



An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

(REF ARA N8/4)

Note of the sixth meeting of the Board of the Agri-Food Regulator which took place on 04 July at 13.30 in the Boardroom, Agri-Food Regulator's Office, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland, W23 X3PH

In attendance

Board of the Agri-Food Regulator:

- Joe Healy, Chair
- John Comer
- Margaret Dineen
- Elaine Donohoe
- Grace McCullen
- Angus Woods

Agri-Food Regulator

- Niamh Lenehan, CEO
- Robert Levins (14.40 – 15.00)
- Beckie Reynolds (minute-taker)

Item 1: Opening by Chair

Apologies: Karen Brosnan
Paul Brophy

Item 2: Conflict(s) of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Item 3: Approval of Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of meeting on 17 May 2024 were agreed.

Item 4: Approval of previous Board meeting notes for publishing

The Board approved the meeting notes of 27 March 2024 Board meeting for publication.



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Item 5: Presentation – Progress on Egg Sector Report

The CEO provided an overview of progress with the egg data request and engagement with the main stakeholders to date. The Regulator has been working with the egg sector since March which has been constructive overall. The formal data request to the egg sector issued on 30 April with a request for submissions by 21 May.

The CEO asked the Board to agree on the approach with respect to publishing a report on the egg sector. The merits and drawbacks of the Regulator publishing a report on publicly available data only were discussed in addition to the next steps regarding correspondence in particular with those businesses which had not supplied the requested data. The Regulator is cognisant of the businesses who did engage and provided the data in good faith.

It was noted that this is a partnership approach and the Regulator has no legislative powers to compel businesses to submit data. The Board discussed the option of writing to the Minister requesting an amendment to the legislation to give the Regulator powers to compel businesses to provide information requested.

The Board agreed that additional time was needed to consider the matters here and a further meeting to agree on next steps will be organised promptly.

Item 6: Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee met on 1 July. Prior to the Board meeting, the Board was provided with a copy of the Regulator's Risk Register and a breakdown of expenditure to date.

The CEO noted that the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine had been in touch regarding budget estimates for next year. The Regulator had reverted with the same budget estimate as this year (€2.5m). Board Members indicated that they would like to see a high-level budget for 2025 based on an allocation of seventeen staff along with an estimate of procured services.



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Item 7: Supplier Survey Proposals

Prior to the meeting, the CEO provided information to Board members requesting them to consider a proposal on the approach to be undertaken by the Regulator regarding supplier surveys.

Item 8: CEO Update

The CEO pointed to the written update provided in advance to the Board. She provided a brief overview of the main workstreams ongoing within the three units. It was noted that the Regulator continues to collaborate with the Office of Public Works and the Department of An Taoiseach on preparations for the National Ploughing Championships which will take place at Ratheniska from 17–19 September. The Regulator’s exhibition stand will be situated in the Government of Ireland Village in a marque titled “Supporting Business | Supporting People” .

Item 9: For Noting

The www.agrifoodregulator.ie website report was noted.

Item 10: AOB

It was agreed previously that the payment of annual Board fees would occur in arrears in two equal instalments at end June and end December. As the Regulator does not yet have a bank account in place to allow the transfer of funds from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to the Regulator, payment of Board fees due has not been possible to date. The CEO indicated that the Executive is hoping to be in a position to pay the fees as soon as possible.

Item 11. Next Board Meeting

The Board noted the next meeting would take place on 04 September 2024.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their participation and contributions.



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THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING