

Operators who wish to use commonage must complete the following template and submit it to the OCB prior to inspection – each request for use of commonage will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the OCB subsequent to the inspection

Details	Responses
Name of In-Conversion/Organic Operator	
Name of Commonage	
Location of commonage and Agricultural Unit which has identified it under the Commonage Framework Plan (e.g. MA01A – Derryhillagh, Co Mayo) as this will specify the relevant permitted stocking levels. Information available from: https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/commonageframeworkplans/	
Area of commonage in ha	
Animal species using commonage (e.g. sheep, cattle)	
Approximate total number of animals of each species using the commonage <u>per calendar year</u> by all active users	
Approximate number of animals of each species which will use the commonage <u>per calendar year</u> on behalf of the in-conversion/organic producer	
Length of time commonage has been used by the in-conversion/organic operator	
Segregation between organic and non-organic animals will be assessed at the time of the initial inspection – this will require a hefted* flock or herd which generally stays within a specific area – is your flock/herd hefted? <i>*Definition of ‘Hefted’: A flock or herd that stays within its own area or a flock or herd which consists of sheep or cattle which have been bred or have used for generations the same piece of land, and they always instinctively return to this land.</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
How will your animals be visually differentiated from other animals using the commonage (to accommodate inspections)?	
Where use of commonage for an in-conversion/organic producer has been approved, a mandatory additional unannounced spot check inspection at the operator’s expense will be required. Do you accept this condition?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
A sworn affidavit will be required from the in-conversion/organic operator confirming that the area of commonage proposed for use has not been treated with products not authorised for use in organic production for the full 36 month period prior to use by the organic or in-conversion operator. In addition, this affidavit must confirm that no prohibited inputs will be used by the in-conversion/organic operator on the commonage for the duration of its use by the in-conversion/organic operator. The suggested wording for the sworn affidavit is indicated below.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

I/we confirm that all supplementary feed to which in-conversion/organic stock have access shall comply with the requirements of the organic standards.

Yes

No

I accept that any use of prohibited inputs on any part of the commonage will be subject to the terms of the Penalties Procedure and sanctions will be applied on a case-by-case basis following an assessment by the relevant organic certification body.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
In-Conversion/Organic Operator

Suggested wording of Affidavit to support the use of an area of commonage by an in-conversion/organic operator

"I wish to make application to the organic certification body for use of the area of commonage specified on the attached form in accordance with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 2018/848 as amended. In support of this application, therefore, I confirm that products not permitted for use in these Regulations were not used on the specific area of commonage for which application for use is being made, **for the full 36 months period prior to the use of such commonage for organic production** – in this regard I confirm that no substances prohibited for use in organic production in accordance with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 2018/848 as amended were used on this specific commonage area for the period from _____ (36 months prior to registration) to _____ date (i.e. date of registration with the relevant organic body)".

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Organic Operator

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Solicitor/Peace Commissioner

Stamp of Peace Commissioner or Solicitor: