

Rural Social Scheme Review 2023

Terms of Reference

The following terms of reference are proposed for the review of the Rural Social scheme (RSS) ;

1. Examine and report on the policy objectives, legal provisions, and rules underpinning the RSS scheme – whether these are still valid in 2023,
2. In accordance with the IDG Report on social inclusion schemes recommendations, review funding arrangements and governance.
3. Review the current administration of the scheme with a focus on implementing recommendations of the IDG Report on the management of RSS.
4. Explore the current cost and benefits derived from the RSS scheme with particular reference to financial costs, potential labour market displacement effects, and the benefits to participants and communities.
5. Analyses of trends on scheme data on expenditure, progression, sustainability of projects, social inclusion, etc. (could include case studies).
6. Consider what role, if any, the RSS can play in contributing to Government policy as set out in the Programme for Government and the Rural Development Action Plan. 'Our Rural Future'. This could include climate action initiatives, energy saving, biodiversity, etc.
7. Ensure all stakeholders can contribute to the review process through undertaking a consultative process.
8. Submit a report and make recommendations to the Minister for Social Protection and Minister for DRCD by date (to be agreed).

Frequency of Meetings and Secretariat:

It is recommended that the Steering Group should meet regularly. The Secretariat to the Group will be provided by Department of Social Protection.

Agreed : 22 February 2023.