



**An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide**  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

# Prospecting Licence Areas Open for Application Under Competition

1 February 2024

Prepared by  
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications  
[www.gov.ie/decc](http://www.gov.ie/decc)

# The Arrangement of Prospecting Licence Competitions

Ground available for application under equal competition is offered every three months through publications on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> November.

The following are included in this 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 booklet:

Table 1: Prospecting Licence Areas (PLAs) open for application under equal competition.

**Interested parties have two months in which to apply for such areas.**

All applications received during that period are deemed to have been received at the same time.

Table 2: A list of current prospecting licences granted since the previous competition.

Table 3: A list of all prospecting licences currently accepted and advertised.

Competition Publications should be used in conjunction with our Online Mapviewer Service to check ground status and availability.

You can view this Service at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/2f592-map-viewer/>.

**Table 1:**

**Prospecting Licence Areas available under Competition for the period  
1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

PL Area	County	PL Area	County	PL Area	County
2710	Dublin	1333	Meath	3839	Meath
1788	Galway	1334	Meath	3995	Offaly
3471	Galway	2882	Meath	1245	Westmeath
3313	Kilkenny	2883	Meath	3659	Westmeath
1319	Meath	2884	Meath	1196	Wexford
1331	Meath	3660	Meath	1198	Wexford

## Application Procedure

All applications for prospecting licences must be made using Form 1 (Application Form) and accompanied by a fee of **€190.00 per Prospecting Licence Area**.

The form is available to download on page 3 of the GSRO Stakeholder Guidance Document at [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - [Guidelines for Mineral Exploration and Production \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie).

Completed applications should be sent to [gsro@decc.gov.ie](mailto:gsro@decc.gov.ie) or by post to:

Geoscience Regulation Office (GSRO)  
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications  
29/31 Adelaide Road  
Dublin  
D02 X285

Prospecting licences should be issued within four months of the application date provided the applicant:

- complies fully with application requirements.
- responds rapidly to any queries.
- causes no delay in supplying a satisfactory insurance policy.

## Payments to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

The Department can accept payment by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) only. Each payment **must** quote your 5-digit customer number. For assistance or for first time applicants please contact GSRO directly at [gsro@decc.gov.ie](mailto:gsro@decc.gov.ie).

Each payment must be followed by remittance notice detailing:

- a. Name and address.
- b. Your five-digit customer number (eg. 12345).
- c. The date and amount paid into the Department's EFT Account.
- d. A listing of the specific Department invoice number(s) to which the payment refers.
- e. Where no invoice has issued a detailed description of purpose of the payment.

The remittance notice can be sent to [AccountsReceivable@decc.gov.ie](mailto:AccountsReceivable@decc.gov.ie) or by mail to Accounts Receivable, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan, H12 A8H7.

**All payments are to be made in Euro.** Applicants should be aware that bank charges can apply, particularly when applying from overseas. Provision should be made for these charges by the applicant to ensure the full amount is received in the Department's account. Failure to do so will lead to delays in applications being accepted.

<b>Bank Details</b>	Danske Bank
<b>Account Name</b>	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications Accounts Receivable
<b>Account No.</b>	0000 1058
<b>Bank Sort Code</b>	95 15 99
<b>IBAN</b>	IE31 DABA 9515 9900 0010 58
<b>BIC</b>	DABAIE2D

The Department cannot accept any responsibility for payments that cannot be identified due to lack of information. Should you have any queries please contact [AccountsReceivable@DECC.gov.ie](mailto:AccountsReceivable@DECC.gov.ie).

# Prospecting Licence Areas Open for Application under Competition

## 1 February 2024 – Evaluation of Applications

1. In order that interested parties have an equal chance of applying for newly available ground. Four times yearly (on 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November), a Competition list is published of licence areas that have been:
  - i. recently surrendered,
  - ii. offered to competitors but not accepted or
  - iii. made open for application following a period of non-availability.
2. Applications made in the following two months will then be considered on their respective merits, without any regard to time priority. A technical evaluation team will evaluate the candidate companies' applications against the following (weighted) criteria.

Criteria	Marks	
Quality of exploration programme:		45
Proposed exploration expenditure	20	
Coherence/Applicability/Comprehensiveness	15	
Dynamic nature of the programme (i.e., tempo of work programme)	10	
Availability of funds:		15
Funds at hand	10	
Funds that can be made available	5	
Applicants track record, experience of applicants and the quality of their previous work.		20
Proximity of ground to PLAs held by the applicant (where relevant)		5
Quality of PL application		15
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

3. The licence(s) will be offered to the successful applicant. Should the successful applicant choose to decline the licence offer, the licence(s) will then be offered to the next best qualified application.
4. The licensee will be required to fully meet the expenditure commitments and work programme stipulated in their successful application.

**Table 2:****Prospecting Licences Granted Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

PL Area	Licensee	Start Date	County	Minerals
3824	TILZ Minerals Ltd	05-12-2023	Limerick	Bm, b, s, g
415	Arkle Resources Plc	25-01-2024	Wicklow	Bm, s, g, PGE, REE, Be, Cs, Li, Rb
1716	Arkle Resources Plc	25-01-2024	Wicklow	Bm, s, g, PGE, REE, Be, Cs, Li, Rb
2053	Arkle Resources Plc	25-01-2024	Wexford	Bm, s, g, PGE, REE, Be, Cs, Li, Rb
3029	Arkle Resources Plc	25-01-2024	Wicklow	Bm, s, g, PGE, REE, Be, Cs, Li, Rb

The licensed minerals are abbreviated as follows:  
 Base Metals (Bm), Barytes (b), Gold (g), Silver (s), Beryllium (Be), Caesium (Cs), Lithium (Li), Rubidium (Rb), Platinum Group Elements, Ores of. (PGE), Rare Earth Elements, Ores of. (REE).

**Table 3:****Prospecting Licence Areas Accepted and Advertised Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

No applications have been accepted and advertised since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

Ground status information, historic exploration reports and drill logs are available from the Geoscience Regulation Office, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications at <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/2f592-map-viewer/>.

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