

How to complete guidance

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Key Messages

Registering for RPW Online

To register your business details for the first time, you need to complete the <u>online</u> registration form. Please refer to the <u>how to register guidance</u> for further details. The vast majority of changes to business details can be done online. However, Welsh Government may require further details on any major changes. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre for further information.

Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Application – How to Complete Guidance

These instructions will give you step-by-step guidance on how to complete your Small Grants - Horticulture Start Up Application.

The Welsh Government produces this guidance in Welsh and English as required under the Welsh Government Welsh Language Scheme.

If you are encountering problems or are unable to access our website, please contact the RPW Online Helpdesk on 0300 062 5004.

Following Successful Submission

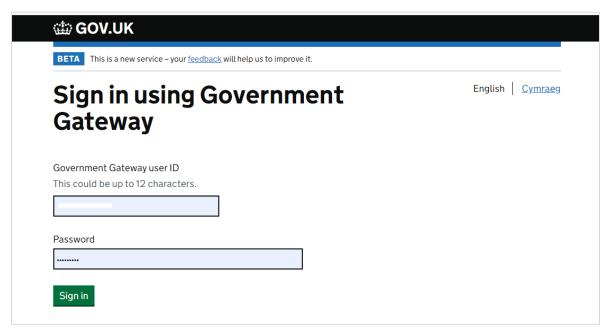
A summary of your completed Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up application will be added to the 'Messages' page on your RPW Online account under the title "Documents received by RPW". Ensure you check the information submitted thoroughly. If any of the information shown is incorrect, please reply to the Message detailing your concerns. You should do this as soon as you discover any incorrect information.

If you are encountering problems or are unable to access our website, please contact the RPW Online Helpdesk on 0300 062 5004.

Rural Payments Wales Online

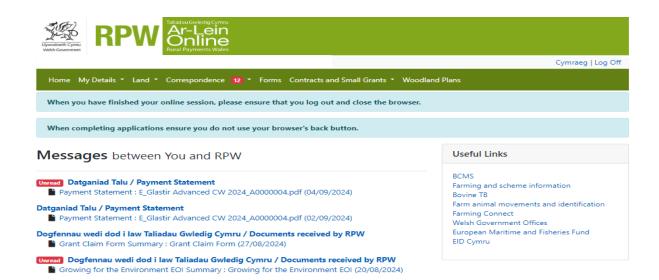
Home page

Log into your RPW Online Account – enter your User ID and Password in the boxes and click the **Sign In** button.

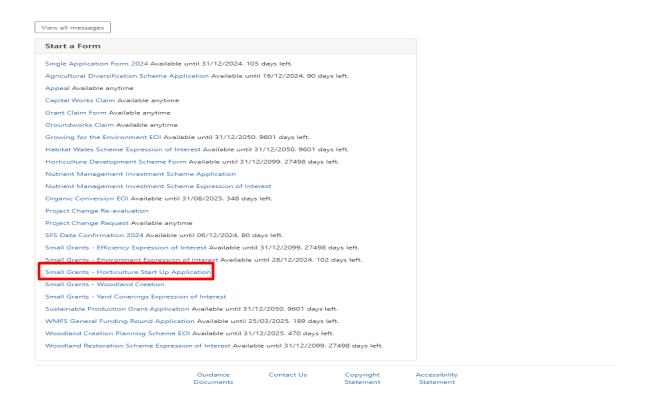


If you are encountering any problems or are unable to access your online account, please contact the RPW Online Helpdesk on 0300 062 5004.

Once logged in to your online account the RPW Online 'Homepage' will appear.



To access the Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Application, you can scroll down on your home page and select it from here.



Or you can click the tab labelled 'Forms' on the RPW Online home screen, as shown below:



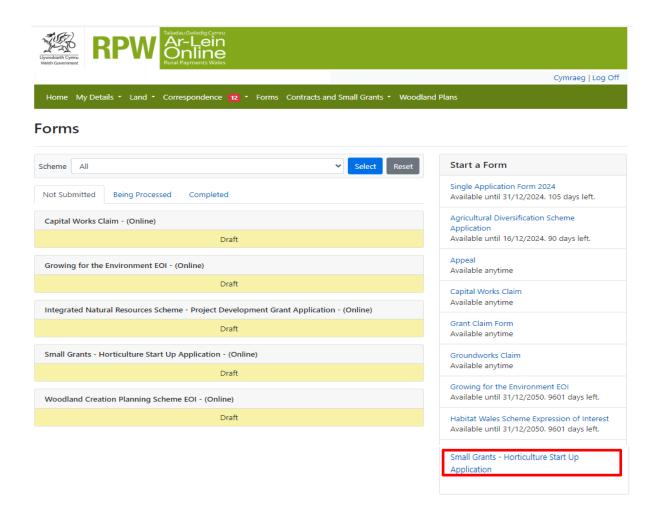
This will take you through to the 'Forms' page.

To change the Language at any time, click the **Cymraeg** button located in the top right hand corner bar of the RPW Online information. This will allow you to choose the language your Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Application is displayed in.

