

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL
2008



an bord um
chuntais dhíomhaoine
the dormant
accounts board

ANNUAL REPORT
2008

30th March 2008

Éamon Ó Cuív T.D.
Minister for Community, Rural
and Gaeltacht Affairs
Dún Aimirgin
43-49 Mespil Road
Dublin 4

Dear Minister,

In accordance with Section 45(3) of the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act 2005, I now submit the Report of the Dormant Accounts Board covering the period 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008.

The Report sets out the main activities of the Board during the time in question and includes information relevant to the proper management of the Board's affairs. The fees, costs and expenses incurred by the Board in the performance of its functions are detailed in appendices to the report.

In addition, as Chairman of the Board, I am also required to report to you in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies as issued by the Department of Finance. As some of the data is common to both requirements, I have included all into one report.

The Board recruited Goodbody Economic Consultants in 2008 to carry out a review of the second round of approvals under the Dormant Accounts Fund and the compliance of these approvals with the Plan as prepared by the Board and approved by Government.. This review will be of assistance to the Board in determining its thinking in the formulation of policy for the next Plan. I have already submitted a summary of the main findings and recommendations arising from the report and, in addition, have forwarded a copy of the full report to your Department.

I will be happy to provide any further information or clarification that you may require in relation to the Board's Report and my report to you under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Morley
Chairperson

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**Report of the Chairperson of the Dormant Accounts Board to the Minister for
Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs as required by the Dormant Accounts
(Amendment) Act 2005 and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State
Bodies**

For the period 1 January– 31 December 2008

Introduction:

This report has been prepared in accordance with Section 10 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Dormant Accounts Board is a non-commercial State Board and the format and content of this report has been adapted to reflect that situation. The Board has no executive functions and is purely a policy setting and monitoring entity. In addition, the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act 2005, sets out a requirement for the Board, not later than the 30th June each year, to report on the performance of its functions during the previous financial year and include in the report:

- (a) details of the costs and expenses incurred by the Board in performing its functions under this Act,
- (b) details of the results of reviews and assessments under section 31(1)(b) and
- (c) any other information that the Minister may specify

This is the third Report of the Dormant Accounts Board covering the period from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008. The report reviews the activities of the Board during the year, progress made in the implementation of legislative obligations and functions and an account of financial activities. As well as meeting the statutory reporting requirements, details of Board membership, attendance at Board meetings and sub-committees are set out in Appendices B and C. A list of service providers is set out in Appendix E. Chairperson's affirmations are set out in Appendix F and Chairperson's Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control is set out in Appendix G.

The Board, and I as Chairman, are greatly appreciative of the assistance provided by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the work undertaken by the Secretariat in supporting the work of the Board in a most efficient and professional manner.

While it is not particularly relevant only to 2008, the depletion of the Fund is of major concern to the Board. There have been a number of meetings between the Board and various Government Departments on this issue. The Board has identified a number of areas, which could augment the amount of funding available for distribution in the future and we would be happy to discuss these with you or your officials. In the meantime the Board is preparing a new three-year plan, as required under the legislation, based on the existing sources of funding.

Michael Morley
Chairperson

Overview of 2008

The Board was established on 4th January 2006 following the enactment of the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act 2005.

The functions of the Board are set out in section 31(1) of this legislation and are as follows:

- (a) to prepare and submit to the Minister, in accordance with Section 42, a plan for the disbursement of moneys under Part 6,
- (b) to review and assess from time to time-
 - (i) the extent to which the objectives specified in the plan have been achieved
 - (ii) the effectiveness of the strategies specified in the plan, and
 - (iii) the pattern and effect of disbursements under Part 6, including whether they have resulted in activities that, but for those disbursements, might not have been undertaken.
- (c) to make reports to the Minister under section 45(3).

The Dormant Accounts Act, 2001 together with the Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003 and the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act 2005 provide a framework for the administration of unclaimed accounts in credit institutions (i.e. banks, building societies and An Post) and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings. The main purpose of the legislation is to reunite account holders/policy holders with their funds in credit institutions/insurance undertakings and in this regard, institutions/undertakings are required to take steps to identify and contact the owners of dormant accounts and unclaimed life assurance policies.

