

29th October 2012

Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Ref Stella Mc Ardle, Clerk



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Dear Committee,

Many thanks for the opportunity to respond to your wide ranging debate on the reasons for the current crises within the production sector of the Agricultural industry.

May I offer a number of recommendations for consideration-----

1- Having experienced one of the worst weather patterns in living memory e.g., the wettest August in 100 years. Would the Minister call for weather -aid support from the European Emergency Fund which is in place specifically for weather related crises within the European Union?

2-Would the Minister initiate a study of the food supply chain in relation to red meat, with a particular remit to deliver within one month the underlying reasons for the wide variation in producer pricing between Northern Ireland and the Mainland U.K. This group should be no more than three people, each with an intimate knowledge of the industry, but independent of the various sectors of the red meat supply chain e.g. Dr. Mike Tempest (retired L.M.C) Dr Christine Kennedy, (ex- U.F.U) 7 Craigboy Road, Donaghadee, and Seamus McCafferty (Accountant, Omagh) With a secretariat from the Ministers Department and access to her Economics Department.

3-That the Minister calls for the urgent appointment of the Ombudsman, currently going through primary legislation within the United Kingdom, with meaningful powers to call for evidence from any part of the supply chain and to initiate judicial remedial action where the supply chain is shown to be operating inequitably and unfairly.

These three areas, would I feel influence substantially the current concerns of the Committee.

Kind regards

William J Taylor Glastry Farm Ice-cream

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