

Summary of the Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Panel (AAP)

Meeting 1 -24 June 2016

Welsh Government (WG) Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd ,
Powys.

Attendance

Lionel Walford – Chair

Peter Rees – Independent Member

Steve Hughson – Independent Member

Darren Williams – FUW

John Davies - NFU

Daryl Williams - UNITE

Ivan Monckton - UNITE

Kim Howell – Geldards

Helen Snow - Geldards

Kevin Austin – Welsh Government

Paula Whitfield – Welsh Government

Adriana Kiss - Welsh Government

Stuart Neil - Welsh Government

Medwyn Roberts – Welsh Government

Apologies

Gary Haggaty – Welsh Government

Item 1: Welcome.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Panel meeting. The Panel members introduced themselves and apologies were noted.

Item 2 – Conflicts of interest.

Some Panel members declared that they were from farming families, and one member was a LANTRA trustee.

Item 3 – Minutes of meetings

The Chair proposed that the Panel would have its own website where the minutes showing issues discussed, decisions made and actions needed would be published.

There was a requirement to send the minutes to the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs for information within 30 days of each meeting taking place. It was agreed that all pre meeting papers would be circulated in hard copy to all Panel members.

Item 4 Development of the Panel

The Panel were presented with a paper detailing its development. This included the history of the Act following abolition of the Agricultural wages Board for England and Wales, establishment, Panel functions, the functions of the Welsh Ministers with regard to the Panel, the provisions in the agricultural wages legislation and the support that Welsh Government will provide for the Panel.

A question was raised regarding the National Living Wage (NLW) and whether or not foreign/harvest workers were covered by the provisions of the Order. It was stated that all agricultural workers are to be paid in accordance with the NLW.

The Chair confirmed that Panel members **could claim back their expenses incurred for attending.**

Item 5 Legal matters

The subject of the Panel's legal responsibility to propose draft Wages Orders for submission to Welsh Ministers was raised. The Panel's legal advisors would assist the Panel in the creation of proposed Orders. The Panel discussed some aspects such as provisions on overtime payments, holiday pay, part-time working. They agreed to research these issues before their next meeting

Item 6 - The Sub-Committee on Skills Development and Training

The Chair invited the Panel to suggest appropriate members of the Sub-Committee. The FUW, NFU and UNITE were asked to put forward members to represent them also.

It was proposed that the Subcommittee may wish to liaise with Farming Connect with regard to developing a Continuous Professional Development Plan (CPD).

Item 7 - The Vision for Agriculture

A presentation was delivered on the vision for agriculture and the partnership group approach. This made reference to the 'Working Smarter' report which found that there was more need for increased professionalism and more partnership working with the agricultural industry. The Panel agreed there was a need for the industry to work more closely together in terms of strategy and setting direction. The Welsh Government welcome a partnership based approach.

Item 8 - Future work of the Panel

The Chair introduced the timetable for the making of the next AWO which was agreed by the Panel.

Item 9

A paper was presented which included detailed agricultural statistics. The Panel felt that they statistics didn't cover the full remit of the panel as it was focussed on farming. Further information on the wider aspects including information from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) will be sought, as well as work undertaken by the Low Pay Commission.

Item 10

A date was set for the next meeting. The Chair thanked the Panel and guests for their attendance.