

**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**Michelle O'Neill MLA**  
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**Joe Byrne MLA**  
**Northern Ireland Assembly**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**

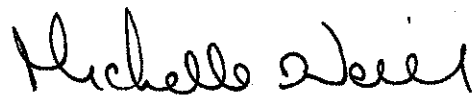
**08 April 2014**  
**32253/11-15**

**Joe Byrne asked:**

To ask the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail all the events she attended in 2013.

**ANSWER**

I have provided a detailed list of all events attended from January to December 2013 in the attached table, a copy of which has been placed in the Assembly Library.



**MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA**

	<b>EVENT NAME</b>
<b>1</b>	Meeting with the CEO of BT Ireland for an update on their fibre rollout and Commercial Programme
<b>2</b>	Meeting with the Equine Council for NI to discuss its report and recommendations relating to the Status of the Horse in the north of Ireland
<b>3</b>	Attending an industry breakfast for the launch of the Farmhouse Breakfast Week 2013
<b>4</b>	Meeting with the UFU regarding cash flow issues within the Dairy Sector
<b>5</b>	Meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss their work and the importance of rural heritage in the north of Ireland's economy
<b>6</b>	Meeting and photo call with the NI Mountain Biking Alliance to discuss a number of issues and to raise awareness of measures that can be taken by the mountain bikers to reduce risks associated with plant diseases
<b>7</b>	Meeting with Cathal O'hOisín MLA to discuss the possibility of the creation of a railway station or halt at Ballykelly
<b>8</b>	Meeting with Good Food Ireland to be briefed on their activities
<b>9</b>	Meeting with Born Free and Animal Defenders International to discuss the welfare of animals in captivity and the use of wild animals in travelling circuses
<b>10</b>	Meeting with Strabane and Omagh District Council to discuss the challenges and opportunities which they consider wind farm developments in West Tyrone presents
<b>11</b>	Meeting with a Veterinary Inspection Team from China
<b>12</b>	Photo call at Sainsbury's for the launch of their 'Switch the Fish' campaign
<b>13</b>	CAP Reform event for farmers
<b>14</b>	Meeting with FASTA to discuss the issues they are having in relation to angling and netting in the Foyle Area
<b>15</b>	Attending the ARD Committee Meeting to discuss TB and the priorities for 2013
<b>16</b>	Official opening of the Armagh DARD Direct Office & Photocall on LPIS
<b>17</b>	Meeting with Jim Shannon MP and the Portavogie Fishermen to discuss white fish and cod
<b>18</b>	Visit to South and West Belfast to see some of the areas affected by the recent flooding

19	Meeting with Bronwyn McGahan MLA to discuss rural childcare in the wider Clogher area
20	Meeting with Gerry McCurdy, FSA, regarding the horsemeat situation
21	Meeting with Gerry McCurdy, FSA, regarding the horsemeat situation
22	Photo call with Kildaton College Students on a study exchange programme with CAFRE
23	Meeting with Gerry McCurdy, FSA, regarding horsemeat
24	Meeting with the Supermarkets/Stakeholders regarding horsemeat
25	Tele-conference with Minister David Heath, DEFRA and the DA Ministers to discuss recent developments regarding fraud and cross contamination in processed meat products
26	Meeting with Food Safe Ireland and Deputy Martin Ferris TD, Spokesperson on Agriculture and Rural Affairs
27	Tele-conference with the SoS for Defra, Owen Paterson and DA Ministers to provide an update on the Horsemeat Issue
28	Meeting with John O'Dowd, DE, and the FSA to discuss horsemeat
29	Meeting with Equine Council for NI to discuss Horse Passports and recent developments in the Equine Sector
30	Meeting with FM, dFM, Minister Foster DETI and Minister Poots DHSSPS to discuss Equine DNA
31	Photo Call for FarmSafe Awareness
32	Meeting with SafeFood
33	Attending the Agriculture and Fisheries Council – Brussels
34	Meeting with East Antrim Farmers
35	Meeting with Newline Architects for them to present the potential for 'Run of River' hydro scheme on land maintained by the Forest Service
36	Meeting with Cookstown District Council to discuss the Axis 3 Budget Spend
37	Photo Call for the launch of the 'Inspirational Women in Rural Development' booklet
38	Photo Call to mark the launch of Good Food Ireland's new food travel experience promoting food providers internationally

