

Summary of the Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Panel (AAP) Meeting 6 – 9 November 2017

Welsh Government Buildings, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells.

Attendance

Lionel Walford – Chair

Peter Rees – Independent Member

Steve Hughson – Independent Member

Darren Williams – FUW

John Davies – NFU

Ivan Monckton – UNITE

Bryan Godsell – UNITE

Helen Snow – Geldards

Paul Whitfield – Welsh Government

Guests

Kevin Thomas – Lantra (Items 2 and 3 only)

Angharad Butler – Brookdale Consulting (Items 2 and 3 only)

Item 1 – Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting as well as guests Kevin Thomas and Angharad Butler.

Item 2 – Update on the LMI Research

Angharad Butler, guest speaker from Brookdale Consulting, gave the Panel an update on the Labour Market Information research that they were carrying out within the Agricultural Sector and how this could assist the Panel in the modernisation of future Wages Orders. It was noted that the research was still at an early stage and was still ongoing. An would be given to the Sub-Committee on Skills Development and Training at their next meeting.

Item 3 – Update from the Chair

The Panel discussed Continued Professional Development (CPD) take up throughout the sector. Farming Connect had indicated that the figure was only around 40% but it was unclear if these figures included contractors and also how many workers undertook “on-the-job” training. It was agreed that more details were needed.

The Panel asked if there was scope for the Farm Business Survey (FBS) to include additional questions about agricultural labour. The Chair agreed to undertake the possibility.

Item 4 – Approval of Notes of Meeting 5 on 19 September 2017

The Chair noted the agreement of the Panel to record future meetings electronically. The minutes of the previous Panel meeting were discussed and approved.

Item 5 – Consideration of Responses to Consultation on the 2018 Order

There had been four responses to the consultation – all of which were shared at the meeting along with a summary.

The Panel then re-confirmed that the proposals for the Wages Order 2018 should remain as presented for consultation.

Item 6 – Any Other Business (AOB)

The Panel restated its view that better communications were needed including more activity on social media, the website and the press with more use of press notices. It was also agreed that a summary of the Panel meetings would be shared with the public.

Health and Safety (H & S) – UNITE wished to raise awareness of H & S within agriculture and reduce the number of fatalities within the sector. There had been 30 in Great Britain during 2016/17.

The NFU was very aware and shared their concern on this matter. They are currently in talks with tractor unit manufacturers with regard to Health & Safety. It was also stated that is a pre-requisite to participating in Farming Connect to do an online Health & Safety course.

There were no further AOB's. The Chair closed the meeting.