

## **COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr Tom Buchanan MLA  
Mrs JoAnne Dobson MLA  
Mr Tom Elliott MP MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

In attendance: Mr Trevor Allen, Senior Assistant Clerk  
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Clerk  
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor  
Ms Dagmar Walgraeve, Clerical Officer

*1. 38 p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

There are no apologies.

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

There is no Chairperson's Business.

#### **3. Minutes of the meeting 16 June 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2015.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 5 June 2015 from Simon Coveney TD in respect of EU lamb labelling issues.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 11 June 2015 from Secretary of State Truss in respect of EU lamb labelling issues.

#### **5. Oral Briefing DARD: EU Issues**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 1.40 p.m.

Louise Warde Hunter, Head of Central Policy Group  
Paddy Campbell, Sea Fisheries Policy & Grants Branch  
Colette McMaster, Central Policy Branch

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

*1.42 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.*

*1.46 p.m. Mr Poots joined the meeting.*

*Mrs Dobson declared an interest that her husband is a beef farmer.*

*1.50 p.m. Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*

*2.06 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

*2.13 p.m. Mr McMullan and Mr Poots left the meeting.*

*2.14 p.m. Mr Poots rejoined the meeting.*

*2.17 pm. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department on a range of EU issues requesting a written response.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a further briefing on EU issues in the next session.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Livestock Meat Commission in the next session.

#### **6. Written Briefing DARD: SL1 the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the written briefing from the Department on SL1 the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (Financial

Assistance) Regulations 2015 and agreed that the policy should move to the next legislative stage.

#### **7. Written Briefing DARD: Pre-con Tuberculosis (Examination and Testing) Scheme (Amendment) Order**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this agenda item to the Committee meeting on 30 June 2015 and to request an oral briefing rather than a written briefing.

#### **8. Written Briefing DARD: Beef Sector/Suckler Cow Industry**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this agenda item to the meeting on 30 June 2015 due to the late receipt of the briefing paper.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek information on the uptake and financial figures for the Beef Data and Genomics programme in the Republic of Ireland.

#### **9. Correspondence**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the EU Affairs Manager regarding the June EU Matters newsletter.

#### **10. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the two Members attending the National Ploughing Championships in September 2015 in County Laois would be Ian Milne and Oliver McMullan.

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

*2.28 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.*

#### **11. Oral Briefing DARD Minister**

The following officials and the Minister joined the meeting at 2.33 p.m.

Michelle O'Neill, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development  
Noel Lavery, Permanent Secretary  
Louise Warde Hunter, Head of Central Policy Group  
David Small, Head of Service Delivery Group

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

*2.36 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*

*2.39 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*

*Mr Irwin declared an interest that he is a farmer.*

*3.08 p.m. Mr Poots left the meeting.*

*Mrs Dobson declared an interest that her husband is a beef and cereal farmer.*

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

*3.13 p.m. Mr Poots rejoined the meeting.*

*3.14 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.*

*3.16 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.*

*3.28 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

*3.37 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.*

*3.40 p.m. Mr Byrne rejoined the meeting.*

*3.40 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

*3.41 p.m. Mr Buchanan left the meeting.*

*3.52 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request details for the timetabling of the Farm Business Improvement Scheme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request that the Minister provides an update following her engagement with the Agri-Food Strategy Board on funding for marketing organisations.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule an oral briefing with the Department on labelling.

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

## **12. Inquiry into Better Regulations: Appointment of a Special Advisor**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to progress with the identification and selection of a Special Advisor and to discuss further at the Committee meeting on 30 June 2015.

## **13. AOB**

There was no other business.

## **14. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting**

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

*3.56 p.m. The meeting adjourned.*

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William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date