

APPENDIX TO Freedom of Information DOCUMENT
GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

B.M.W.

Border, Midland and Western Region – a NUTS II region covering 13 counties established in 1999.

Co-financing

Refers to a situation where a proportion of the financing of a scheme/project/programme is obtained from an EU source of funding.

Cohesion Fund

Financing Mechanism established by the Maastricht Treaty on European Union to finance transport and environmental infrastructure projects in the EU. Specific and separate rules regarding eligibility and management apply to Cohesion Fund projects, that distinguishes it from the Structural Funds. The Cohesion Fund, like the Community Initiatives, is not part of the CSF.

CSF

Community Support Framework – this is the document agreed between the European Commission and the Irish government, through which Structural Fund assistance is paid. The basis for negotiations on the CSF is the National Development Plan. The CSF includes an outline of priorities for action, quantified objectives and targets, and anticipated financial resources for investment, as well as monitoring, evaluation and control systems. Once adopted, Operational Programmes can then be approved by the Commission.

EAGGF

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (also referred to as FEOGA) – this fund is used to support agricultural incomes and structures, and to finance rural development measures.

ERDF

European Regional Development Fund – this fund supports productive investment and job creation, infrastructure projects, and local and SME development initiatives.

ESF

European Social Fund – this fund supports education and training measures.

EU

European Union

FIFG

Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance – this fund supports the structural adjustment and modernisation of the fisheries sector.

Managing Authority

Managing Authority refers to those Government Departments and Regional Assemblies responsible for administering an individual Operational Programme, or the CSF as a whole.

Monitoring Committee

Responsible for monitoring and supervision of expenditure under the NDP. Each Programme has a specific Monitoring Committee, and there is a Monitoring Committee for the CSF as a whole. Monitoring Committees represent a broad range of interests from Government Departments, Regional Assemblies and Authorities, implementing bodies, to social partners, environmental and equality interests and others.

NDP

National Development Plan – the plan submitted by Government to the European Commission in 1999 on priorities for investment in the 2000-2006 period. Two earlier NDP's have been submitted (for 1989-93 and 1994-99)

NUTS

Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units – a system of classification of regions across the EU used by the European Commission. For the purposes of Structural Funds, the most important are the so-called NUTS II regions and NUTS III regions.

Objective 1 Region

The European Union classifies different regions into three different categories for Structural Fund purposes. For the 2000-2006 period, the B.M.W. Region in Ireland is classified as an "Objective 1" region (defined as regions whose development is lagging behind). The S&E Region in Ireland is eligible for "Objective 1 in transition" status.

Operational Programme (OP)

Refers to EU co-financed programmes drawn up by the Irish authorities and approved and adopted by the Commission to implement the CSF. An OP can apply either to a specific region or to a specific development sector (for example, training and education). Each OP is administered by the relevant managing Authority, and will normally contain a series of sub-programmes, measures and sub-measures. The financing allocated to each programme allows projects to be implemented on the ground. The Managing Authority details the eligible projects and beneficiaries to individual schemes in a Programme Complement.

Paying Authority

Paying Authorities are those Government Departments responsible for making payment applications to the European Commission for drawdown of EU funds. They are responsible for ensuring payment to final beneficiaries or to intermediary organisations, and that proper payment and financial management procedures are in place.

Programme Complement

This document describes in detail the measures and sub-measures that have been described in each Operational Programme, and outlines specific budgets for individual schemes, the level of assistance available, project selection criteria, and the type of beneficiary eligible for assistance. The Programme Complement is adopted by the Managing Authority responsible for the relevant Programme, is approved by the relevant Monitoring Committee, and is sent to the Commission for information purposes.

Regional Assembly

There are 2 Regional Assemblies in Ireland, one each for the B.M.W. and S&E Regions. They are recognised at EU level as NUTS II Regions. The Assemblies act as Managing Authorities for the Regional Programmes, and its members sit on Monitoring Committees. The Regional Assemblies also have a general function to co-ordinate delivery of public services in their region.

Regional Authority

There are 8 Regional Authorities in Ireland. They are recognised at EU level as NUTS III Regions. Members of the Regional Authorities sit on Monitoring Committees. The Regional Authorities also have a general function to Co-ordinate delivery of public services in their region.

SME's

Small to medium-sized enterprises.

S&E

Southern and Eastern Region – a NUTS II region covering 13 counties established in 1999.

Structural Funds

The collective name given to the ERDF, ESF, EAGGF (Guidance section) and FIFG. The Cohesion Fund is not considered a Structural Fund.