Dormant funds/unclaimed life assurance policies, which have not been reclaimed by the original account/policy holder or their beneficiaries, are transferred each year by the financial institution/insurance undertaking to the Dormant Accounts Fund (the Fund) which is managed by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA). The transfer of monies takes place on the basis that the beneficial owner will have a guaranteed right of reclaim to their property at any time in the future.

The legislation also introduced a scheme for the disbursement of funds that are unlikely to be reclaimed. Initially the Dormant Accounts Fund Disbursements Board was responsible for overseeing the disbursement of these monies from the Fund. Pursuant to the enactment of the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act 2005, decisions on disbursements are now the responsibility of Government. The role of the Dormant Accounts Board is to provide independent advice and to act as a critical appraiser in relation to Government decisions. The Dormant Accounts Board also took over responsibility for disbursement decisions made by the former Dormant Accounts Fund Disbursements Board.

The Board's main activities during 2008 were:

Main Activities of 2008:

1. Managing approvals by former Board

The Board continued the process started by the previous Board of overseeing the disbursement of monies from the Fund. Pobal continued to administer the first round of funding from dormant accounts. The role of the Board is to monitor the disbursements, approve changes to the projects and decommit approvals where projects elect not to proceed or where they do not fully spend the approved amount. Increasingly, during 2008, the Board became more involved in administration matters relating to the approvals of the former Board. Specifically, there were a greater number of projects seeking:

- Time extensions. These were necessary in order to allow the projects complete their programmes of expenditure.
- Re-allocations. These involve a transfer of funds from either capital to revenue or revenue to capital. This is normal as it is most unusual for a project to be implemented exactly in-line with the grant application

In each of the above categories the Board has been mindful of the requirements of the promoters etc and have, whenever possible, within approved guidelines, agreed to the request.

In addition, there were an increasing number of voluntary decommitals. These involve the project voluntarily agreeing to decommit an unspent balance from their approval. It occurs in circumstance where:

- original estimates were not entirely accurate
- the project did not proceed exactly as planned and approved
- not all the approved money was spent
- the project did not proceed at all

There were also an increasing number of involuntary decommitals, where the Board, acting on a recommendation by Pobal, cancels a sum or balance of the approved amount. This normally occurs where the project has either not proceeded or the project promoters wish to proceed in a different manner to that originally approved. In these circumstances, the Board has no alternative but to decommit the grant.

The management of the approvals under the first round is an important function as there are financial implications arising from the decisions made by the Board.

This increased workload has also imposed an extra burden on Pobal and in this regard, the Board would like to acknowledge the most professional manner in which Pobal administers the grants on behalf of the Board.

A detailed summary of the Round 1 approvals, as at the end of December 2008, is attached as Appendix H.

The Board is also responsible for issuing the instruction to National Treasury Management Agency to release monies from the Fund to Pobal in regard to Round 1 funding.

2. Monitoring the Application and Approval Process of Subsequent Rounds of Approvals by Government.

During 2008, the Board actively monitored the progress of subsequent rounds of approvals as administered by the Government Departments. Generally, the Board was satisfied with the manner in which the process was carried-out, but on occasions found it difficult to get information on the actual processes involved.

In particular, the Board was anxious to ensure, as far as it could, that the application process and selection of criteria were in accordance with the Plan as approved by Government. On a number of occasions, the Board had concerns that the processes and criteria as applied by the Department of Education and Science were not entirely within the “letter of the Plan”.

However, it should be noted that the Board, at its meeting on Tuesday 13 May 2008, met with a representative of the Department of Education and Science, who allayed these concerns. There were a number of subsequent exchanges of correspondence between the Board and the Department resulting in a detailed letter from the Secretary General clarifying outstanding issues.

The Board engaged Goodbody Economic Consultants to undertake a review of Round 2 approvals. A summary of the conclusions and recommendations from this report are included as Appendix H to this report.

3. Promotional Case Study Booklet

A promotional report “Empowering Communities by Tackling Disadvantage” was launched on 23rd January 2008 by Minister Éamon O’Cuív. The aim of the booklet was to inform the general public of the success and impact of the first round of Dormant Accounts Funding. The document comprises 32 case studies of projects covering 10 themes of disadvantage. Copies of this report were widely circulated by Pobal and the Dormant Accounts Board to libraries, local authorities, RAPID co-ordinators, community development projects & local development companies.