Applications and Claims Page

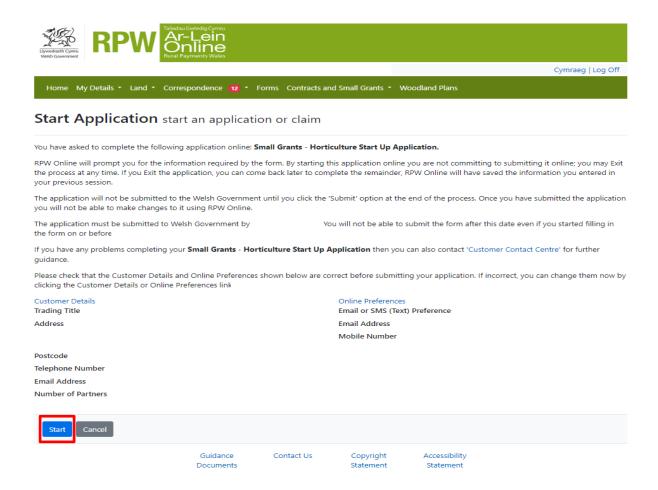
Once you have selected the 'Forms' tab, you will see the forms available for you to complete.

Scroll down the page to select Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Application form.



Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Application – Getting Started

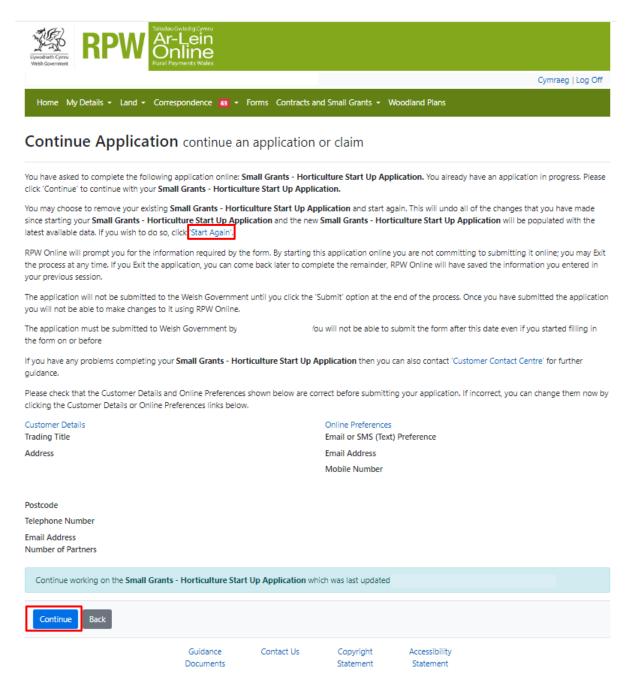
Once you have read the Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up General Rules Booklet to start your application click the '**Start**' button.



This page provides some information prior to starting the application. It includes a Customer Contact Centre link if required, and details of the Customer Details and Online Preferences we hold for you. You should check and amend these before starting your application if they are incorrect.

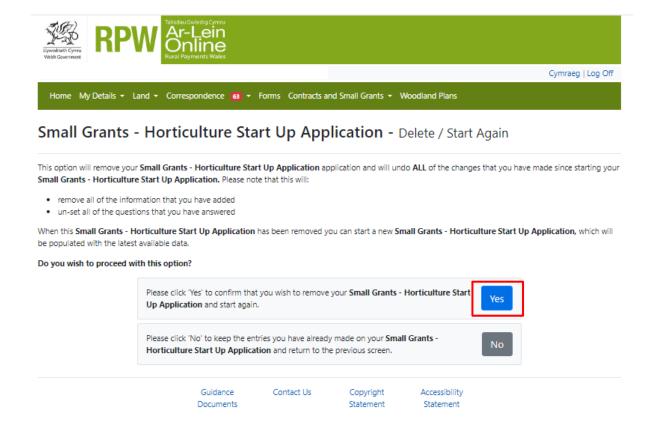
Continue Application/Start Again

Once you start your application, you have the option to leave it and return to it again. If you are accessing an application that you have started previously, then you will be able to Continue (blue button at the bottom of the screen), or Start Again by clicking the link shown on this screenshot:



Please be aware – if you choose to Start Again, this will un-set all of the questions you have answered and remove all of the information you have added.

If you are sure you wish to Start Again, click 'Yes' or if you do not click 'No', as shown in this screen:

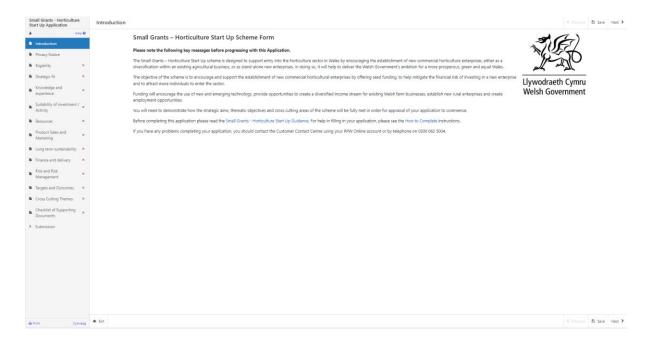


Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Application – Introduction

This is the introduction page which provides information about the scheme. For greater detail about the information provided on this page, please read the Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Guidance Booklet at <u>Rural grants and payments</u>.