39	Meeting with Jennifer McCann MLA to discuss the social economy allotments in the Colin Glen area
40	Meeting with the Ulster Wildlife Trust to discuss a number of issues
41	Meeting with Tony O'Neill, Agri-Food Strategy Board to updated on the work of the Agri-Food Strategy Board
42	Meeting with Rob Brawley and Janis Simpson-Mahoney RE: NZ Dairy Careers
43	Meeting with John Larkin, Attorney General
44	Visit to St Pius X College to meet with pupils to hear about their work for sustainable management to enhance biodiversity
45	Photocall – Helping Farmers Comply edition covering SAF
46	Photocall – SAF online service
47	Attending a CWSAN Community Networking Event
48	Joint Launch on Suicide Prevention with the DCAL and DHSSPS Ministers
49	Attending the Agriculture and Fisheries Council – Brussels
50	Meeting with Martina Anderson MEP to discuss concerts regarding assistance and advice given to Ms Anderson by DARD officials
51	Visit to Glenarm to meet members of the local farming and rural community following the adverse weather conditions
52	Visit to Kilcoo to meet members of the local farming and rural community following the adverse weather conditions
53	Attending NIRWN's celebration of the move to their new premises
54	Visit to the Sperrins regarding the recent severe weather
55	Meeting with the DCAL Minister and representatives from the greyhound industry to discuss recognition of greyhound racing
56	Attending the Official Launch of Davagh Forest Trails
57	Meeting to discuss the future potential of Pomeroy Forest
58	Meeting with the National Trust to discuss Ash Dieback, the Countryside Management Scheme and potential partnership opportunities between the National Trust and Forest Service

59	Meeting with the NI Grain Trade Association to discuss their concerns and explore ways of development farmers' money management skills and communicating essential messages to help farmers through this difficult period
60	Attending a public meeting in South Down
61	Meeting with David Heath MP, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food
62	Opening of Ardglass Fishmarket and Ice Plant and presentation of an award at the end of the New Entrants Course for Fishermen
63	Meeting with the LM C to discuss the function of the LMC and current challenges facing the red meat industry
64	Follow on meeting with representatives from County Louth IFA and the UFU to discuss issues affecting farmers in the border area
65	NSMC Aquaculture Meeting
66	Meeting with ARD Comm Chair & Deputy Chair to hear their views on the proposed Hardship Scheme
67	Meeting with Michaela Boyle MLA to discuss the creating/decentralising/relocating public sector jobs from within DARD to the Strabane district
68	Meeting with Chris Hazzard MLA regarding the Fishing industry in South Down
69	Meeting with Minister Simon Coveney TD, DAFM, to discuss a range of issues
70	Attending the CWSAM AGM
71	Agriculture and Fisheries Council – Brussels
72	Balormal Show
73	Balmoral Show – DARD Breakfast
74	Meeting with Members of the ARD Committee to update then on the Hardship Scheme
75	Appearing on the Sunday Politics Show to discuss a range of issues
76	Six monthly Defra and DA Ministers meeting
77	Meeting with Limavady Council to discuss their plans for investments in new sports and leisure facilities in Dungiven
78	Visit to see first-hand the positive impact that the RDP investment has made in Lettershandoney and the official opening of a completed project,

	Lettershandoney Play-Park
79	Tele-conference with the Defra SoS, Owen Paterson MP, to be updated on proceedings of the Informal Council
80	Interview with AgendaNI to discuss agri-food strategy report and other associated matters
81	Greeting the Heads of State on arrival at the International Airport for the G8 Summit
82	Greeting the Heads of State on arrival at the International Airport for the G8 Summit
83	Meeting with the DE Minister John O'Dowd to discuss rural schools
84	Meeting with NILGA to discuss a range of issues
86	Visit to Hannan Meats to place the final brick in their new Himalayan Salt Wall
87	Visit to St Colman's College to present a trophy to the Farmer of the Year
88	Attending the official opening of new fishing stands and jetty at Lough Fea
89	Site Visit at John McAuley's Farm to discuss grid connection with the NIE
90	Attending the Agriculture and Fisheries Council – Luxembourg
91	Photocall to launch Independence Day in Magherafelt
92	Follow-up meeting with Chris Hazzard MLA, to discuss Quoile River, Downpatrick
93	Meeting with Jim Shannon MP to discuss hardship payments for fishermen
94	Meeting with Minister Sammy Wilson, DFP, to discuss assistance for fishermen
95	Visit to Garvaghy GAA Centre of Excellence with Minister Garvaghy, Co Tyrone Ni Chuilin MLA
96	Attending the Omagh Show and having lunch with the Chairwoman and other guests
97	Follow-up meeting with Brian Hayes TD, Minister of State for the Department of Public Services Reform and the Office of Public Works, to discuss the EU floods directive and the completion of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
98	Photocall for the joint launch of the All Ireland Chalará Control Strategy with Tom Hayes TD, Minister of State Department of Agriculture, Food and the

	marine
99	Attending a meeting of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest
100	NSMC Agriculture Meeting
101	Meeting with Noel Griffin (NIPSA) to discuss DARD HQ Relocation
102	Photocall with RDC to raise awareness of the FarmSafe Awareness Workshops
103	Visit to John Carson's organic farm in Downpatrick
104	Visit to an Axis 3 Project -- Mid-Ulster Sports Arena to see commencement of a Strategic project
105	Meeting with the Rainbow Project to discuss how DARD can address LGB needs in the absence of a centralised government Sexual Orientation Strategy and Action Plan
106	Meeting with Canine Breeders of Ireland to discuss the Gerry Smyth case against the USPCA
107	Photocall for the EFF funded project, Personal Flotation Devices for Fishermen
108	Visit to the Chocolate Memories Factory
109	Attending the launch of Skytrek at Colin Glen Forest Park
110	Attending the Enniskillen Show
111	Visit to Trannish Island Bothy on the Lough Erne Canoe Trail
112	Meeting with Arcjiva to discuss the Mobile Infrastructure Programme
113	Photocall to publicise public consultation events on the NI Rural Development Programme 2014-20
114	Attending the Tullamore Show
115	Attending the official opening of a childcare extension at Loughgiel Community Association
116	Photocall with CAFRE students to promote the courses on offer at the Loughry Open Day
117	Meeting with Karro Food Ltd to discuss export licences