4. Programme of Audits and Monitoring

The Board maintained a programme of audits to ensure compliance with the Board’s Plan and proper governance. In particular, the Board’s Audit Committee was active and Deloitte & Touche, who provide an internal audit function to the Board, met with the Audit Committee in October 2008, and decided that an audit was not required in 2009 as the review of past disbursements by Goodbody Economic Consultants included a thorough audit process. The review by Goodbody produced positive findings and the few areas that merited mention were minor in nature and have been addressed.

The Chairperson and Board are confident that the systems which have been put in place, while not providing an absolute guarantee against material error, are robust and

will ensure monies disbursed from the Fund are expended in accordance with the specific conditions attaching to each disbursement.

5. Establishment of a Review Process

As is noted elsewhere in this report, the Board has been increasingly involved in the process of decommitting grants. Given that this process is, in effect, cancelling a grant that was awarded by the previous Board, it was agreed that it would be necessary to provide such projects with an avenue to have that decision reviewed. Accordingly, the Board appointed that Audit Committee as the Review Committee for any projects wishing to have the decommittal decision reviewed.

6. Corporate Governance and Board Administration

In accordance with the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, the Board has approved and adopted a Code of Business Conduct specific to its particular needs. The code sets out a best practice model of corporate governance structures for the Board, including fulfilment of legal, accountability, and other formal management requirements in legislation.

The Board is supported by a small secretariat comprising one member of staff from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. An external adviser (Mr. David Lovegrove, former Secretary to Forfás) was engaged initially by the Board in February 2006 to support the Board in its work. This function was the subject of a competitive tender process in early 2008, resulting in the Board awarding Mr Lovegrove a three-year contract.

His role includes advising the Board in relation to the preparation and implementation of the Disbursement Plan and implementation of appropriate governance structures for the Board and Secretariat.

The functions of the Secretariat to date have included:

- provision of an effective secretariat to Board meetings;
- assisting the Board in the preparation of the Disbursement Plan;

:
Appendix A

2008 Expenditure

Item	Amount €
Board Fees 2008 (including PAYE)	79,498.00
Board Costs:	
Travel & Sub	5,914.92
Meeting costs	2,294.04
	8,208.96
Consultancy Fees:	
Board's Adviser	41,080.61
Goodbody	39,286.99
KMB	949.50
	81,317.10
Insurance costs	10,567.07
	10,567.07
Print, Design, Web, Launch	
Sign (Plaques)	2,389.75
Park (Invites)	5,239.30
Q4 (PR)	3,887.73
Eirtrade (Web)	162.14
Davenport –Launch	2,309.50
	13,988.42
Translation	1,210.00
	1,210.00
Legal Advice	
Maples & Calder	5,118.18
	5,118.18
Total	199,907.73

The figure for 2008, of €199,907.73 compares with a figure of €226,177.73 for 2007

Appendix B

Board Members of the Dormant Accounts Board 2008

Chairperson

Michael Morley (Former Secretary/Financial Controller of Connacht Gold Co-op)

Members

Kate Feely (Principal Social Worker in Child and Adolescent Health)

Marion Hackett (School Principal)

Áine Hyland (Retired Vice President of UCC)

Rosaleen Glackin (former Deputy General Secretary of the Civil and Public Service Union)

Noel McPartland (Company Director, active in charitable and community groups)

Mary Maguire (Community Employment Administrator)

David Martin (Company Director)

Pat Farrell (Chief Executive, Irish Banking Federation - retired from Board in February 2008)

Colin Wilson (Taxation Consultant)

Des Gunning (Governor, Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital)

Eimer O'Rourke (Head of Retail Banking, Irish Banking Federation – appointed to replace Pat Farrell)

Appendix C

Record of Board Attendance in 2008:

There were a total of 10 Board meetings in 2008. The attendance record of the Board Members for 2008 is shown below:

Member	Meetings attended	Number of meetings eligible to attend
Michael Morley	10	10
Kate Feely	8	10
Rosaleen Glackin	5	10
Marian Hackett	9	10
Áine Hyland	9	10
David Martin	9	10
Noel Mc Partland	9	10
Mary Maguire	8	10
Colin Wilson	10	10
Des Gunning	9	9
Eimer O'Rourke	6	7
Pat Farrell	1	1

Appendix D

Composition of Audit Committee and Record of Attendance in 2008:

Board Sub Committees

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee was formed in 2006 and provides an independent review and advisory function in co-operation with the Board regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of controls and systems and their operation. This committee met 6 times in 2008.

