



# An Rialálaí Agraibhia

## Agri-Food Regulator

(REF: ARA/N17/4)

**Note of the fifteenth meeting of the Board of the Agri-Food Regulator which took place on 5 September 2025 at 12.15pm - Boardroom, Agri-Food Regulator's Office, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland, W23 X3P**

### **In attendance**

### **Board of the Agri-Food Regulator:**

- Joe Healy, Chair
- Paul Brophy
- Karen Brosnan
- John Comer (from 12pm)
- Margaret Dineen
- Elaine Donohue
- Grace McCullen
- Angus Woods

### **Agri-Food Regulator:**

- Niamh Lenehan, CEO
- Rob Levins, Head of Price & Market Analysis Unit (Item 7)
- Lisa Evers (minute-taker)

### **Crowleys DFK**

- David Coombes (Item 5 – Q2 Management Accounts)

### **Item 1: Opening by Chair**

The Chair noted that John Comer would be joining the meeting later.

### **Item 2: Conflict(s) of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

### **Item 3: Approval of Minutes of last Board Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting on 10 July 2025 were approved.



# An Rialálaí Agraibhia

## Agri-Food Regulator

### **Item 4: Approval of Board Meeting Notes for Publishing**

The Board approved the notes of the Board meeting on 9 May 2025 for publication.

### **Item 5: Audit & Risk Committee**

- Following an expression of interest invitation, the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) is recommending the appointment of Ms. Joanna McBride as an independent external member of the ARC for a period of 3 years. The Board approved Ms. McBride's appointment.
- It was agreed that Board member, Ms. Karen Brosnan, will sit in on the next ARC meeting in the context of the ongoing Board evaluation exercise.
- Mr. David Coombes of Crowleys DFK attended at this point. Mr. Coombes gave a presentation to the Board on the quarter 2 Management Accounts.

### **Item 6: Further Development of the ARC Workplan**

The discussion of the future development of the ARC Workplan was deferred to the next meeting as the ARC had not yet had the opportunity to review.

### **Item 7: Price & Market Data Analysis**

Mr. Rob Levins attended for this item.

Mr. Levins gave a presentation to the Board on the next proposed data request. This proposal, which was provided in detail to the Board in advance of the meeting, follows on from engagement with the largest relevant businesses in the State.

The presentation considered how the Regulator can add value to current reporting, the delivery options available to the Regulator to improve reporting and a recommendation on the reporting options. Multiple options were presented to the Board.

The Board gave approval for issuing the data request.

Mr. Levins proceeded to present to the Board interactive dashboards which have been developed relating to the egg & poultry and horticulture sectors. A dairy dashboard is also in



# An Rialálaí Agraibhia

## Agri-Food Regulator

development with the intention that all dashboards will be published on the Regulator's website in September. The dashboards are being developed to bring together publicly available information in an easily accessible way. The reports will also act as a baseline for further work of the Regulator in possibly identifying opportunities to fill gaps for the purpose of improving transparency.

### **Item 8: Board Evaluation Report**

In compliance with governance best practice, Ms. Karen Brosnan on behalf of the Board supported a Board effectiveness review process and to report on its findings and recommendations.

### **Item 9: CEO Update**

The CEO provided a summary of the written update provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.

### **Item 10: For Noting**

The Agri-Food Regulator website analytics reports for July and August 2025 were noted.

### **Item 13: AOB**

The Regulator will attend the National Ploughing Championships in September and the Chair and CEO have a number of panel discussions and engagements to attend. The primary producer survey will be available for relevant stakeholders to complete online at the stand with assistance from staff where required to access the survey.

**The next Board meeting will occur on 20 October 2025.**

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.**