There is a link at the top left of this screen, which will direct you to the How to Complete Guide on the Welsh Government website.

On the left the different sections are displayed. A red cross indicates you either have not accessed each section yet, or you have errors on the section(s). A green tick will display once you have completed each section and there are no errors we can identify. There are various navigation buttons at the top and bottom of the form. Also, if you wish to switch between English and Welsh there is a button to do so at the bottom left of the screen as shown in the screenshot below:

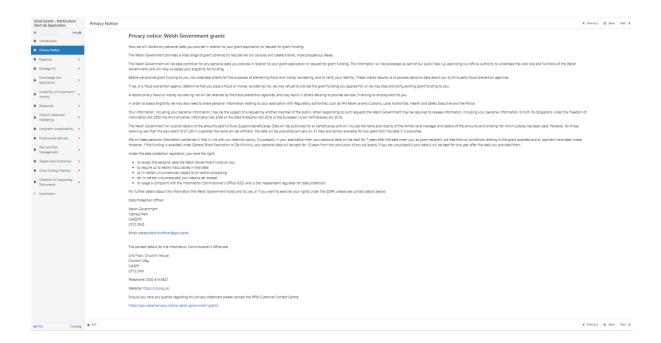


Once you have read the information, click on the 'Next' button.



Privacy Notice

The Privacy Notice page is where we set out your rights and what we may need to do with your information in order to process your application. You must read the Privacy Notice.



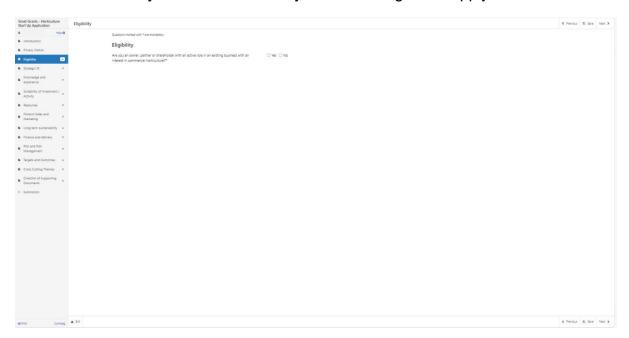
Once you have read the information, click on the 'Next' button.



Eligibility

On this page you must answer the question to confirm if you are an owner, partner or shareholder with an active role in an existing business with an interest in commercial horticulture.

Please note that if your answer is 'Yes' you are not eligible to apply.





Strategic Fit

On this page you will detail your relevant qualifications, for example a qualification in horticulture, agriculture or related subject. (Related subject could include crop science, marketing, food safety, business studies etc).

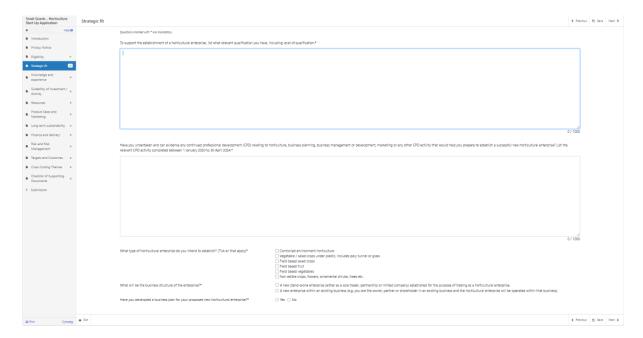
You will also need confirm and evidence if you have undertaken any continued professional development (CPD) relating to horticulture, business planning, business management or development, marketing or any other CPD activity that would help you prepare to establish a successful horticultural enterprise.

Please note: You must submit the following documents, where applicable, by the closing date of this application.

- Copy of certificates of qualifications.
- Evidence of CPD activity undertaken between 1 January 2020 and 30 April 2024.

You will also be required to confirm the following:

- What type of horticultural enterprise you intend to establish select one or more options from the list provided.
- What the business structure of the enterprise will be select one of the two
 options listed.
- If you have developed a business plan for your proposed new horticultural enterprise select 'Yes' or 'No'.

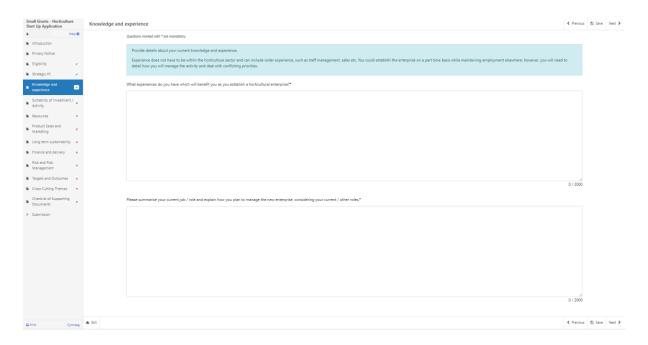




Knowledge and Experience

On this page you will detail your current knowledge and experience that will help you start a horticulture business. The experience does not necessarily have to be within the horticulture sector, but wider experience such as staff management, sales etc would be considered beneficial.