Member	Meetings attended	Total number of meetings
David Martin	6	6
Marian Hackett	6	6
Colin Wilson	6	6

Appendix E

List of Service Providers in 2008

The following service providers are noted as having a contract with the Board.

- **Insurance**

Marsh Ireland Ltd. was successful in its bid for the award of the contract for provision of an insurance programme to the Dormant Accounts Fund Disbursement Board following a tender process in 2003. Ministerial approval was received for this appointment and Marsh Ireland Ltd. continued to provide this service for the Board after its establishment in January 2006. It is worth noting that the annual premium for the Board's insurances continues to decline as a result of a diminishing liability. In addition, the premium for 2009 has been substantially reduced following intervention by the Board.

- **Advisor to the Board**

In February 2008 the Board approved the appointment of suitably qualified person/provider to provide an advisory service to the Board in order to assist it in carrying out its statutory functions. Following a tender process, David Lovegrove of Lovegrove & Associates was successful in its bid for the award of the contract for provision of advisory services to the Board. Ministerial approval was received for this appointment.

- **Goodbody Economic Consultants**

In March 2007, the Board established a multi party 3-year framework agreement of suitable economic consultants for the provision of review and assessment services of plans and strategies for disbursements under the Fund. This was awarded to three economic consultants: Indecon International Economic Consultants, Goodbody Economic Consultants and EPS Consulting Ltd. The initial contract (for the review of effectiveness of past disbursements with recommendations for an agreed set of measures for future reviews) was awarded to Goodbody Economic Consultants in March 2007. A further contract, to evaluate the effectiveness of approvals made under Round 2 of the Dormant Accounts funding scheme and the compliance of those approvals with the relevant legislation and the Board's Disbursement Plan, was awarded to Goodbody Economic Consultants.

- **Legal Advice**

Maples & Calder were employed to provide legal advice to the Board in 2008. They replaced Kennedy, McGonagle, Ballagh (KMB), who had been the previous providers.

- **Launch of Brochure**

A publication entitled “Empowering Communities by Tackling Disadvantage” profiling some of the projects that have benefited directly from the Dormant Accounts Fund was launched in January 2008. The following firms were employed to provide services in relation to the launch:

Printing work - Park Printing
Public Relations - Q4
Provision of Plaques - Sign Warehouse

Appendix F

Chairperson's Affirmations:

1. I affirm that the appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit and procurement have been put in place. The Board has established an Audit Committee, comprising of three Board Members, with a Terms of Reference approved by the Board. The Audit Committee meets regularly and has adopted a programme of audits, which is being implemented by the internal auditors.

I attach a statement (Appendix G) on the Board's system of internal financial control in the format as set out in Appendix E of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

2. I affirm that during the period covered by this report the Board did not establish any subsidiaries or joint ventures or acquire any shares or undertake any such activities
3. I affirm that during the period covered by this report the Board did not acquire any assets of a commercial nature and that the Board did not dispose of any assets.
4. I affirm that the Code of Business Conduct developed and adopted by the Board has been adhered to.
5. I confirm that the Government guidelines on the payment of fees to Members of State Boards are being complied with. In this regard, the payment of fees to Members of the Board is in accordance with the sanction received from the Minister for Finance.
6. Apart from the appraisal of recommendations from Pobal for reallocations or decommitals to existing approvals, I confirm that the Board did not engage in the appraisal or management of any capital expenditure proposals during the period covered by this report for its own part.
7. I confirm that the Board has complied with its obligations under the tax laws.
8. I confirm that the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies has been adopted by the Board and is being fully complied with as appropriate to a non-commercial State Board.

Michael Morley
Chairperson
30 March 2009

Appendix G

Chairperson's Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control

The Chairperson of the Dormant Accounts Board is responsible for ensuring that the Board's system of internal financial control operates to the highest professional standards. An Audit Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the internal audit function of the Board, has been established comprising three members of the Board. The functions, duties and terms of reference of the Audit Committee have been approved by the Board.

The Board does not have the administrative resources to directly operate the internal audit function and therefore retained external expertise to undertake this role on its behalf. Deloitte & Touche were appointed as internal auditors to the previous Board and have been retained by the current Board. The internal auditors report directly to the Audit Committee through the Chairperson of that Committee.

