



# An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

(Ref: ARA/N18/4)

**Note of the sixteenth meeting of the Board of the Agri-Food Regulator which took place on 20 October 2025 at 11am - 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 (online)
- Paul Brophy (from 12pm)
- Karen Brosnan
- John Comer
- Margaret Dineen
- Elaine Donohue
- Grace McCullen
- Angus Woods

## **Agri-Food Regulator:**

- Niamh Lenehan, CEO  
Daniel Walsh (Item 7)
- Lisa Evers (minute-taker)

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

The Chair noted that Paul Brophy 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 5 Sept 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 10 July 2025 for publication.

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

The Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) noted that Board member, Ms. Karen Brosnan, had joined the ARC meeting on 3 October for the purpose of the Board evaluation exercise. The ARC Chair also noted that Ms. Joanna McBride attended the meeting for the first time in her new role as external member of the ARC.

The following actions were agreed in terms of the practical operation of the ARC:

- i. The ARC Chair will write to the Board Chair promptly after each ARC meeting giving a brief overview of items discussed.
- ii. The ARC will complete its self-evaluation exercise before the end of the year. Ms. Brosnan will collate feedback and document experiences and lessons learned.
- iii. 'Conflict of Interest' will be a standing agenda item for ARC meetings.

The ARC also noted that the C&AG audit of the accounts of the Regulator from establishment to end 2024 is in train and that the procurement exercise for an internal auditor relating to activities in 2025 has been initiated.

## **Item 6: Budget Allocation 2026**

The Chair confirmed to the Board that the Regulator's budget allocation for 2026 is €3.199M and thanked the CEO and the Executive staff for their dedicated efforts in discussions with the Department in relation to the increased allocation compared to the 2025 budget.

## **Item 7: Horticulture Pilot Report – EU Data**

Daniel Walsh attended for this item.

Mr. Walsh presented to the Board a pilot Power BI report in development which aims to complement the information already available through the already published Horticulture Dashboard.



# An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

The Board discussed the elements of the report and noted that, although the report is still a work in progress, agreed it would be a useful addition to the current Dashboard in due course.

## **Item 8: CEO Update**

The CEO provided a summary of the written update provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. In addition, the following points were noted:

- Two new Statutory Instruments are being progressed through the Department to enable the Regulator access specific services of the State Claims Agency – the General Indemnity Scheme and Legal Costs Management.
- The Regulator has been invited to appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and Food on 19 November.

## **Item 9: For Noting**

The Agri-Food Regulator website analytics reports for September 2025 and October to date were noted.

## **Item 10: AOB**

The Board gave approval for the CEO to submit an application for consideration for a place on the Senior Public Service Strategic Leadership Programme 2026.

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

**The next Board meeting will occur on 9 December 2025**