



**Tithe an  
Oireachtais**  
**Houses of the  
Oireachtas**

**AN COMHCHOISTE UM THALMHAÍOCHT, BIA AGUS MUIR**

**CLÁR OIBRE**

**EANÁIR – NOLLAIG 2015**

---

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE**

**WORK PROGRAMME**

**JANUARY – DECEMBER 2015**



## CONTENTS

|  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> ... ..  | 1    |
| <b>2. SELECT COMMITTEE</b> ... ..  | 1    |
| (a) LEGISLATION (BILLS)... ..  | 1    |
| (b) ESTIMATES AND OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS ... ..   | 1    |
| (c) REFERRALS OF MOTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ... ..  | 2    |
| <b>3. JOINT COMMITTEE</b> ... ..   | 2    |
| (a) EU BUSINESS ... ..   | 2    |
| (b) KEY POLICY PRIORITIES ... ..   | 3    |
| (c) PRE LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ... ..  | 3    |
| (d) CHAIRPERSONS DESIGNATE OF STATE BOARDS AND BODIES ... ..   | 4    |
| <b>4. JOINT SUB- COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES</b> ... ..   | 4    |
| <b>APPENDIX (1) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE</b> ... ..   | 5    |
| <b>APPENDIX (2) MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE</b> ... ..  | 8    |
| <b>APPENDIX (3) AGENCIES UNDER THE AEGIS OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,<br/>FOOD AND THE MARINE...</b> ... .. | 9    |



**JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2015**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine was established following Orders of Dáil Éireann and of Seanad Éireann on 12 June 2012. Standing Orders 86(4) (Dáil Éireann) and Seanad Éireann 75(4) require that *“as soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at any intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann”*.

**2. SELECT COMMITTEE**

The Select Committee is to consider Bills, Estimates for Public Services, motions and any other business referred to it by Dáil Éireann which relate to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The Select Committee may also consider Annual Output Statements, Value for Money Reviews (VFM) and Policy Reviews prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**(a) Legislation (Bills)**

The Select Committee will consider any Bills referred to it by Dáil Éireann, relevant to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine during the period covered by this Work Programme.

**(b) Estimates and other Financial Matters**

The Estimates are Ministers' spending plans for the coming financial year. When the Estimates are referred to Select Committee for examination, the relevant Committee has a valuable opportunity to question the Minister about proposed spending. The Estimates which the Select Committee must deal with are the Revised Estimates for Public Service (Agriculture, Food and the Marine) (Vote 31).

A Supplementary Estimate may be considered in December if additional monies are required by the relevant Government Department. Note: the Select Committee is required to consider the Estimates but is not empowered to amend them.

As part of the introduction of a new system in which the Estimates have been presented under the Comprehensive Expenditure Review Report published in November 2011, it is the Committee's intention to focus on what the Department has committed to achieving, how moneys are allocated between services and in addition to explore the policy issues underpinning the various spending provisions as well as to consider these matters as fully as possible. The proposed approach presents Departmental Estimates on a Strategic Programme basis, consistent with the presentation of the respective Annual Output Statements and Statements of Strategy. These Estimates have been supplemented with certain performance information regarding the outputs and impacts of Programme expenditure. In keeping with a whole of year approach, it is the Committee's intention to

have an exchange of views with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine at an appropriate time on the emerging position for 2016.

### **(c) Referrals of Motions and Other Matters**

From time to time, matters may arise and may be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil. It is not possible to say in advance what those matters might be or when they might arise. However, there are no items currently referred to the Select Committee.

## **3. JOINT COMMITTEE**

The duties of the Joint Committee are discharged in two ways (1) there will be items of business referred to it by one or both Houses and (2) it can select business for consideration itself, from the areas within its terms of reference. In practice, the Joint Committee's work will comprise the examination of EU business and key policy priorities.

### **(a) EU Business**

#### **Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals**

The scrutiny of draft EU legislative proposals will continue to be a standing agenda item of the Joint Committee. Draft proposals will be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee in line with the 2013 mainstreaming model as agreed by the Working Group of Committee Chairs (WGCC) by setting out priority (Schedule A) and non-priority (Schedule B) items.

The Joint Committee will consider all proposals as they arise during the period covered by this Work Programme.

#### **Engagement with Ministers**

Irish Ministers attend Council meetings in their relevant policy areas and it is intended that the Joint Committee will engage with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine twice yearly in advance of his attendance at the AGRIFISH Council meetings.

