

Summary of the Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Panel (AAP) Meeting 15 – 15 April 2019

Welsh Government Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells

Attendance

Lionel Walford – Chair

Steve Hughson – Independent Member

Will Prichard – NFU Cymru

Darren Williams – FUW

Neil Beveridge – UNITE

Ivan Monckton – UNITE

Helen Snow – Geldards

Welsh Government:

Ryan Davies - Panel Manager

Dan Ricketts – Secretariat

Karla Price – Secretariat

Spencer Conlon

Item 1 - Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting including Neil Beveridge who has taken over the role in the Unite Union previously held by Paddy McNaught.

Item 2 – Update from Chair

There will be a second consultation document issued in July 2019 by the Welsh Government on “Brexit and Our Land”. The Chair stated that he wanted to call a meeting in September of the sub-committee on Skills Development and Training to agree a formal response to the consultation.

Item 3 – Approval of Notes of Meeting 14 (17 January 2019)

The minutes of the previous Panel’s meeting were discussed and approved.

The Action Points from the last meeting were also discussed:

- An update was given with regard to publicising and advertising future consultations pertaining to the Agricultural Wages Order. Prices varies widely depending on what type of advert was taken out. A suggestion was made to consider advertising in “Agri Trader” magazine. This would be looked into and a decision would then be made at the next meeting in June as to how future consultations will be advertised.
- A piece on the work of the Panel was to be included in the Royal Welsh Annual Journal. The journal was being edited now.
- The Panel are happy with the latest version of the paper regarding Employment Status and thanked Helen for her hard work on this. This will now go through

Welsh Government Translation Services and be published on the website as soon as possible

- An update was given with regard to what information on Labour and Wages is gathered in England on their Farm Business Survey – they have a specific section relating to Labour. This would be sent out to Panel members to show what questions were asked.

Item 4 – Modernisation of the Order from 2020

The Chair reaffirmed to the Panel that the modernisation of the Order was to ensure it was relevant in modern times and also relevant specifically to Wales. He also stated that due to timescales involved he did not think major changes would be able to be made for 2020 and a more realistic time frame is for minor changes to be made in 2020 with the major areas looked at in time for 2021.

The NFU / FUW proposal on “Re-Banding the Grade Structure” (from Meeting 9) was re-issued to the Panel. Unite stated they would respond to the proposal at the next meeting.

It was suggested that a timeline was drawn up to keep the Panel “on track” with regard to modernisation. It was agreed this would be done and presented at the next meeting.

At the establishment of the Panel a document was produced by the Panel’s legal advisers on what the Panel may need to look at with regard to modernisation. This will be circulated again.

The Chair summed up the discussion by saying that the Panel need to look at the whole Order in one go. There is no reason why the Panel cannot propose a new grading structure and then look at other things whilst the Impact Assessment on this is taking place. At the next meeting the Panel will put forward a proposal on the grading structure and what other parts of the Order need to be looked at. He stated that both sides need to come to the meeting ready for a substantive discussion

Item 5 – Any Other Business

There was no other business from around the table

Item 6 – Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place in June with a venue and date to be confirmed as soon as possible. The Chair then closed the meeting.