

## COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 06 OCTOBER 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA  
Mr Robin Swann MLA

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk  
Ms Lynda Conlon, Assistant Clerk  
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor  
Ms Dagmar Walgraeve, Clerical Officer

1.33 p.m. *The meeting commenced in Open Session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

There are no apologies.

#### **2. Chairperson's Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee welcomed Mr Ian McCrea as a Member of the Committee and agreed to write a letter of thanks to Mr Thomas Buchanan in recognition of his work on the Committee.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2015.

### **4. Matters Arising**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department dated 25 September 2015 and agreed to request that DARD update the Committee on the outcome of consideration of recent proposals to give Member States the power to restrict or prohibit the use of EU-approved GM food or feed on their territory by the European Commission's Environment Committee and the European Parliament and any likely implications of these decisions for Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the survey circulated as part of the AFSB/DETI Red Tape Review of Agri-Food Sector Regulation and agreed to request that DETI and AFSB share the results of this survey with the Committee once the responses have been compiled.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the Department's response to the 58 points raised in a submission on the Basic Payment System Application Process by the UFU, NIACA, and NIAPA and referred to by NIACA representatives during their briefing to the Committee on 08 September 2015. The Committee agreed to revisit this matter next Spring to ensure that the issues raised in the submission have been adequately addressed by DARD.

### **5. Oral Briefing AFBI: 2020 Strategy**

The following representatives joined the meeting at 1.35 p.m.

Seamus Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer, AFBI  
Sinclair Mayne, Director of Sustainable Agri-Food Sciences Division, AFBI  
Lesley Hogg, Director of Finance & Corporate Affairs, AFBI  
Stanley McDowell, Director of Veterinary Sciences Division, AFBI

The representatives briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session

*1.37 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.*

*1.37 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.*

1.40 p.m. Mr Anderson joined the meeting.  
1.52 p.m. Mr Poots joined the meeting.  
1.52 p.m. Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.  
2.07 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.  
2.10 p.m. Mr McCrea joined the meeting.

2.31 p.m. The AFBI representatives left the meeting.

**Agreed:** The Committee approved the draft Press Release on the AFBI oral briefing for circulation after the meeting.

## **6. Oral Briefing DARD: NIRDP 2014-2020**

The following Department officials joined the meeting at 2.32 p.m.

Lorraine Lynas, Head of Rural Development Programme Management Branch  
Gareth Evans, Axis 3 Implementation Manager  
Brian Ervine, Head of Environmental Policy Branch  
Colette McMaster, Director of Food, Farm and Rural Policy  
Martin McKendry, Head of CAFRE Development Service

The Department officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

2.35 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting  
3.02 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.  
3.16 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.  
3.17 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.  
3.17 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.  
3.21 p.m. Mr McCarthy left the meeting.  
3.31 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.  
3.33 p.m. Mr McMullen left the meeting.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the Department provide a briefing on the practical and operational details of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme and the Business Investment Scheme when these are available.

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed that the Department should seek input from the relevant Assembly Committee on the enhanced Annual Reports on NIRDP 2014-2020 to be submitted to the European Commission in 2017 and 2019.

3.43 p.m. Mr McMullen rejoined the meeting.

3.46 p.m. *The officials left the meeting.*

3.46 p.m. *Mr McMullen left the meeting.*

3.46 p.m. *Mr McAleer left the meeting.*

## **7. Oral Briefing DARD: Cattle ID Tags and Cross Compliance**

The following Department officials joined the meeting at 3.47 p.m.

Pauline Rooney, Director of EU Area Based Schemes Division

Ken Laverty, Deputy Principal, Area-Based Schemes Operational Policy Branch

Julian Henderson, Senior Principal Veterinary Officer

John McConnell, Deputy Principal, Animal Identification, Legislation and Welfare Branch

The Department officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

3.49 p.m. *Mr McMullen rejoined the meeting.*

3.57 p.m. *The officials left the meeting.*

## **8. Written Briefing DARD SR 2015/332 The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 2015**

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2015/332 The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 2015 and has no objections to the rule.

## **9. Written Briefing DARD SR 2015/340 The Brucellosis Control (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015**

*Noted:* The Committee noted SR 2015/340 The Brucellosis (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015.

## **10. Correspondence**

- Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Environment dated 24 September 2015 expressing an interest in working closer with the Committee on areas of shared interest.
- Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from Solace NI dated 01 October 2015 informing the Committee that as the senior officer group for Local Government in Northern Ireland, it will be the first point of contact when seeking information or evidence from a collective government perspective.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the September 2015 DARD Investment Activity Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to DARD to request a written explanation of the implications of the deferral of the October Monitoring Round for the Department.

## **11. Forward Work Programme**

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

## **12. AOB**

There was no other business.

*4.03 p.m. The meeting moved into Closed Session.*

## **13. Committee Discussion: EFRA Committee Inquiry into Farmgate Prices**

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 3, with amendments, of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraphs 4 to 11 of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraphs 12 and 13, with amendments, of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 14 of the draft submission.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 15, with amendments, of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 16 of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 17, with amendments, of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 18 of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 19, with amendments, of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraphs 20 and 21 of the draft submission.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Clerk should draft a paragraph addressing the sixth point in the Terms of Reference for approval by the Chair and Deputy Chair.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraph 29 of the draft submission.
- 4.19 p.m.* *Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting*
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Clerk should amend the submission to include additional reference to the pork sector in Northern Ireland for approval by the Chair and Deputy Chair. The Committee agreed that this revised draft should be submitted to the EFRA Committee's Inquiry into Farmgate Prices.

#### **14. Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

- 4.20 p.m.* *Mr McMullen left the meeting.*
- 4.20 p.m.* *The meeting adjourned.*

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William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date