

NI Assembly -AERA Committee
Thursday 20 February

UK Agricultural Bill – Key points

1. Agricultural support - Schedule 6 - Part 1 (page 70)

Provides legal basis for continuation until a new regional policy determined (can include ‘resilience support’ and also note need for ‘tracking’ of ROI agricultural support under NI/ROI Protocol). The Bill also requires government to establish multi-annual financial programmes. This is not the same as the fixed multi-annual financial budgets associated with the CAP- but taken alongside the government's commitment to maintain the farm support budget for the life of the Parliament (expected to be until 2024) this approach is welcome.

2. Protection of UK production standards not included and provisions must be added to require all food imported into the UK to be produced to at least equivalent environmental, animal welfare and food safety standards.

3. UK Food Security – Part 2 Chapter 1 (page 14)

Report prepared at least once in every five years

➤ Needs to be more frequent, particularly during initial period of transition to new trading arrangements and future format of agricultural support.

4. Transparency and fairness in the supply chain – Part 3 (page 17)

Welcome proposed measures to increase this for farmers and food producers but needs further strengthened and clarified to ensure widest scope.

5. Livestock Carcass Classification (Schedule 6 – Part 4)

- Provides scope to change from current EU system.