You will also be required to provide a summary/description of your current job/role and explain how you plan to manage the new enterprise, considering your current/other roles. You could establish the enterprise on a part time basis while maintaining employment elsewhere, however, you will need to detail how you will manage the activity and deal with conflicting priorities.



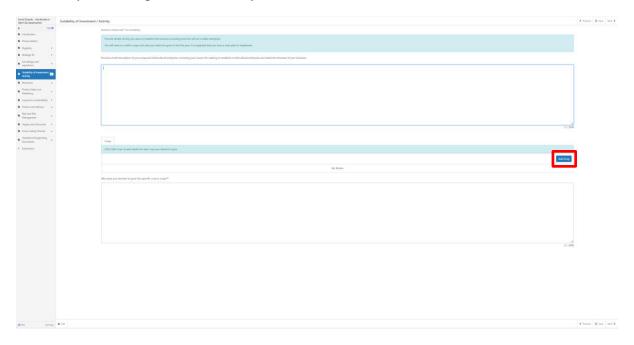


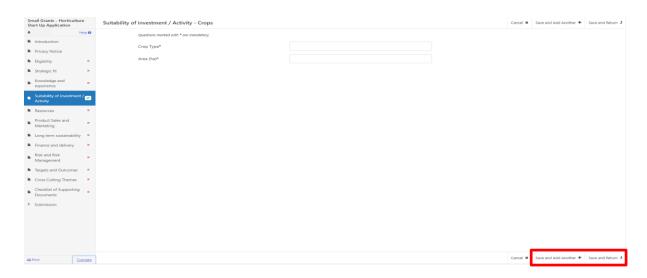
Suitability of Investment / Activity

The Suitability of Investment /Activity page allows you to provide details of why you want to establish the business including how this will be a viable enterprise.

You will need to provide a brief description of your proposed horticultural enterprise, including your reason for seeking to establish a horticulture enterprise and detail the structure of your business. You will need to provide an explanation as to why you want to establish the business to give confidence that you are doing so with the intention of establishing a viable enterprise.

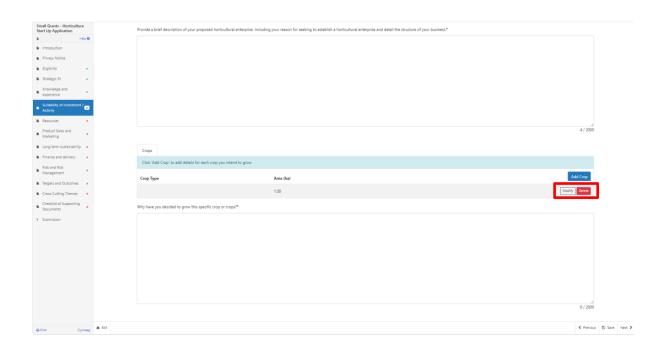
You will need to detail what Horticultural crop/crops you intent to grow, you should do this by selecting the '**Add Crop**' button.



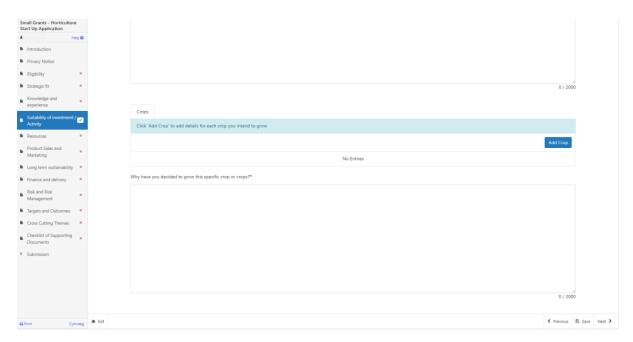


Enter the crop and the area you intend to grow.

If you intend to grow more than one crop Press 'Save & Add Another' otherwise Press 'Save and Return'.



You can amend a crop entry by selecting the 'Modify' button or remove an entry by selecting the 'Delete' button.



You will need to state your intention regarding crops, including the scale of the enterprise in the first year. It is expected that you have a clear plan to implement.

Once you have answered all of the questions click on the' **Next'** button.

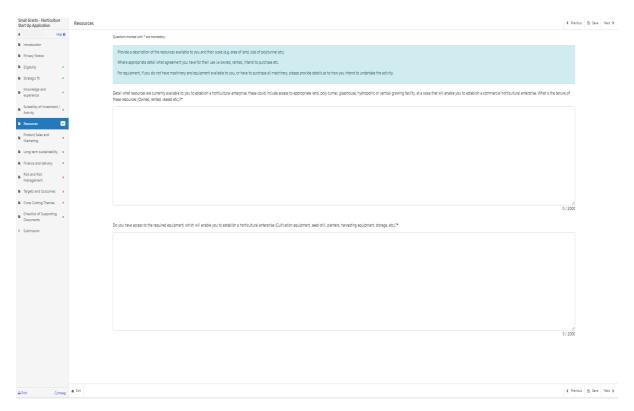


Resources

On this page you will confirm the resources available to you to set up your horticultural enterprise. This will include access to land, any facilities and other machinery or equipment.

