



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

An Comhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Bia agus Muir

Clár Oibre: Iúil – Nollaig 2016

Samhain 2016

Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Work Programme: July – December 2016

November 2016

Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Select Committee	1
A. Legislation (Bills) See 3(c) also	1
B. Estimates and other Financial Matters	1
C. Referrals of Motions and Other Matters.....	1
3. Joint Committee	2
A. EU Business	2
Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals.....	2
Engagement with Ministers	2
Engagement on the Statutory Departmental Scrutiny Report	2
Engagement with European Bodies	2
B. Key policy and governance priorities.....	2
C. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny/Post-enactment	3
D. Engagement with Chairperson designates.....	3
Appendix 1: Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee	4
Appendix 2: Members of the Joint Committee	7
Appendix 3: Agencies under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.	8

Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Work Programme 2016

1. Introduction

The Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine was established following Orders of Dáil Éireann on 16 June 2016 and of Seanad Éireann on 21 July 2016. Standing Orders 89(4) (Dáil Éireann) and (Seanad Éireann) 75(4) require that *“as soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann”*.

2. Select Committee

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

A. Legislation (Bills) See 3(c) also

In the Government Legislation Programme for 2016, the heads of the Greyhound Industry (Amendment) Bill is currently being drafted.

B. Estimates and other Financial Matters

Select Committees are tasked with consideration of annual Estimates for Public Services that fall within their remit. The Estimates are Ministers' spending plans for the coming financial year. When the Estimates are referred to Select Committees for consideration, this Committee will have a valuable opportunity to question the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on financial allocations and associated output targets for the coming year. In keeping with a whole of year approach, it is the Committee's intention to have an exchange of views with the Minister in September on the emerging position for 2016 and 2017. 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.

In addition, the examination of the Annual Output Statements (AOS) including performance, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public monies and Value for Money (VFM) Reviews is another important part of scrutinising Government expenditure.

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, the Select Committee will schedule the necessary meeting(s) to ensure that the matter is considered within the prescribed timeframe. There are no items currently referred to the Select Committee.

3. Joint Committee

The duties of the Joint Committee are discharged in two ways (i) there will be items of business referred to it by one or both Houses and (ii) it can select business for consideration itself, from the areas within its terms of reference. In practice, the Joint Committee's core work has comprised EU business and key policy and governance 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 by setting out priority (Schedule A) and non-priority (Schedule B) items.

Engagement with Ministers

Ministers of the Government attend EU Council meetings in their relevant policy areas and it is intended that the Joint Committee will invite the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine from time to time to give oral briefings in advance of his attendance at the AGRIFISH Council meetings or in the case of his attendance following such 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 can consider these reports 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 2016, including delegation visits where appropriate.

B. Key policy and governance priorities

The Joint Committee is empowered to consider such other policy issues as it may select within its terms of reference. In addition to core business such as engagement with the Minister and Minister of State, Departmental officials and respective bodies on policy and government issues, it should be possible to focus on one or two major topics within the remit of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with the aim of producing a well-researched report to the Houses by end of 2016.

Tentative key policy and governance issues for examination are as follows:

- Impact of the UK Referendum on membership of the European Union on the Irish agri-food and fisheries sectors;
- Ongoing TTIP/WTO negotiations;
- Price volatility in agriculture markets/market situation and market support measures in place;
- Dairy and pigmeat sector;
- CAP – mid term review [2017];

- CAP Simplification;
- Rural Development Programme;
- Climate Change – food security/role of forestry/land use;
- Organic farming/labelling;
- Animal and plant health package; and
- Fishing opportunities for 2017.

The Joint Committee will prioritise the following issues for the remainder of this year.

1. The relationship between producers and multiples. (An update of the 2013 report of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine of the 31st Dáil);¹
2. Impact of the UK Referendum on membership of the European Union on the Irish agri-food and fisheries sectors;
3. Dairy price volatility;
4. Review of the Common Agricultural Policy; and

Issues not considered by end of 2016 can form part of the Work Programme for 2017.

C. Pre-Legislative Scrutiny/Post-enactment

In addition to this core work, the Joint Committee is also empowered to consider the examination of the general scheme or draft heads of Bills and to consider any post-enactment report on any Bill enacted in the previous 12 months by the Houses of the Oireachtas in respect of the Department.

The Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction (Amendment) Bill is listed in the current Government Legislative Programme that is expected to undergo pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS) this session.

