



Circular No: 10-2025

From: LEADER Policy and Operations Unit

To: All LAGs, Implementing Partners and Administrative Check Bodies

Date Issued: 10 October 2025

Subject: v5 updates to the 2023-2027 LEADER Operating Rules

This circular is being issued to inform recipients of a revised version of the 2023-2027 LEADER Operating Rules, with specific reference to updated sections.

These updates will come into effect from the date of this circular unless otherwise stated:

1. Acronyms and Terms 1
2. Section 9.6 - Revocation of the Funding Offer 2
3. Section 12.3.1 - Agricultural De Minimis 4
4. Section 19.4 - Recovery of undue payments 5

1. Acronyms and Terms

The following definition is deleted as it is covered under “LAG Authorised Officer”

Authorised Officer	Chief Officer or CEO of the LAG or officer delegated this responsibility for LEADER
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2. Section 9.6 - Revocation of the Funding Offer

This section has been updated to provide clarity on the process for the LAG to follow if a funding offer is to be revoked:

Start of revised section

9.6 Revocation of the Funding Offer

~~The funding offer to a project promoter may only be revoked on foot of an appropriately documented LAG decision-making members decision. The LAG may only revoke the LAG offer in accordance with the terms of the contract with the project promoter. A decision to revoke a funding offer may be appealed as per the appeals procedure (Section 23).~~

~~When revoking a funding offer, the LAG must:~~

- ~~• issue a registered letter to the project promoter detailing the specific issues to be addressed and giving a specific time and date by which a response must be received. This date should be two weeks (i.e. 10 working days) from the estimated date of receipt of the letter. The letter shall state clearly that failure to address the issues identified will lead to a revocation of the original funding offer;~~
- ~~• if no response is received, or the project promoter fails to satisfy all terms and conditions of the funding offer, a second registered letter should issue informing the project promoter that the funding has been revoked by LAG decision.~~

~~The funding offer to a project promoter may only be revoked on foot of an appropriately documented LAG decision. In the case where a funding offer has been revoked following due procedure, the allocated amount of grant aid will be decommitted. Reasons why a project offer may be revoked include, but are not limited to, the promoter failing to start or complete the project; failure to adhere to the Operating Rules; non-compliance with the conditions set out in the letter of offer/contract; expiration of contract, etc.~~

~~The LAG may only decide to revoke the funding offer in accordance with the terms of the contract with the project promoter. A decision to revoke a funding offer may be appealed as per the appeals procedure (Section 23).~~

9.6.1 Revocation process - still within the contracted period

When revoking a funding offer that is still within the contracted period, the LAG must agree to:

- issue a registered letter to the project promoter detailing the specific issues to be addressed and giving a specific time and date by which a response must



be received. This date should be two weeks (i.e. 10 working days) from the estimated date of receipt of the letter. The letter shall state clearly that failure to address the issues identified will lead to a revocation of the original funding offer.

- if no response is received, or the project promoter fails to satisfy all terms and conditions of the funding offer, a second registered letter must issue informing the project promoter that the funding has been revoked by LAG decision.

9.6.2 Revocation process - no longer within the contracted period

When revoking a funding offer that is no longer within the contracted period the LAG/IP:

- should already have engaged with the project promoter as outlined in Section 9.5
- must issue a registered letter informing the project promoter that the funding has been revoked by LAG decision.

9.6.3 Reallocation of revoked funding offers

The grant aid amount allocated to the project can only be decommitted and reallocated after 30 calendar days of the promoter being informed of the LAG decision to revoke a funding offer. The period of 30 calendar days provides an opportunity for the promoter to appeal the LAG decision by requesting a LAG review (section 23.2.1). This ensures that the LAG does not reallocate and commit funding in excess of the total LEADER budget available to it (section 15.2). The 30-day period will not have to be applied if there is an acceptance in writing by the promoter that the funding offer was revoked.

For projects that received phased payments prior to an offer being revoked, the LAG will be required to recover all monies paid to the promoter (section 14.6). In this scenario, monies repaid by the promoter are not permitted to be reallocated by the LAG, they must be repaid to the Department (section 19.4).

End of revised section



3. Section 12.3.1 - Agricultural De Minimis

Commission Regulation (EU) 2024/3118 changed the Agricultural De Minimis threshold from €20,000 to €50,000. This section has been updated to reflect that change.

Start of revised section

Funding from certain agricultural schemes managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is considered Agricultural De Minimis (Commission [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/3118 amending](#) Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013).

The maximum level of Agricultural De Minimis aid permitted over the three-year fiscal period is ~~€2050~~,000, which is included in the calculation of the maximum permitted De Minimis ceiling of €300,000 over three-year fiscal period.

Therefore, if the project promoter is awarded ~~€2050~~,000 Agricultural De Minimis aid over the three-year fiscal period, the maximum value of non Agricultural De Minimis funding a project promoter can be awarded is ~~€280250~~,000 over that period.

There is no requirement to ascertain the value of any Agricultural De Minimis aid the project promoter may have received where the LAG is satisfied from the information provided by the project promoter that the aid it is awarding under the LEADER programme and the combined value of State aid from LEADER and other public funding sources awarded over the three-year fiscal period does not exceed ~~€280250~~,000.

Example 1

• LEADER grant amount requested	€200150 ,000
• Previous LEADER funding (3 year fiscal period)	€40,000
• State Aid funding from public source (excl. DAFM) (3 year fiscal period)	<u>€30,000</u>
• Total	€270220 ,000

Declaration of Agricultural De Minimis is not required

Example 2

• LEADER grant amount requested	€480160 ,000
• Previous LEADER funding (3 year fiscal period)	€35,000
• State Aid funding from public source (excl. DAFM) (3 year fiscal period)	€50,000
• State Aid funding from public source (excl. DAFM) (3 year fiscal period)	<u>€20,000</u>
• Total	€285265 ,000



Declaration of Agricultural De Minimis is required

End of revised section

4. Section 19.4 - Recovery of undue payments

Updated Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) bank account details for the repayment of funds. Please note these details were previously advised under Circular 09-2025, but the Eircode has since been amended.

Start of new section

repayments should be returned through EFT as follows:

<i>Name of Account Holder</i>	<u>Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht</u> Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (Finance Division Current Account)
<i>Account No</i>	<u>0000169414370256</u>
<i>Bank Sort Code</i>	<u>95 15 9990-57-58</u>
<i>IBAN</i>	<u>IE28 DABA 9515 9900 0016 941E54</u> BOFI 9057 5814 3702 56
<i>SWIFT Code (BIC)</i>	<u>DABAIE2D</u> BOFIE2D
<i>Bank Name</i>	<u>Danske Bank</u> Bank of Ireland
<i>Bank Address</i>	<u>7th Floor, The Shipping Office, 20-27 Sir John Rogerson Quay, Dublin 2. D02 Y049</u> New Street, Killarney, Co Kerry

End of new section

Any queries in relation to the application of this circular should be submitted to OR2327@drcdg.gov.ie

LEADER Policy & Operations Unit