It should be noted that if you do not have access to resources and have not explained how this will be achieved, you will receive a low score.

For equipment, if you do not have machinery and equipment available to you, or you have to purchase all machinery, you will need to detail how you intend to undertake the activity.





Product sales and Marketing

On this page you will confirm the details of your proposed market and any market research you have undertaken.

Local sales could impact on existing producers, you will need to demonstrate that you have considered this. If you propose to sell outside your local area or have an agreement with a customer, your application will achieve a higher score.



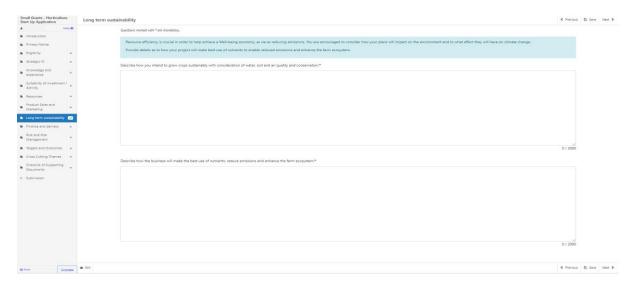


Long term sustainability

The Long term sustainability page is where you will need to provide details to enable the evaluation of how the project will impact on the environment and contribute to climate change. Resource efficiency is crucial in order to help achieve a Well-being economy, as well as reducing emissions. You are encouraged to consider how your plans will impact on the environment and climate change.

Provide details of how the investment will support the business to grow crops sustainably and enhance water, soil and air quality. You should describe how you intend to grow crops sustainably with consideration of water soil and air quality conservation.

Provide a detailed explanation of how your plans will commit to the efficient use of nutrients, reducing emissions and enhancing the farm ecosystem.





Finance and delivery

In this section you will be required to provide information on the financial aspect, compliance and delivery of your project.

You are required to provide details on how the Project will be funded, in addition to any grant awarded, and how you are going to comply with any obligations required. You are also required to provide a plan of the work that the Business/Organisation intends to undertake this will confirm the timetable of delivery for all activities and stages of your project.

You should provide details around the costs you plan to incur during the establishment of your enterprise for example capital investments, cultivation costs, seeds, harvesting, packaging, marketing costs etc.

You will need to provide a project plan detailing proposed costs and timeline for expenditure.

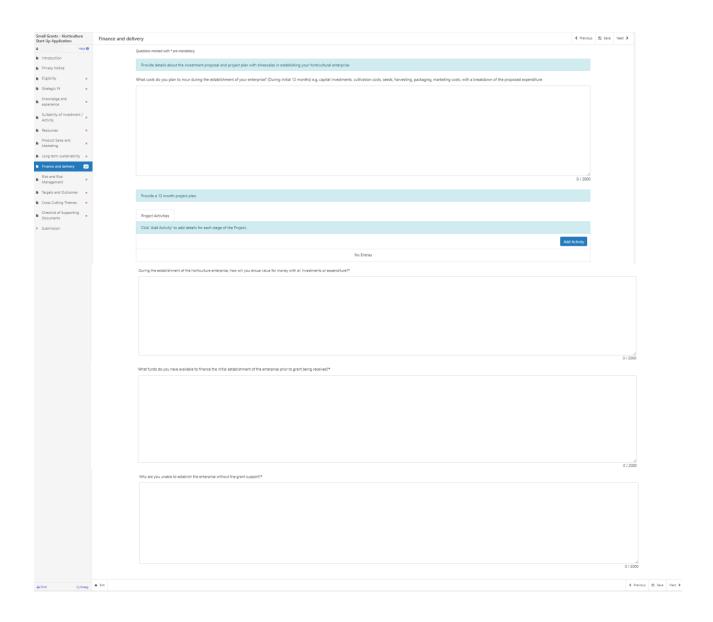
You will need to provide details of the proposed activities along with a proposed start and end date for each activity.

You will need to have considered how you source items to achieve value for money, including obtaining any competitive quotes.

You will also need to provide evidence of funding, sufficient to cover all proposed expenditure.

You will need to provide an explanation as to why you are unable to progress without grant support.

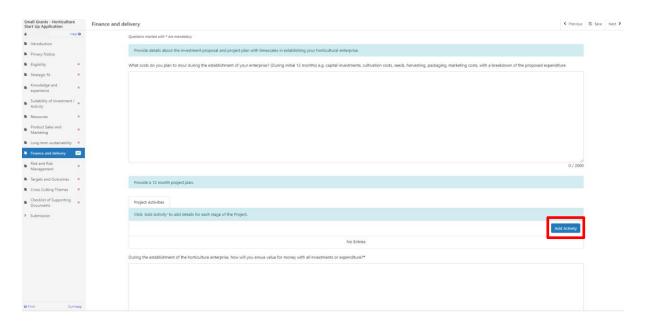
It should be noted that higher scores will be achieved by providing detailed investment proposals along with a detailed plan and timescales and also by having detailed full use of the proposed grant.



