An Rialálaí Agraibhia
Agri-Food Regulator

(Ref: ARA/N22/4)

Note of the twentieth meeting of the Board of the Agri-Food Regulator which took place on 8 June 2026 at 2pm - 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
- Margaret Dineen
- Elaine Donohue (online)
- Grace McCullen
- Angus Woods

Agri-Food Regulator:

- Niamh Lenehan, CEO
- Mel Hall (Item 3)
- Aiden Kelly (Item 3)
- Rob Levins (Item 6)
- Daniel Walsh (Item 6)
- Lisa Evers (Secretary)

Red C (Item 3):

- Robert Clarke
- Janeanne Fitzgerald (online)

For meeting agenda, see Appendix 1

Item 1: Opening by Chair

Apologies - John Comer

Item 2: Conflict(s) of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest noted.

Item 3: Supplier Survey Findings

Mr Clarke gave an overview of the supplier survey results, followed by Ms. Fitzgerald on the qualitative aspect.

The Board thanked the Executive and Red C for their work on the survey. They welcomed, in particular, the insights provided by the qualitative aspect of the research and agreed that it is a useful enhancement on the 2025 survey. The significant increase in supplier participation was also welcomed with information available on 1,300 trading relationships.

It was discussed that the downward trend relating to reported incidence of experiencing a UTP was welcomed. It was noted that sustained effort relating to communication to aid understanding of the Regulator's role and functions is required and is a difficult task.

The Board approved the publishing of the survey findings.

Item 4: Approval of Minutes of last Board Meeting

Minutes of the meeting on 20 April 2026 were approved.

Item 5: Approval of Board meeting notes for publishing

The Board approved the notes of the Board meeting on 20 February 2026 for publication.

Item 6: Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)

The Chair of the ARC presented a number of documents to the Board which were circulated in advance. The following points were noted in particular:

- The ARC Chair's Annual Report for 2025 includes findings from a self-assessment of performance exercise.
- There were no protected disclosures or fraud instances reported in 2025.
- There have been some small amendments made to the financial policy and procedures.
- The Risk Appetite Statement will be reviewed annually.

The Board approved all documents on the agenda as presented by the ARC Chair.

Item 7: Price & Market Data Analysis

Robert Levins gave a presentation on the work ongoing with respect to the operationalisation of SI 629.

Daniel Walsh then gave a presentation on the new Vegetable Dashboard which comprises publicly available information. Data from the farm-gate to consumer is included with the aim of improving understanding and visibility in the sector. The Board approved publication of the Vegetable Dashboard.

Item 8: Buyer Guidelines

The CEO provided an overview of considerations given to date regarding the development of buyer guidelines for the purpose of protecting supplier interests.

Through engagement with stakeholders to date, a number of areas of practice in the agri-food supply chain have been noted where the issuing of guidelines by the Regulator may be appropriate. The Board agreed the continuation of engagement. The CEO is currently considering alternative approaches to improve engagement.

Item 9: 2025 Annual Report

The Annual Report is due to be submitted to the Minister by the end of the month. It was discussed that the report gave an insightful overview of the work conducted in 2025 and the achievements of the Regulator.

The Board approved the 2025 Annual Report subject to some minor changes to images used.

Item 10: CEO Update

The CEO provided a written update to the Board prior to the meeting.

Item 11: For Noting

The Agri-Food Regulator website analytics reports for April and May 2026 were noted.

Item 12: AOB

- Through Mr. Noel McDermott of Fiosrú, the Regulator has been asked to provide a letter of support for the development of an Investigator Apprenticeship. The Board agreed that such a development would increase the availability of Investigators in the State.

- Grace McCullen asked if there were any relevant planned activities as part of the Irish presidency of the EU. The CEO noted that the Regulator has been feeding into the EU Commission as part of the review of the UTP Directive. The Commission is expected to produce a report later this year.

The next Board meeting will take place on 9 September 2026.