

# The UK perspective on the draft EAFRD Regulation

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# Outline

- Rural and policy contexts
- Resulting characteristics
- UK official position
- Additional perspectives
- Likely implementation
- Outstanding issues



# The rural context in the UK

- Many rural areas economically strong
- advanced counter-urbanisation (*esp in England*)
- little urban-rural sectoral difference
- weakening rural service provision
- disadvantage dispersed, and often hidden amid relative affluence
- 'classic' marginal rural areas mainly at the periphery (*N Scotland, W Wales, Northern Ireland*)



# The policy context in the UK

- Strong budgetary concerns (*EU contribution*)
- Uneven experience of Regional programmes -
  - *only N Ireland and Scottish Highlands have full continuity*
  - *England and Wales programmes minor or discontinuous, areas changed from one period to the next (Objectives 1, 2, 5b all of some value)*
  - *LEADER experience also very variable: good for some, failed in other areas. Stronger in NI, Scotland, Wales*
  - *agricultural administrations not fully involved in rural development agendas*



# Policy context in the UK (cont)

1. CAP 'Accompanying measure' experience  
relatively strong - *LFAs and agri-environment pre-date EU's formal involvement, BUT*
2. UK treasury historically reluctant to spend on  
'new' non-compulsory CAP schemes - *small environmental schemes, most restructuring aids removed in 1990s*
3. Strong environmental movement *with growing involvement in CAP policy*
4. Poor Agenda 2000 RDR settlement - *use of voluntary modulation for agri-environment growth*



# Results: RDR plans & measures

- Strongly focused on Axis 2
- low interest in farming competitiveness
- big differences of opinion *concerning importance / value / EU funding role for broader rural development*
- weak LEADER voice at UK level

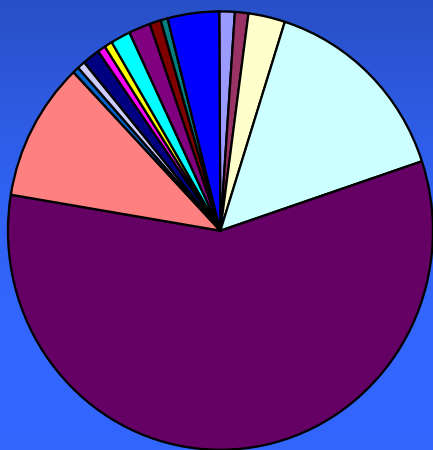


# UK RDR planned spends, 2000-6

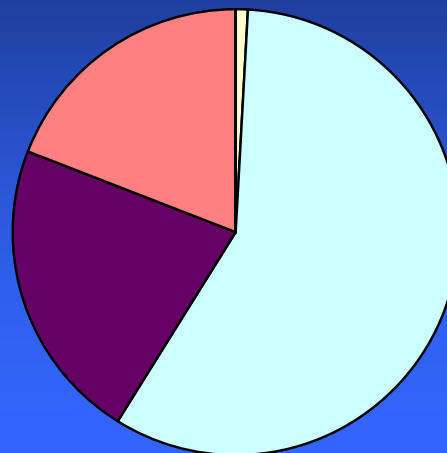
(total public funds)



## England



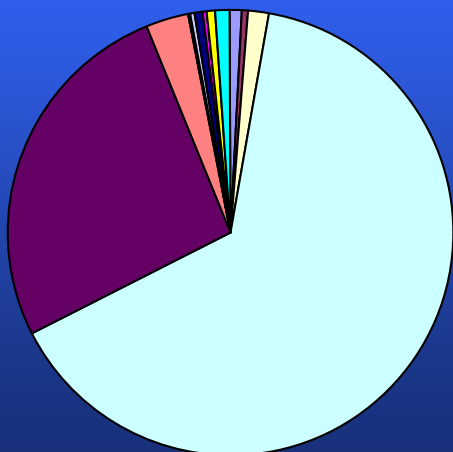
- farm investment
- training
- processing & Marketing
- LFAs
- agri-environment
- farm afforestation
- village and communities
- farm relief & managem't
- diversification
- rural services
- agri-infrastructure
- tourism & crafts
- quality farm products
- environment investment
- agri water
- other forestry



