



# An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

**Note of the thirteenth Meeting of the Board of the Agri-Food Regulator which took place on 09 May 2025 at 11 a.m. - Boardroom, Agri-Food Regulator's Office, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland, W23 X3P**

<b>In attendance</b>	<b>Board of the Agri-Food Regulator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Joe Healy, Chair</li><li>- Paul Brophy</li><li>- John Comer</li><li>- Margaret Dineen</li><li>- Elaine Donohue</li><li>- Grace McCullen</li><li>- Angus Woods</li></ul> <b>Agri-Food Regulator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Niamh Lenehan, CEO</li><li>- Aiden Kelly, Mel Hall, Robert Levins and Robert Lanigan (Item 7)</li><li>- Mel Hall and Colm McKeever (Item 9)</li><li>- Robert Levins (Item 10)</li><li>- Lisa Evers (minute-taker)</li></ul>
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**Item 1: Opening by Chair**

Apologies - Karen Brosnan

**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 21 March 2025 were approved.



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

The Board approved the notes of the Board meeting on 17 February 2025 for publishing.

## **Item 5: Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)**

Regarding the management accounts for Q1 2025 provided pre-meeting, Ms Dineen (ARC Chair) referred to a number of suggestions to improve the layout and structure. The ARC Chair will provide a written submission to the Board and ARC Secretary with respect to the suggestions so that they may be considered for future management accounts.

In relation to progress on the Board's decision to seek to appoint an independent external ARC member, an Expression of Interest notice and information booklet will be prepared for publishing.

## **Item 6: 17(4) Report – Update**

The Regulator's first governance meeting of the year with the Department took place on 7 May. It was noted that the Department are considering the Regulator's recommendation for additional power as submitted on 12 September 2024 under section 17(4) of the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Act 2023.

## **Item 7: Conference - 20 May 2025**

Aiden Kelly, Mel Hall, Robert Levins and Robert Lanigan attended for this item.

The Board discussed the supplier survey findings and made a number of observations with respect to the main findings of interest to be presented on the day of the conference (the intention is that the full findings will be published in due course). The Board approved the survey findings and publishing thereof.



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The Board concluded that the survey was a collaborative effort that built relationships and that the findings were very insightful.

The CEO noted that she had expressed disappointment to the two businesses who chose not to distribute the survey link and indicated to them that the Regulator looked forward to engagement next year.

The Board congratulated the team for their efforts.

## **Item 8: Annual Report**

Due to time constraints, the Annual Report for 2024 will be presented at an ad-hoc meeting prior to the end of June.

## **Item 9: Complaints / Investigation**

Melanie Hall and Colm McKeever attended for this item.

Ms Hall gave an update on complaints received by the Regulator and work ongoing by the Regulator.

## **Item 10: Horticulture Data Request** Rob Levins

attended for this item.

Mr. Levins gave a presentation to the Board (based on data collated as part of the horticulture data request) on how his team are using software now available to them (Power BI) to enhance the reporting capabilities of the Regulator.

## **Item 11: CEO Update**

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



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## **Item 12: For Noting**

The Agri-Food Regulator website analytics report was noted.

**The next Board meeting will occur on 10 July 2025.**

**THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**