



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

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 01 MARCH 2016  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Seán Rogers MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mrs Joanne Dobson MLA  
Mr Ian McCrea MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Robin Swann MLA

**Apologies:** Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

**In attendance:** Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk  
Ms Lynda Conlon, Assistant Assembly Clerk  
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor  
Ms Marion Johnson, Clerical Officer

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

#### **1. Apologies**

The apologies are recorded above.

#### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016**

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2016.

### **3. Matters Arising**

- Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 24 February 2016, providing details of the work undertaken by the Supply Chain Forum to date.
- Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 24 February 2016, providing the details of the value of 'meat and meat preparations' imports into Northern Ireland in 2014.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 24 February 2016, regarding the estimated cost of the mandatory charge proposed as part of the Official Feed and Food Regulation and agreed to request details of the potential cost to Northern Ireland specifically.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 24 February 2016, forwarding findings of the analysis carried out by DARD in 2005 and 2009 on the impact of large reductions in import tariffs in the context of a WTO trade agreement and agreed to request that the Department provide additional information to indicate how these findings may be applied to the current TTIP situation.
- Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 24 February 2016, regarding the closure of the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted a response from the Department to the issues raised in a paper provided by the RalSe Public Finance Scrutiny Unit on the DAERA Budget 2016-2017 and agreed to forward the response to the relevant Research Officer.
- Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department of the Environment, dated 22 February 2016, providing a response to a query regarding nitrogen levels in turkeys.
- Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 01 March 2016, providing details of the agenda and terms of reference for the regional review of winter flooding to be held in Loughry College on 16 March 2016.



#### **4. Oral Briefing Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland: Farm Safety**

The following representatives joined the meeting at 1.39 p.m.

George Lucas, Chairman, Farm Safety Partnership  
Ian Marshall, Ulster Farmers Union  
Keith Morrison, Chief Executive, HSENI  
Bryan Monson, Deputy Chief Executive, HSENI

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

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

*Mr Rogers declared an interest that he is a part-time farmer.*

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to request that the results of a joint DARD-HSENI survey to determine the number of injuries suffered in farm safety incidents are shared with the Committee when available.

1.57 p.m. *Mr McCrea joined the meeting.*  
2.02 p.m. *Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*  
2.03 p.m. *Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*  
2.13 p.m. *Mr Swann joined the meeting.*  
2.19 p.m. *Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*  
  
2.23 p.m. *The officials left the meeting.*

#### **5. Oral Briefing DARD: Beef Sector/Suckler Cow Industry**

The Committee considered a RalSe research paper providing a brief overview of the beef sector and suckler cow industry in Northern Ireland.

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.24 p.m.

Stephen Johnston, Food Policy  
Jim Freeburn, Agricultural Inspector, Beef and Sheep Development, CAFRE  
Perpetua McNamee, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Service  
Elaine McCrory, Central Policy Group

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

2.32 p.m. *Mr Swann left the meeting.*

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request that the Department provide details of the oversupply of beef at a European level.

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request clarification as to whether imported beef is tested for hormone treatment.

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

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

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

3.11p.m. *The officials left the meeting.*

#### **6. Written Briefing DARD: The Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (Fees) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the SL1 moves to the next legislative stage.

#### **7. Written Briefing DARD: The Scrapie (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request that the Department clarify whether the proposed increase in fees outlined in the papers provided are purely indicative and to request that the Department provide Members with the final figures.

#### **8. Oral Briefing DARD: Public Consultation on the TRPSI Framework and Update on Committee Review**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.18 p.m.

Colette McMaster, Assistant Secretary, Central Policy  
Niall Heaney, Principal Officer, Sustainable Rural Communities  
Paul Donnelly, Principal Officer, Rural Development West

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



3.25 p.m. *Mr Anderson left the meeting.*


**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to request that the Department provide Members with a copy of the TRPSI Framework evaluation conducted by the Strategic Investment Board.

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

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

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 08 March 2016 at 2.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

3.40 p.m. *The meeting adjourned.*



William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

**08/03/2016**

Date