The questions in this section are mandatory and you will not be able to submit your form without completing them.

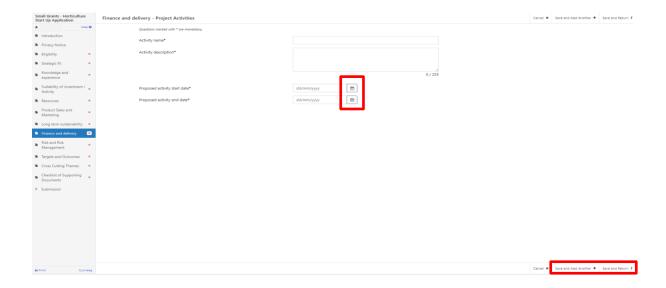
The text boxes are expandable and allow up to 2000 characters. This is not the number of words allowed, but the number of characters.

To add Project Activities click on the 'Add Activity' button.



Once you have selected the 'Add Activity' button you will see the following page.

Here you need to enter the name and description of the Activity, a proposed start and end date for it. Select the **calendar** button to add your dates. Once you have entered all your information, select either 'Save and Add Another' button (to add another activity) or 'Save and Return' button (if you are finished). You may enter as many project activities as you wish.





You can amend an activity by selecting the 'Modify' button or remove an entry by selecting the 'Delete' button.

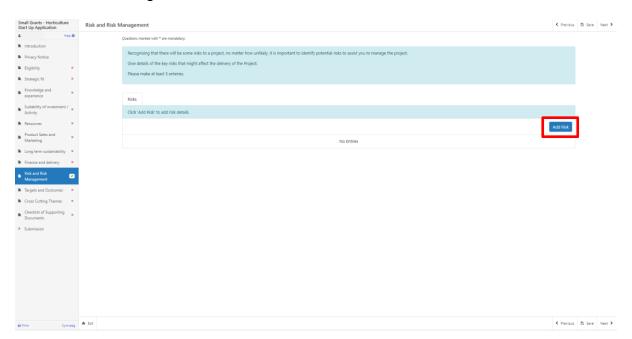


Risk and Risk Management

The Risk and Risk Management page is where you will use a table to set out a summary of at least the top five risks that might affect the delivery of the project and the achievement of outputs and objectives of the project that includes:

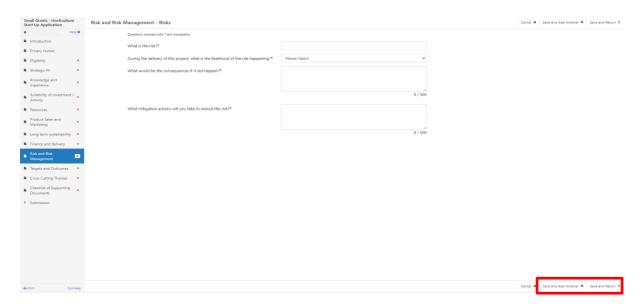
- What the risk is and what the likelihood is of it happening during the time that the project is being delivered?
- What the consequences to the project would be if it did happen?
- What mitigating steps might be taken to try and avoid it happening and what might be done to reduce the effect on the project if it did happen?

The question in this section is mandatory and you will not be able to submit your form without adding at least 5 risks.



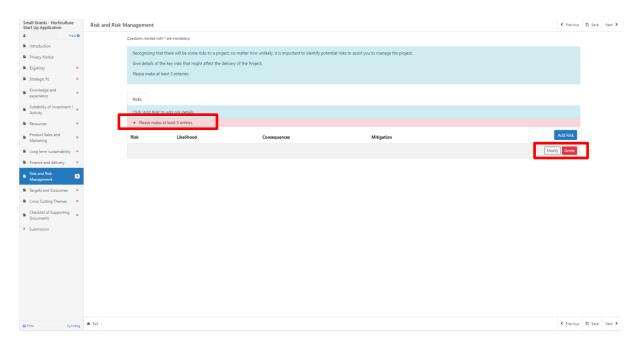
Click 'Add Risk' to start inputting your first risk.

Once you click this it will bring up the entry screen as shown in the screenshot below:



Once you have entered all your information, select 'Save and Add Another' button to add another activity or 'Save and Return' button if you are finished.

You will need to complete this for at least 5 different risks. If you do not provide at least 5 then an error message will show, and this section will not show as completed as shown in the screenshot below:



You can amend an entry by selecting the 'Modify' button or remove an entry by selecting the 'Delete' button.



