

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the amount allocated to each LAG under the 2014 to 2020 Leader programme; the amount expended under the programme in each LAG as at 31 December 2018; the percentage of the total spend to date of the amount allocated to each LAG as at 31 December 2018; the amount expended to date on project costs by each LAG as at 31 December 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

REPLY

LEADER is a multi-annual programme with a total budget of €250 million over the period 2014-2020. €220 million of this funding has been allocated to the Local Action Groups (LAGs) throughout the country who deliver the LEADER programme. This funding is allocated to the LAGs for the full period of the programme.

The remaining €30 million is available for schemes to be delivered at a national level.

Table 1 below provides details as at 31st December 2018 of:

- The allocations to the LAGs under the LEADER 2014-2020 programme.
- The total expenditure by LAG which includes the administration costs of the LAGs and the cost associated with their engagement with promoters to develop projects;
- The total expenditure expressed as a percentage of the LAG's allocation; and,
- The total expenditure incurred on LEADER projects.

There was a significant increase in both project approvals and expenditure in 2018. I am confident that the progress now being made by the LAGs in approving projects, along with the administrative improvements introduced by my Department, will result in a continued increase in project approvals and payments under the LEADER programme during 2019.

Table 1: LEADER expenditure data as of 31st December 2018.

Local Action Group	Total Allocation	Total Spend	% of Allocation Spent	Project Spend
Carlow	€6,416,803	€1,231,850	19	€766,514
Cavan	€8,522,286	€1,053,659	12	€398,960
Clare	€8,920,225	€1,736,249	19	€460,913
Cork North	€5,091,846	€1,293,448	25	€463,909
Cork South	€3,831,303	€792,008	21	€208,113
Cork West	€5,015,674	€983,997	20	€146,440
Donegal	€12,913,878	€3,224,321	25	€1,728,046
Dublin Rural	€6,370,438	€1,038,829	16	€376,806
Galway East	€7,655,851	€971,723	13	€213,670
Galway West	€4,540,033	€547,284	12	€102,284
Kerry	€10,219,868	€2,126,801	21	€724,370

Kildare 827	€5,261,600	€528,832	10	€57,
Kilkenny ,570	€7,791,573	€1,759,865	23	€562
Laois 8,690	€7,124,587	€1,017,114	14	€39
Leitrim ,803	€5,998,475	€995,787	17	€368
Limerick ,115	€9,276,594	€1,876,017	20	€480
Longford 398	€7,597,623	€690,735	9	€51,
Louth 238	€6,101,862	€845,134	14	€212,
Mayo 612	€11,121,432	€1,918,002	17	€496,
Meath 01	€6,903,124	€856,012	12	€37,3
Monaghan 873	€7,592,720	€956,612	13	€331,
Offaly 1,892	€8,036,764	€1,839,736	23	€95
Roscommon 518	€8,852,659	€1,043,305	12	€198,
Sligo 3,910	€7,655,648	€1,260,698	16	€74
Tipperary 879	€10,103,443	€1,463,204	14	€450,
Waterford 95,104	€7,522,796	€2,440,944	32	€1,5
Westmeath 216	€7,384,206	€1,010,155	14	€254,
Wexford 699	€9,840,141	€1,299,583	13	€470,
Wicklow ,759	€6,336,549	€814,807	13	€103
Grand Total	€220,000,000	€37,616,713	17	€13,164,126