS contract. All Partnerships (a partnership member or their appointed advisor) can only respond to the offer by accessing the screen in AgFood.ie using their partnership ID.

d) When do I need to apply by?

All applications to extend must be received by 31st December 2020 via AgFood.ie or by responding to SMS within 3 days of receipt of text message.

e) I forgot to reply to text message within the 3 days - can it be sent to me again?

As the timeframe for reply to text message is quite short (3 days), the Department propose to issue a 2nd text to those who have not responded through either means by a certain date (to be determined) to give participants a further opportunity to reply by text.

If you have forgotten to reply to the text message(s), you still have option to apply using the agfood.ie option by 31st December 2020.

f) What happens if I don't reply by then?

Your contract will expire on 31st December 2020.

g) If I don't extend my contract, what will happen?

The contracts of those GLAS participants in Tranches 1 and 2 who do not apply to extend their contract will be considered completed on 31st December 2020.

h) If I don't extend my GLAS contract, can another herd owner extend my contract instead?

All GLAS contract transfer requests must be made in advance, in writing, to GLAS Section of the Department. Information on transfer is contained in Circular 01/2019 which is available on the Department's website at <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/01476-glas-2019-circulars/>

i) I am a member of a partnership; do all of the GLAS contracts held by the individuals with the partnership have to be extended?

Yes, the same response (e.g. to extend) must be provided for each/all of the contracts held by the partnerships.

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j) I am selling land in early 2021 that has had a GLAS action for the past five years. Will I qualify for the extension?

While you may still apply for an extension, the same rules apply as heretofore as regards selling land during term of contract, which are “*Where land with a GLAS action is sold during the term of the contract a full clawback of all money paid for the GLAS action on this land will apply. Where this results in the loss of a priority GLAS action, this may lead to termination of the entire contract with full recoupment. Where the action is not a priority action, the clawback will only apply to money paid for the lost action.*”

3. Changes to contracts

a) Can I drop an action without a penalty? Can I take up an additional action?

Your GLAS contract must be extended in its entirety in accordance with the updated Terms and Conditions and associated Specification, **unless** you are no longer in control of the land for 2021, due to the expiry of associated land lease/rental agreement to which an action relates under your GLAS contract. Such land must no longer form part of your annual Basic Payment Scheme (‘BPS’) application in 2021. That is the only scenario in which an action may be removed (‘dropped’) for extension without incurring a penalty. All GLAS actions on owned land must be continued for the extension period. If the parcel with a GLAS action is in your BPS in 2021, then the action must be delivered on the parcel.

Please note that it is not possible to alter your GLAS contract (such as taking up additional actions or relocating actions)

b) Some of the actions in my GLAS contract are on leased land, which is due to expire - can I still extend the remaining part of my contract?

Yes, this is the only situation in which you may drop an action(s) or part of action(s) on the land which you will not have in 2021 and still extend your contract. The land, for which the lease/rental agreement has expired, must no longer form part of your annual Basic Payment Scheme (‘BPS’) application in 2021.

This applies to all actions including priority actions.

In summary, you may apply to extend your contract and continue the GLAS actions on the land which is still in your control and form part of your annual Basic Payment Scheme 2021 application.

c) Do I need to notify the Department if I am dropping a parcel from my GLAS contract for 2021 due to an expired lease?

Yes. Where a land parcel with a GLAS action will not be part of the GLAS contract for 2021 due to the expiry of a lease, the GLAS section should be notified **before**

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submission of your 2021 BPS claim by email at GLAS@agriculture.gov.ie. Details to be provided to include herd number, parcel number and GLAS action details. Failure to notify may delay the payment of your 2021 advance.

d) Do I still have to declare my GLAS LPIS parcels in my 2021 BPS submission?

Yes. In accordance with the updated Terms and Conditions, payments will be calculated annually on the basis of qualifying actions delivered for the year in question, subject to submission of an annual claim as part of the BPS application process. Submission of this claim is evidence of your ongoing acceptance of GLAS Terms and Conditions, as updated.

e) I gained priority access to GLAS as an Organic farmer. I have since opted out of Organics. Will I qualify for the extension?

Where priority entry was granted to GLAS the conditions on which the initial application was approved must continue. Where a farmer qualified for priority entry due to registration with an Organic Control Body, these conditions and registration must continue for the extension period and for payment in 2021.

If, however, on entry into the Scheme, a participant had another of the Priority Environmental Assets and Actions such as rare breeds and continues to have that action(s) for the extension year, s/he may not necessarily have to renew/retain organic certification.

Any questions relating specifically to the Organic Farming Scheme should be submitted to organic@agriculture.gov.ie.

f) I gained access to GLAS on the basis of a priority action – do I still have to continue with it?