## Scotland

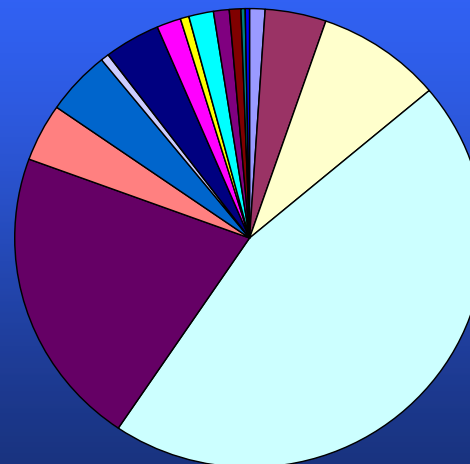
- farm investment
- training
- processing & marketing
- LFA
- agri-environment
- farm afforestation
- farm relief
- other forestry
- quality marketing
- farm diversification
- tourism & crafts
- rural services
- community/villages

## Wales



- farm investment
- training
- processing & marketing
- LFA
- agri-environment
- farm afforestation
- other forestry
- farm diversification
- tourism & crafts
- rural services
- community/villages
- other environment

## N Ireland



- farm investment
- training
- processing & Marketing
- LFAs
- agri-environment
- farm afforestation
- village and communities
- farm relief & managem't
- diversification
- rural services
- agri-infrastructure
- tourism & crafts
- quality farm products
- environment investment
- financial engineering
- other forestry

# Rough balance between measures, 2000-6

Country	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3	LEADER
England	13	78	5	4
Wales	15	70	9	3
Scotland	4	90	1	5
N Ireland	15	68	12	5





# UK Official Position

- Broadly supports draft regulation
- Wants 50% minimum for axis II, less on others
- Concerned re integrated delivery of measures
- Supports stronger strategies, monitoring and reporting, *especially on environment*
- Unsure how to react to LEADER proposals
- Pressing hard for increased UK allocation / new criteria
- Open process – all notes published



# Additional perspectives

- **Regions beyond England:** more concerned about broader RD and LEADER needs (*more experienced – concerns for continuity and innovation*)
- **Environmental agencies and NGOs:** strong voices, focus on outstanding environmental needs (*concern about CAP reform effects*) and integration
- **Local government:** much greater interest in facilitating devolved delivery, networking, protecting axes III and IV, seeking 'indicative' rather than 'eligible' actions, strengthening partnerships



# Likely UK implementation

- **Four programmes, with devolved delivery within each** *(eg to NUTS I in England, and different authorising agents for different bits of programmes in all four countries)*
- **LFA and Agri-environment will dominate spending** *(using further additional modulation), schemes will remain largely 'national' menus*
- **Models and delivery arrangements for non-Axis II will vary greatly**



# Possible non-Axis II delivery models

England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Devolved to 8 Regional Development Agencies, delivered via sub-regional partnerships	Variety of mechanisms ( <i>LEADER, Farming connect, Tourist boards, local partnerships</i> ) delivered by sectoral or area-based partnerships	Unclear - may become wrapped into new national LMC structure – <i>joint delivery at subregional level with axis II</i>	Likely devolved to new sub-regional bodies or regrouped IFBs from SFs legacy



# Outstanding issues

- Integration between land-based and other measures: how to achieve?
- Devolution of programmes needs to build upon non-England experiences (*need a better UK learning and exchange network*)
- Grassroots access to programmes is still very poor in many areas (*farmers much less engaged with non-subsidy aid systems, communities need more help – need to bridge farm and non-farm divides, local multi-sector capacity building*)
- Ongoing major need for institutional adaptation
  - *reshape (agricultural) delivery apparatus, increase transparency, local presence, rebuild trust*
  - *Learn and build more upon LEADER/5b lessons*