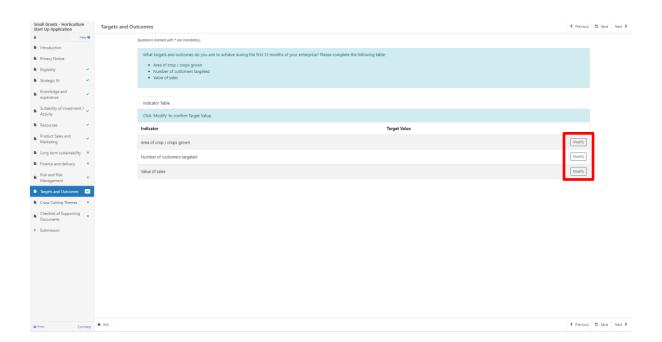
Targets and Outcomes

The Targets and Outcomes page is where you provide details of the targets and outcomes you aim to achieve during the first 12 months of your enterprise. You will need to provide the following:

- Area of crops / crops grown
- Number of customers targeted
- Value of sales

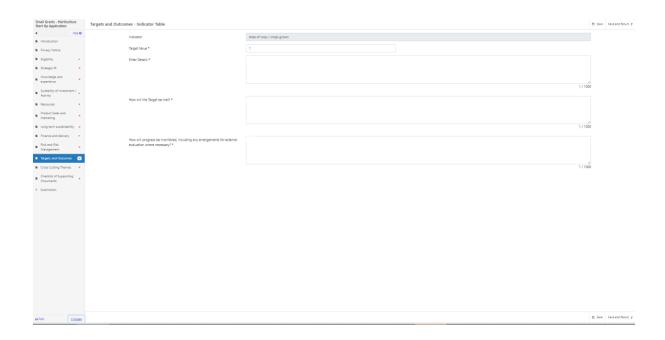
The questions in this section are mandatory and you will not be able to submit your form without completing them.

It should be noted that we expect that the targets you provide are reasonable and sufficiently ambitions for a start-up business. Growing a very small area of crop and targeting one customer would result in a low score.



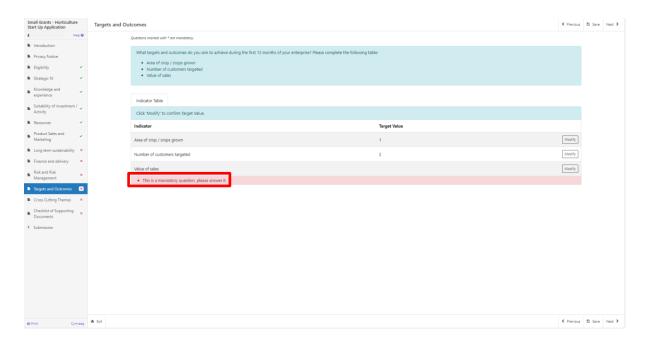
To add your target values, click the 'Modify' button for each of the Indicators in turn.

Once you click 'Modify' it will bring up the entry screen as shown in the screenshot below:



Once you have entered the Target Value select the 'Save and Return' button.

You will need to complete the Target and Outcome table for all 3 Indicators. If you do not, an error message will show, and this section will not show as completed as shown in the screenshot below:





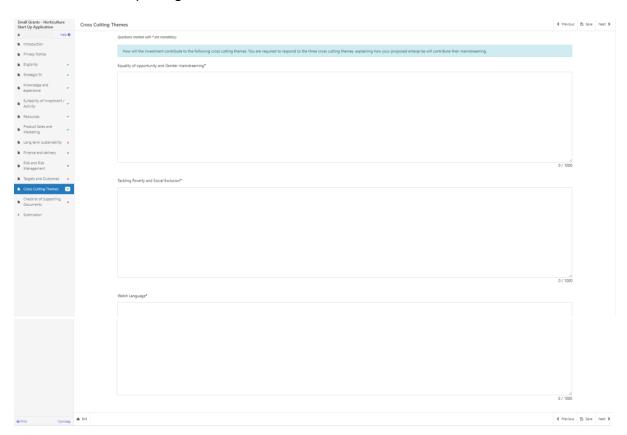
Cross-Cutting Themes

The Cross Cutting Themes page is where you will provide evidence on how the proposed Project contributes to cross cutting themes. In this section you need to explain how the proposed project will contribute to the below cross-cutting themes, explaining how your proposed enterprise will contribute your mainstreaming.

- Equality of Opportunity and Gender Mainstreaming;
- Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion;
- Welsh Language.

The text boxes are expandable and allow up to 1000 characters. This is not the number of words allowed, but the number of characters. Please bear this in mind when completing your form.

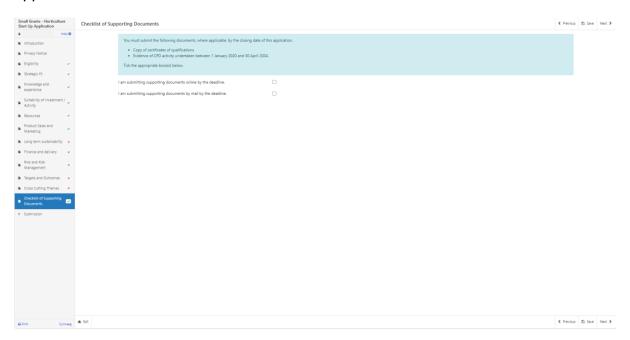
The questions in this section are mandatory and you will not be able to submit your form without completing them.