Where priority entry was granted to GLAS, the conditions on which the initial application were approved must continue. For example, where a farmer qualified for priority entry due to registration with an Organic Control Body, these conditions and registration must continue for the extension period and for payment in 2021. It is similarly the case with any other priority actions, including Rare Breeds, Natura, Bird actions, commonage and high-status water which must continue as part of the 2021 extension unless the action is lost due to the loss of control of the land due to an expired lease.

The loss of a priority action, at the time of application for the extension or during the extended contract, due to the actions of the GLAS participant may lead to a full recoupment of money paid to date.

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g) Is the commonage management plan still valid, even though there are no stock numbers indicated for a 6th year?

Yes, the Commonage Management Plan (CMP) is still valid. The participants must continue to meet their individual minimum requirements. The commonage minimum grazing requirements must also be met in the extension period.

h) Can I move where my Wild Bird Cover or any other action is located?

It is not possible to alter your GLAS contract (such as taking up additional actions or relocating actions) as part of your application to extend contract.

Requests relating to relocation of Wild Bird Cover (WBC) for specific reasons (e.g. public health) will be considered on a case by case basis as is currently the position. If a participant wishes to submit such a request for consideration, s/he would need to send in herd number and reason why they require to move the WBC, current parcel and proposed new parcel. A rapid field visit will be required to verify the situation on the ground and to identify a suitable new parcel if the move is permitted.

As what is being offered is an extension to the duration of the contract, the terms and conditions and specifications as applied from the start of the contract will continue to apply, with some updates as outlined in Circulars 5/2020 and 6/2020. The pre-existing Terms and Conditions, Specifications and GLAS Circulars dealing with, for example, rotation of catch crops will continue to apply.

i) If an action becomes mandatory or I am required to do it under a new regulation or Statutory Instrument, will I still get paid for it under my GLAS contract?

Under the relevant EU Regulation (namely Article 28 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013) if a requirement that is currently part of a GLAS action becomes mandatory by law during course of the contract, the action will no longer be eligible for payment.

j) What if I drop my all or part of my priority action because all or some is on rented / leased land which I will not have in 2021 – can I continue in GLAS?

Yes. You can continue the contract without the priority action if you no longer have the control of the rented/leased land. If part of the priority action is on land which you have in 2021, you must deliver that part of the action in 2021.

k) Do I have to prepare a new Nutrient Management Plan (‘NMP’) or amend my existing NMP?

Once the core requirement of submitting a valid Nutrient Management Plan has been satisfied, new or amended Nutrient Management Plans need not be submitted. Applicants must remain compliant with Nitrates Regulations, currently [SI 605/2017](#)

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European Union (Good Agricultural Practice For Protection Of Waters) Regulations 2017, as amended.

4. Payment rates

a) What are the GLAS payment rates for the extension period? Will be the payment rates be the same?

All existing GLAS payment rates are remaining the same for the extension period.

b) Will I need to do anything additional?

Payment is dependent on compliance with the relevant requirements stated in the updated Specifications. An extra requirement has been added to each GLAS measure outlining the requirements for the extension period, generally “*Continue the requirements as listed above for extension period.*” Any actions with an annual “rotation” requirement have been clearly updated and detailed for the extension period e.g. wild bird cover, grey partridge, Hen Harrier, Twite C.

5. Penalties

a) If a penalty is applied to my contract in the additional year (2021), will there be clawback on the action or on my full contract for the full 6 years or just for the extra year (year 6/2021)?

Any non-compliance identified will be reviewed in line with the updated Terms and Conditions for the relevant tranche and with reference to the principles of severity, extent and duration.

The existing penalty schedule is being maintained except for the amendments outlined in Annex 2 of the Updated Terms and Conditions for the relevant Tranche. These are available on the Department’s website <https://www.gov.ie/green-low-carbon-agri-environment-scheme-glas/> with the update also included in Circular 5/2020 which was in your information pack.

Where a commitment is found not to have been met, a proportional reduction to payment will be made – according to the severity, extent, duration and reoccurrence of that non-compliance. Clawback of payments for specific actions may apply to part or all of the initial contract period (Years 1-5), where there is conclusive evidence that the specific action/minimum unit was not delivered during the initial contract period, taking account of the duration and reoccurrence of that non-compliance.

Further Information

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Further information, including all updated scheme documentation, specifications, circulars and these FAQs, is available on the Department’s website at <https://www.gov.ie/green-low-carbon-agri-environment-scheme-glas/>

You may also contact GLAS by email to glas@agriculture.gov.ie or by phone call to LoCall 0761 064451

Questions in relation to **Nitrates** should be emailed to nitrates@agriculture.gov.ie

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