#### **Engagement on the Statutory Departmental Scrutiny Report**

There is a requirement under S.2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 for Ministers to report twice yearly to both Houses on the measures, proposed measures and other developments in relation to the European Communities and the European Union in relation to which he/she performs functions. The Joint Committee will continue to consider these reports as in previous years with the Secretary-General of the Department.

#### **Engagement with European Bodies**

The Committee will continue to further its engagement with European bodies such as the EU Commission and the EU Parliament and its committees during 2015, including delegation visits where appropriate.

### **(b) Key policy priorities**

The Joint Committee is empowered to consider such other policy issues as it may select within its terms of reference. In the period January to December 2015, in addition to core business such as legislation, issues concerning the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy etc., it should be possible to focus on one or two major topics

within the remit of the Department, with the aim of producing a well-researched report to the Houses.

The following are key policy issues identified by the Joint Committee for examination:-

***National level:***

- Dairy Industry in Ireland
- Greyhound industry in Ireland
- Horse industry including allocation of funding between sport horses and thoroughbred horses
- Protection of the hen harrier in designated lands in regard to land devaluation including the Habitats and Birds Directives.

***European level:***

- Review of the GMO decision-making process
- Simplification ( including Legislative, Common Market Organisation, new direct payments scheme and Geographical Indications)
- Russian Ban – to closely monitor the effects of the Russian ban on EU agricultural produce
- Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
- European Court of Auditors - spending on agriculture and rural development

**(c) Pre-Legislative Scrutiny**

The Government Legislative Programme makes provision for the publication of a number of Bills. Following changes to Standing Orders (agreed by the Dáil on 17 October 2013), Ministers are now required, except in exceptional circumstances, to bring the general scheme or draft heads of a Bill to a Joint Committee for consideration. Committees are empowered to consider the draft heads of Bills but they are not required to do so. The Joint Committee will examine all referrals of Bills by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, on a case by case basis and will carry out any pre-legislative scrutiny where it deems necessary.

**(d) Chairpersons designates of State Boards and Bodies**

In accordance with the Government decision of May 2011, new arrangements were being put in place to ensure greater transparency in the appointment of persons to State boards and bodies. It is an opportunity for Chairpersons Designate to discuss the approach they will take as Chairperson with the Committee and to give their views as to what contribution they can make to the agency or body to which they are proposed to be appointed to. The Joint Committee will meet with the Chairpersons designate, as the nominations arise during the year.

#### 4. JOINT SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

In November 2012, the Joint Committee established a Joint sub-Committee relative to Fisheries to be joined with sub-Committees on Transport and Communications; Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht to focus on coastal and island communities' socio-economic situation and on promoting sustainable industries. Following its publication of its report in January 2014, the sub-Committee intends to monitor the progress of its recommendations in the report with the relevant Departments.

This Work Programme for 2015 of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Select Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Joint sub-Committee on Fisheries was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 15 January 2015. In accordance with Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Doyle', followed by a stylized flourish.

---

Andrew Doyle T.D.  
Chairman  
15 January 2015

## Appendix 1

### Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

#### Terms of Reference

##### **a. Functions of the Committee – derived from Standing Orders [DSO 82A; SSO 70A]**

- (1) The Select Committee shall consider and report to the Dáil on—
  - (a) such aspects of the expenditure, administration and policy of the relevant Government Department or Departments and associated public bodies as the Committee may select, and
  - (b) European Union matters within the remit of the relevant Department or Departments.
- (2) The Select Committee may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann to form a Joint Committee for the purposes of the functions set out below, other than at paragraph (3), and to report thereon to both Houses of the Oireachtas.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Select Committee shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments, such—
  - (a) Bills,
  - (b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 164,
  - (c) Estimates for Public Services, and
  - (d) other mattersas shall be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil, and
  - (e) Annual Output Statements, and
  - (f) such Value for Money and Policy Reviews as the Select Committee may select.
- (4) The Joint Committee may consider the following matters in respect of the relevant Department or Departments and associated public bodies, and report thereon to both Houses of the Oireachtas:
  - (a) matters of policy for which the Minister is officially responsible,
  - (b) public affairs administered by the Department,
  - (c) policy issues arising from Value for Money and Policy Reviews conducted or commissioned by the Department,
  - (d) Government policy in respect of bodies under the aegis of the Department,
  - (e) policy issues concerning bodies which are partly or wholly funded by the State or which are established or appointed by a member of the Government or the Oireachtas,
  - (f) the general scheme or draft heads of any Bill published by the Minister,
  - (g) statutory instruments, including those laid or laid in draft before either House or both Houses and those made under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009,