Checklist of Supporting Information

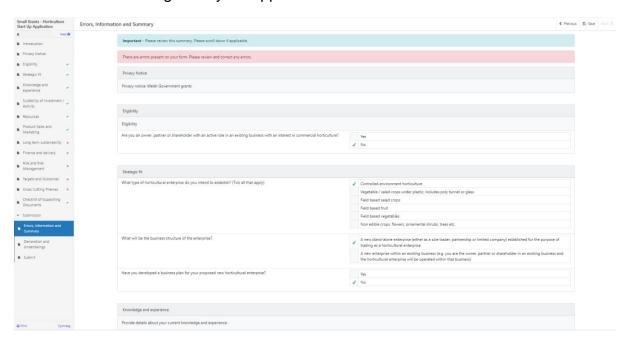
This page confirms any supporting documentation you need to submit with your application.





Submission Page – Errors, Information and Summary

This gives a summary of the items you have selected and informs you of any errors or information messages on your application.

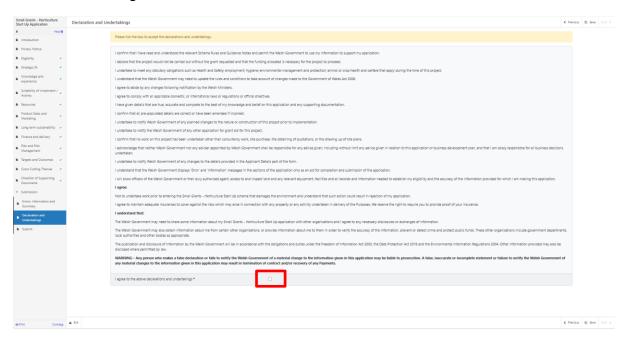


Once you have checked the summary and corrected any errors, click on the 'Next' button.



Submission Page – Declarations and Undertakings

You must read the Declarations and Undertakings and **tick** the box to confirm you have read and agree to them.

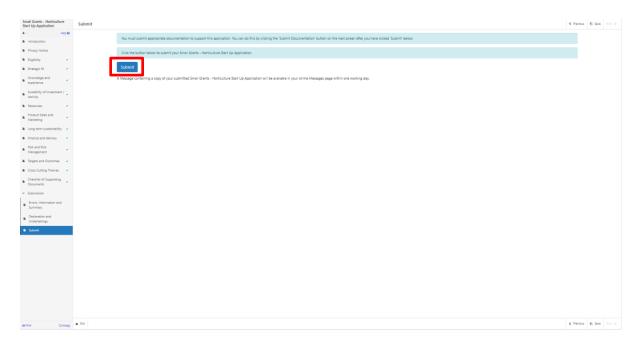


Once you have ticked that you agree to the Declarations and Undertakings, the 'Next' button will become available for you to click.

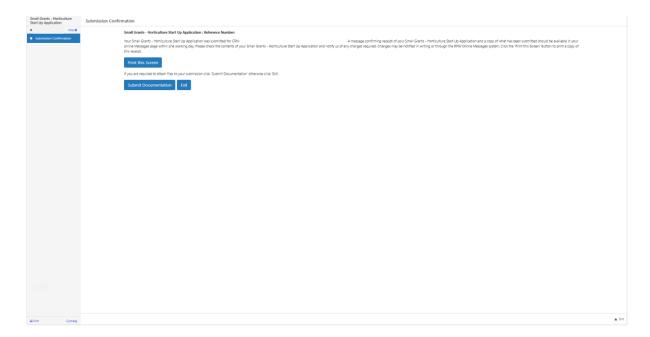


Submission Page – Submit

To submit your Small Grants – Horticulture Start Up Application, click on the 'Submit' button.



Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation which you can print for your own records.



Once the application is submitted, you cannot amend the items you have selected.

What happens next?

There are two possible outcomes from application appraisal:

- Your project is ineligible and is not approved for an award. You will be informed of the reasons why your application was not successful via your RPW Online account. You may apply again with the same project should further application windows be made available (amending the application if you wish), but only if you have not started a horticultural enterprise.
- 2. Your project is eligible and is approved for an award. A Grant Award offer letter will be issued to you setting out the terms and conditions of the award via your RPW Online account which you will be asked to accept within 30 days as agreement that you accept the terms and conditions therein. The Grant Award offer letter will also provide you with the authority to start work. You will need to accept or decline the Grant Award offer within 30 days. Failure to accept the Grant Award within 30 days will lead to the Grant Award being withdrawn.

Contacts

RPW Online

Access the RPW Online service via the Government Gateway at www.gateway.gov.uk, or once you have enrolled for the RPW Online service, access it via www.wales.gov.uk/RPWOnline. If you are not yet registered with RPW Online, please refer to the Welsh Government website for the how to register guidance or call the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 062 5004.

Enquiries – Customer Contact Centre

For all enquiries, please contact the <u>RPW Customer Contact Centre</u> Enquiries can be submitted via RPW Online at any time.

Access to Welsh Government offices for people with disabilities or special needs

If you have any special needs which you feel are not met by our facilities contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 062 5004. Welsh Government officials will then endeavour to make arrangements to accommodate your requirements.

Welsh Government Website

For all of the latest Agricultural and Rural Affairs information, visit the Welsh Government website. By visiting the website, you can also sign up to receive the Gwlad e-news letter.