



**Circular No: 04-2024**

**From: LEADER Policy and Operations Unit**

**To: All LAGs, Implementing Partners and Article 48 Checking Bodies**

**Date Issued: 27 March 2024**

**Subject: Updated arrangements regarding payment after contract expiry**

This Circular is being issued to inform recipients of updated arrangements to remove the requirement of all project payments being made within the contract period.

**1. Updated arrangements to remove the requirement of all payments being made within the contract period.**

Section 8.4 of the 2014 – 2022 LEADER Operating Rules, which deals with expiration of contract states:

*The contract completion (expiry) date is the date by which all works must be completed, invoiced and paid. The claim documentation may be submitted after the contract expiry date, and the grant may be paid at any time afterwards, depending on Article 48 checks and potential selection for inspection by the Inspectorate. LAGs are advised to monitor all contract expiry dates and ensure that all necessary extensions are in place at the time of project expenditure.*

As per Circular 01-2024, all projects must be fully completed by 31 March 2024 and final claims for payment must be submitted to the Department no later than 30 June 2024.



Considering the programme closing dates and LAGs not having the ability to extend contracts beyond 31 March 2024, the following will apply:

- a) All works must be completed by the project promoter within the contract period.
- b) Invoices can be accepted after the contract period provided the invoice(s) is dated within the contract period and clarifies that works were complete within the contract period.
- c) Final payment may be made by the project promoter after the contract period, provided it is in adequate time to enable the LAG to have the project final claim for payment with the Article 48 Checking Body in sufficient time to ensure that all claims are with the Department no later than 30 June 2024.

Any queries in relation to the application of this Circular should be submitted to [rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie)

**LEADER Policy & Operations Unit**