



# An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

(Ref: ARA/N20/5)

**Note of the eighteenth meeting of the Board of the Agri-Food Regulator which took place on 20 February 2026 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
- Paul Brophy
- Karen Brosnan
- John Comer (from 11.40)
- Margaret Dineen
- Elaine Donohue
- Grace McCullen
- Angus Woods

## **Agri-Food Regulator:**

- Niamh Lenehan, CEO
- Robert Levins (Item 6)
- Lisa Evers (minute-taker)

## **School of Agriculture & Food Science, UCD:**

- Dr. Monica Gorman (Item 8)

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

The Chair opened the meeting and mentioned that John Comer will be joining a little 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 9 December 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 20 October 2025 for publication.

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

The minutes of the online meeting of the ARC conducted on 13 February, and provided to the Board in advance, were summarised by the Chair of the ARC, Margaret Dineen.

The following update was noted in particular:

- The ARC recommended that the Financial Statement for 2025 which includes the Statement of Internal Controls be adopted by the Board

It was noted that the Board were satisfied that the procured service for internal audit provided a very thorough and detailed report. The Executive were thanked for their contribution to the receipt of an excellent audit. A brief discussion ensued regarding the work completed to date by the Regulator.

## **Item 6: Item 6: Implementation of 2025 Regulations – Project Overview**

The Board were provided with an overview of the project implementation plan relating to S.I. No. 629 of 2025.

Following a presentation by Mr. Levins, the Board discussed the implementation plan.

## **Item 7: Policy Review & Approval**

The Board were provided with three policy documents prior to the meeting for review.

The documents were approved by the Board.

## **Item 8: Development of Strategy Statement (2027-2029)**

Dr. Monica Gorman attended for this item and conducted a workshop for the Board, the CEO and the Heads of Units. The discussions on the new Strategy Statement used the SWOT analysis provided by Dr. Gorman as a starting point.

It was noted that a survey to allow input from stakeholders is in development. A number of key stakeholders will also be offered a meeting with Dr. Gorman to facilitate input to the Regulator's next strategy.



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It is the intention that Dr. Gorman will attend a further Board meeting to discuss interactions and a draft strategy.

## **Item 9: 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:

- The feedback received from the Regulator's first newsletter issued in January was very positive.
- The 2026 supplier survey to retail/wholesale sector is now closed. A number of qualitative interviews will now be undertaken with the intention that findings will be available in early Summer.

## **Item 10: CEO Evaluation**

The CEO and Secretary left the room for the Board to discuss the CEO evaluation for 2025.

## **Item 11: For Noting**

The Agri-Food Regulator website analytics reports for December 2025 and January 2026 were noted.

## **Item 12: AOB**

John Comer thanked the CEO for her visit to the ICMSA National Council in December and referred to the very positive feedback received from attendees.

**The next Board meeting will take place on 20 April 2026.**