Deloitte have prepared a Strategic Internal Audit Plan specifying the planned audit activity to be carried out. This Plan was reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee. During 2006, Deloitte continued implementing the plan. However, due to the diminished responsibilities of the Board, the extent of the audit programme was reduced in 2008 and subsequently, the Board agreed that it was not necessary to have an audit function.

In carrying out its work, the internal auditors include testing of specific areas covered by the Audit Committee's charter to ensure the Board is complying with all requirements. The internal auditors have also reviewed the systems in place in Pobal in relation to their role in the administration of the funding programme.

Given the mandate of the Board, as set out in legislation, which relates to policy setting and monitoring, without any executive functions, the likelihood of financial mis-management is minimal. The Board has adopted the procurement procedures of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. In addition, all payments relating to the Board's activities are processed by the Departments Accounting Section and have to comply with all Departmental procedures.

During 2008, the Audit Committee reported to the Board on a regular basis in relation to ongoing activity. The Chairperson and the Board are confident that the systems which have been put in place, while not providing an absolute guarantee against material error, are robust and will ensure monies disbursed from the Fund are expended in accordance with the specific conditions attaching to each disbursement.

Appendix H

Main conclusions and recommendations arising from the

Report by Goodbody Economic Consultants

Conclusions

- Overall, 3,785 projects were allocated funding of €74.6 million under Round 2 of the Dormant Accounts funding scheme. Projects falling under the theme of Economic and Social Disadvantage were allocated the largest proportion of funding at €29.7m, followed by projects falling under the Disability theme (€23.9m), followed by projects falling under the Education theme (€20.9m).
- At the end of May 2008, €29.2 million, or 34.3 per cent of total funds approved under the various Funding Measures had been drawn down. Projects tackling Economic and Social Disadvantage had the highest rate of drawdown (39.1 per cent), followed by those targeting Educational Disadvantage (37.1 per cent). Projects targeting Persons with a Disability made the least progress overall, with just 24.8 per cent of funds drawn down by 31st May 2008.
- Experience gained in administering Round 1 was generally put to very good effect in Round 2. A comparative analysis *on capital projects only* shows that, once measures were commenced, the average time-lines for Round 2 were, in general, considerably shorter than those for Round 1.
- The sheer number of measures implemented put a strain on the capacity of Pobal and the Department of Education. This resulted in staggered starting dates and may have contributed to the delay in furnishing data for this report and for monitoring in general. The fact that a single agency did not have responsibility for administering all measures contributed to a lack of completeness in the monitoring information.
- The measure and project application and appraisal systems place a high value on demonstration of need. However, where measures funded a large number of projects for small amounts, there must be some doubt as to whether the most pressing needs were always prioritised. The evidence from the projects indicates that efforts to identify need *were* made and that this need was subsequently confirmed in the majority of cases.
- With regard to work additionality, the vast bulk of the project sponsors in the case studies believed and provided anecdotal evidence that they were undertaking activities that would not occur in the absence of their initiatives.

- The sustainability of capital projects is relatively good. However, on the evidence of the case studies, a majority of operational projects have sustainability issues. This raises questions as to the role of the Dormant Accounts fund in respect of operational projects, in terms of lasting value of the projects implemented, the extent to which they simply give rise to raised expectations that are not subsequently met, and the relative importance of funding projects to deliver services as opposed to testing new approaches to service delivery.
- On the basis of evidence that has been made available to the consultants, it is their considered view that Value for Money has, on balance, been obtained from Round 2 funding.
- The focus on performance indicators and monitoring is very much front-loaded towards project set-up and gaining approval for funding. There needs to be a much greater concentration of resources, from all the stakeholders involved, on measuring performance *post hoc*.
- There is a need to improve the methodology of performance monitoring of projects. The current system fails to reflect the extent and type of outputs and impacts achieved by the projects. This makes aggregation of project outputs and impacts problematic.
- With regard to evaluation, there is thus no systematic manner in which the projects, where learning has potentially advanced, can be readily discerned and subject to further analysis.

