

Summary of the Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Panel (AAP) Meeting 18 – 24 October 2019

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

Attendance

Lionel Walford – Chair
Steve Hughson – Independent
Ivan Monckton – Unite
Dylan Morgan – NFU Cymru

Peter Rees – Independent
Darren Williams – FUW
Daryl Williams – Unite
Helen Snow – Geldards

Welsh Government:

Ryan Davies – Panel Manager
Spencer Conlon – Agricultural Strategic Framework Project Leader
Dan Ricketts – Secretariat

Apologies

Will Prichard – NFU Cymru

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Dylan Morgan from NFU Cymru as Will Prichard sent his apologies.

Agenda Item 2 – Chair's Update

Welsh Government is sponsoring a discussion of the Fair Work Commissions' report on 12th November 2019 which the Chair would be attending. The recommendations of the report will be discussed in the November meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting and Action Points

No changes to the record were made and the minutes were approved. All the Action Points from the previous meeting were on the agenda for this meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – LMI Data

It was clarified that Welsh Government do not hold data regarding the Labour Market in agriculture. The Farm Business Survey is unable to be changed to collect data to support the work of this group for various reasons. Welsh Government are fully supportive of the work of the Panel and will continue to be so. It was agreed the Statistics and Research Team of Welsh Government would be approached to check on

the viability of using June Agricultural and Horticultural Survey as a means of gathering LMI data which he agreed to do.

Agenda Item 5 – Wages Order Consultation Responses

There were four responses in total to the consultation document. One response was in favour of the changes, one abstained and two raised concerns over the Wages Order as a whole.

The National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage 2020/21 have not been published by the UK Government and it was agreed that the proposed wage rates negotiated in Meeting 17 could not be confirmed until the national figure was known.

Agenda Item 6 – Modernising the Wages Order

As there are minimal changes to the 2020 Order this is still on track to come into force on 1 April 2020.

Ideally the structure of the 2021 Order needs to be agreed by February 2020. However as this is such a crucial issue if the Impact Assessment has to be delayed by a few weeks then so be it.

A discussion took place around the re-banding of the Agricultural Wage Grades and a new draft of the document was drawn up. All parties were asked to look at the new document for a final decision at the next meeting.

Cross Border farmers were discussed and it was agreed the guidance published on the website and available to employers and employees needs to have a section in it regarding wages for cross-border farms to correspond with other guidance (such as Basic Payment Scheme). It also needs to be looked at for the modernisation in 2021.

Agenda Item 7 – Sustainable Farming and Our Land Consultation

The sub-committee on Skills Development and Training met on 2 October to discuss a response to the consultation. The points raised by the sub-committee were discussed by the Panel. All agreed that the response could be issued as long as it was made clear that no comments were attributable to individuals or organisations.

Agenda Item 8 – AOB

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) are gaining some momentum in the work they are doing on the development of agricultural skills, apprenticeship frameworks etc.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.