- (h) strategy statements laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas pursuant to the Public Service Management Act 1997,
  - (i) annual reports or annual reports and accounts, required by law, and laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas, of the Department or bodies referred to in paragraph (4)(d) and (e) and the overall operational results, statements of strategy and corporate plans of such bodies, and
  - (j) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil and/or Seanad from time to time.
- (5) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Joint Committee shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments—
  - (a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Standing Order 105, including the compliance of such acts with the principle of subsidiarity,
  - (b) other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues, including programmes and guidelines prepared by the European Commission as a basis of possible legislative action,
  - (c) non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters, and
  - (d) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings.
- (6) A sub-Committee stands established in respect of each Department within the remit of the Select Committee to consider the matters outlined in paragraph (3), and the following arrangements apply to such sub-Committees:
  - (a) the matters outlined in paragraph (3) which require referral to the Select Committee by the Dáil may be referred directly to such sub-Committees, and
  - (b) each such sub-Committee has the powers defined in Standing Order 83(1) and (2) and may report directly to the Dáil, including by way of Message under Standing Order 87.
- (7) The Chairman of the Joint Committee, who shall be a member of Dáil Éireann, shall also be the Chairman of the Select Committee and of any sub-Committee or Committees standing established in respect of the Select Committee.
- (8) The following may attend meetings of the Select or Joint Committee, for the purposes of the functions set out in paragraph (5) and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:
  - (a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,
  - (b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and
  - (c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.

**b. Scope and Context of Activities of Committees (as derived from Standing Orders [DSO 82; SSO 70])**

- (1) The Joint Committee may only consider such matters, engage in such activities, exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are specifically authorised under its orders of reference and under Standing Orders.
- (2) Such matters, activities, powers and functions shall be relevant to, and shall arise only in the context of, the preparation of a report to the Dáil and/or Seanad.
- (3) It shall be an instruction to all Select Committees to which Bills are referred that they shall ensure that not more than two Select Committees shall meet to consider a Bill on any given day, unless the Dáil, after due notice given by the Chairman of the Select Committee, waives this instruction on motion made by the Taoiseach pursuant to Dáil Standing Order 26. The Chairmen of Select Committees shall have responsibility for compliance with this instruction.
- (4) The Joint Committee shall not consider any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Committee of Public Accounts pursuant to Dáil Standing Order 163 and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993.
- (5) The Joint Committee shall refrain from inquiring into in public session or publishing confidential information regarding any matter if so requested, for stated reasons given in writing, by—
  - (a) a member of the Government or a Minister of State, or
  - (b) the principal office-holder of a body under the aegis of a Department or which is partly or wholly funded by the State or established or appointed by a member of the Government or by the Oireachtas:

Provided that the Chairman may appeal any such request made to the Ceann Comhairle / Cathaoirleach whose decision shall be final.

## Appendix 2

### Membership of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

**Deputies:** Tom Barry (FG)  
Pat Deering (FG) [Vice-Chairman]  
Andrew Doyle (FG) [Chairman]  
Martin Ferris (SF)  
Martin Heydon (FG)  
Willie Penrose (LAB)  
Michael McNamara (LAB)  
Éamon Ó Cuív (FF)  
Thomas Pringle (IND)

**Senators:** Michael Comiskey (FG)  
Denis Landy (LAB)  
Paschal Mooney (FF)  
Mary Ann O'Brien (IND)  
Brian Ó Domhnaill (FF)  
Pat O'Neill (FG)

#### Notes:

1. Deputies appointed to the Committee by Order of the Dáil on 12 June 2012
2. Senators appointed to the Committee by Order of the Seanad on 14 June 2012
3. Deputy Andrew Doyle elected as Chairman on 19 June 2012
4. Deputy Pat Deering elected as Vice-Chairman on 19 June 2012
5. Deputy Michael Moynihan was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív was appointed to the Committee in substitution for him by Order of the Dáil on 19 July 2012
6. Deputy Michael Colreavy was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Martin Ferris was appointed to the Committee in substitution for him by Order of the Dáil on 25 September 2012
7. Deputy Colm Keaveney was discharged from the Committee and Deputy Willie Penrose was appointed to the Committee in substitution for him by Order of the Dáil on 10 October 2013
8. Senator Susan O'Keeffe was discharged from the Committee and Senator Denis Landy was appointed to the Committee in substitution for her by Order of the Seanad on 8 October 2014.

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Agencies under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

- Aquaculture Licence Appeals Board
- Bord Bia
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara
- Bord na gCon
- Coillte Teoranta
- Horse Racing Ireland
- Irish National Stud Company Ltd.
- Marine Institute
- National Milk Agency
- Teagasc
- The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority
- Veterinary Council of Ireland