Recommendations

- The design and construction of funding measures need to be re-assessed taking account of the project sustainability issues arising.
- The strategic goals for Dormant Account funding should be reviewed in the light of sustainability issues, particularly with regard to the appropriate mix between support for service provision and development of innovative actions for mainstreaming.
- The number and range of measures in any future round should be tailored to the capacity of the administering agencies, both in the implementation and reporting of measures.
- A more rigorous approach needs to be undertaken in the measurement and reporting of performance, especially in the period following the disbursement of funds.
- Successful projects need to be more rigorous in reporting performance, so that learning capacity may be enhanced.

- Where decision-making has been devolved to local agencies, the concomitant responsibility of 'reporting back' should be observed.
- A more comprehensive system of managing and collating management information for the Dormant Accounts Board should be considered. This may be best achieved via a single committee and implementing body.
- An approach to an improved system of performance indicators has been set out. It is suggested that Pobal should embrace the broad approach set out.
- It is suggested that, in future funding rounds, it would be advisable to identify projects a priori for significant evaluation and to resource these projects to undertake the work involved.

Appendix I

Review of Round 1 Approvals as at end of December 2008

A total of 521 grants were approved under Round 1 in 2004-2005 with a funding commitment of €63,082,816. A 'Continuation Funding Measure' for Round 1 operational projects who were applying for mainstream funding from public agencies was administered by Pobal under Round 3 and provided additional on-going funding support for 45 projects during 2008. Funding for the continuation measure came from the Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

TABLE 1: ROUND 1 2008 GRANT PAYMENTS

DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUND ROUND 1 2008 GRANT PAYMENTS		
Category	Projects in Receipt of Payment	<i>Grant Payments Total €</i>
Economic & Social Disadvantage	98	4,771,152
Educational Disadvantage	62	1,266,765
Persons with a disability	41	2,585,745
<u>Totals</u>	201	8,623,662

TABLE 2: ROUND 1 – STATUS OF APPROVED APPLICATIONS

No. Approved	Amount Approved	Completed	In Payment	In Contract	In Decommittal Process (Full/Partial)	Decommitted
521	€63,082,816	246	231	3	23	18

At the end of December 2008, 83% of committed funding had been drawn down with 17% of remaining to be claimed by grantees. Table 3 below gives a summary of the progress made under each of the target categories.

The greatest progress had been made by projects funded under the Educational Disadvantage category: with 13% of committed funding still to be drawn down. Table 4 provides an overview of the payments made under each category in 2008.

A	Capital	41	3,491
	Operational	57	1,279
		98	4,771
B	Capital	6	95
	Operational	56	1,171
		62	1,266
C	Capital	20	2,157
	Operational	21	428
		41	2,585
Round 1 Total		201	8,623

Table 5 Status of Approved Applications as at 31st December 2008

Project Status	Category A - Economic & Social Disadvantage		Category B - Educational Disadvantage		Category C - Persons with A Disability	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Completed	122	48.4%	78	48.8%	46	42.2%
Partially Drawn Down	119	47.2%	74	46.3%	57	52.3%
Yet to Draw Down	4	1.6%	1	0.6%	2	1.8%
Decommitted	7	2.8%	7	4.4%	4	3.7%
Total	252	100.0%	160	100.0%	109	100.0%

Closure of Round 1 Measure

Round One was launched in November 2003. The first approvals were made in 2004. Approved projects were issued with a contract in which they had three years in which to carry out their project and abide by the terms and conditions within. Pobal has provided support to approved applicants with a view towards implementing their projects within the timeframe of the contract. In many cases, the Board have had to extend contracts in order for projects to meet their aims and objectives. The primary reason for contract extensions is due to the slow start up nature of approved projects, especially capital projects and short-term extensions are required in order to allow the remaining committed funds be drawn down.

Projects have received significant assistance and support in order to meet the terms and conditions of their projects. During the latter half of 2008, Pobal were very proactive in identifying projects, which were out of contract and did not display any significant signs of meeting the terms of their grant offer. The decommittal stage involves the following steps; a 30-day letter is issued to the group requesting that the terms and conditions of their offer are met. Following the issuing of the 30 day letter and if a satisfactory response is not forthcoming, the group are issued with a final 14 day decommittal letter. Some groups request a voluntary decommittal of their grant. Pobal then compiles a list of projects for decommittal to the Dormant Accounts Board. The Board considers these recommendations at our monthly meetings. Groups have 28 days in which to seek a review of the Board's decommittal decision.