<b>118</b>	Visit to the camping pods at Cushendall
<b>119</b>	Photocall with Tim McClelland for the Nature of Farming Awards
<b>120</b>	Friday visit and meeting with RSPB and a number of local NGOs to discuss CAP and the next RDP
<b>121</b>	Attending the official launch of the Craigmore & District Community Association's redeveloped premises
<b>122</b>	Attending Events hosted by Martina Anderson to showcase work by AFB1 in Brussels
<b>123</b>	Hosting a local sourcing event for Tesco
<b>124</b>	Attending the Niamh Louise Foundation book launch of 'The Last Taboo' & photocall to publicise the Rural Challenge grant in PB
<b>125</b>	Meeting with the RSPB and a number of local NGOs to discuss CAP and the next RDP
<b>126</b>	Attending the official opening of the new library at Draperstown with Minister Carál Ni Chuilín, DCAL
<b>127</b>	Attending the ARD Committee to discuss a range of issues
<b>128</b>	Meeting with the National Sheep Association UFU and NIAPA to discuss the approach in the year ahead and the way forward
<b>129</b>	Attending the Ministerial Co-ordination Group on suicide prevention meeting
<b>130</b>	China
<b>131</b>	Meeting with Christine Tacon, Groceries Code Adjudicator, to talk about their work
<b>132</b>	Visit to Rathlin Island to visit RDP funded projects
<b>132</b>	Photocall for the launch of the BT Connected Communities Programme
<b>133</b>	Visit to AFB1 Stoney Road for a presentation on the main building options and for a tour
<b>134</b>	Meeting with the BVA and BVA NI Officers
<b>135</b>	Attending the NI Investment Conference Gala Dinner, Hillsborough Castle
<b>136</b>	Attending the NI Investment Conference, Titanic



122	Meeting with Minister David Ford, DoJ to discuss the Rural Crimestoppers Campaign
138	Attending the NIFDA Appetite for Growth 2 Conference
139	Meeting with EE to discuss mobile phone coverage in the Glenariff area
140	Attending the launch event to mark the commencement of the strategic project at Galbally Community Centre
141	Visit to the Ballygawley Flood Alleviation Scheme
142	Official launch of the Axis 4 European Fisheries Fund
143	Attending the NSMC Health Meeting as the Accompanying Minister
144	Meeting with the FSA to discuss food labelling and for an update on the horsemeat situation
145	Reception on board the LE Aisling
146	NSMC Aquaculture Meeting
147	Attending the Annual Farming Life & Danske Bank Awards
148	Meeting with Arthur McCrory to discuss matters relating to TB and Brucellosis Testing
149	Succession Planning Workshops photocall
150	Meeting with the Kennel Club to discuss electronic shock collars
151	Meeting with the Chairman of the NI Committee Irish League of Credit Unions to discuss bank branch and post office closures
152	RDC Stakeholder event
153	Six monthly meeting with the Defra and DA Ministers
154	Attending a Rural Support/Health Trust Conference on Rural Health
155	Attending the NSMC Plenary Meeting
156	Meeting with the UFU to discuss Pillar 1

<b>157</b>	<b>NSMC Agriculture Meeting</b>
<b>158</b>	<b>Meeting with Tony McCusker to discuss the future of the Equine Council</b>
<b>159</b>	<b>Meeting with Oyster Producers to discuss the impact suffered from the mortalities due to OSHVI</b>
<b>160</b>	<b>Event to officially open the newly refurbished premises at An Carn</b>
<b>161</b>	<b>Attending the Mid Ulster Business Awards</b>
<b>162</b>	<b>Breakfast briefing prior to a multi-agency emergency planning exercise which will focus on coastal flood risk</b>
<b>163</b>	<b>Photocall with Cancer Focus NI prior to launch of their Community Wellbeing Project on 4 December 2013</b>
<b>164</b>	<b>Attending the cutting of the sod event at Owenbeg Derry GAA Centre</b>
<b>165</b>	<b>Photocall for the launch of the DARD Funded Postgraduate Studentship Competition 2014</b>
<b>166</b>	<b>Event to officially hand over the tablet computers funded through the Rural Challenge Programme 2012 to brain injury survivors and carers</b>
<b>167</b>	<b>Invitation to attend the launch of the SWARD funded Community Wellbeing Project for Cancer Focus NI</b>
<b>168</b>	<b>Meeting with Farmers for Action's to discuss their proposal for legislation on local farm gate prices</b>
<b>169</b>	<b>Launch of the Dungannon and South Tyrone led recreational project in Clonoe</b>
<b>170</b>	<b>Attending the Agriculture and Fisheries Council – Brussels</b>