D. Engagement with Chairperson designates

The Joint Committee is also empowered to engage with the Chairpersons designate of a body or agency under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, prior to their nomination for appointment, to discuss their strategic priorities for the role.

This Work Programme of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 8 November 2016. 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.



Pat Deering T.D.
Chairman
[08, November 2016]

¹ Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, *Report on the Grocery Goods Sector; Increasing equity and transparency in producer-processor-retailer relationships* (2013)

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee

a. Functions of the Committee – derived from Standing Orders [DSO 84A; SSO 70A]

- (1) The Select Committee shall consider and report to the Dáil on—
 - (a) such aspects of the expenditure, administration and policy of a 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 appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann for the purposes of the functions set out in this Standing Order, 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 appointed pursuant to this Standing Order 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 187,
 - (c) Estimates for Public Services, and
 - (d) other mattersas shall be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil, and
 - (e) Annual Output Statements including performance, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public monies, 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:
 - (a) matters of policy and governance 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 and governance in respect of bodies under the aegis of the Department,
 - (e) policy and governance 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,
 - (g) any post-enactment report laid before either House or both Houses by a member of the Government or Minister of State on any Bill enacted by the Houses of the Oireachtas,

- (h) 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,
 - (i) strategy statements laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas pursuant to the Public Service Management Act 1997,
 - (j) 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 subparagraphs (d) and (e) and the overall performance and operational results, statements of strategy and corporate plans of such bodies, and
 - (k) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil from time to time.
- (5) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Joint Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments—
- (a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Standing Order 114, 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) Where a Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order has been joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann, the Chairman of the Dáil Select Committee shall also be the Chairman of the Joint Committee.
- (7) The following may attend meetings of the Select or Joint Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order, 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.
- (8) A Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may, in respect of any Ombudsman charged with oversight of public services within the policy remit of the relevant Department or Departments, consider—
- (a) such motions relating to the appointment of an Ombudsman as may be referred to the Committee, and
 - (b) such Ombudsman reports laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas as the Committee may select.

b. Scope and Context of Activities of Committees (as derived from Standing Orders) [DSO 84; 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; and
- (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) 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 Standing Order 186 and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993; and
- (4) any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Joint Committee on Public Petitions in the exercise of its functions under Standing Orders [DSO 111A and SSO 104A].
- (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.

- (6) 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 28. The Chairmen of Select Committees shall have responsibility for compliance with this instruction.

Appendix 2: Members of the Joint Committee

Deputies: Jackie Cahill (FF)
Michael D’Arcy (FG)
Pat Deering (FG)
Martin Kenny (SF)
Charlie McConalogue (FF)
Willie Penrose (Lab)
Thomas Pringle (I4C)

Senators: Paul Daly (FF)
Tim Lombard (FG)
Pádraig Mac Lochlainn (SF)
Michelle Mulherin (FG)

Appendix 3: Agencies under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Commercial Bodies:

Bord na gCon: The Irish Greyhound Board (Bord na gCon) is a commercial semi-state body which is responsible for the control and development of the greyhound industry in the Republic of Ireland. The Board was established under special legislation by the Irish government in 1958. The Greyhound Industry Act (1958) gave the Board wide powers to regulate all aspects of greyhound racing in the Republic of Ireland including the licensing of the different tracks, the issuing of permits to officials, bookmakers, trainers and the implementation of the rules of racing.

Coillte Teoranta: Coillte is a commercial company operating in forestry, land based businesses, renewable energy and panel products. The company employs approximately 1,000 people and was established in 1988. It owns over 445,000 hectares of land, about 7% of the land cover of Ireland. Coillte manages its forests to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.

Horse Racing Ireland: Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) is the national authority for thoroughbred racing in Ireland, with responsibility for the governance, development and promotion of the industry under the Horse and Greyhound Racing Act 2001.

Irish National Stud: The Irish National Stud is a thoroughbred horse breeding facility in Tully, County Kildare, Ireland. It was formally established by incorporation on 11 April 1946 under the National Stud Act, 1945 and is owned by the Irish Government. In 1915 the farm and all its stock was gifted to the Crown and became The National Stud under the leadership of Sir Henry Greer. The success continued with the farm producing the winners of all five Classics.

Non-commercial Bodies:

Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board (ALAB): The function of the Board is to provide an independent authority for the determination of appeals against decisions of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on aquaculture licence applications. A person aggrieved by a decision of the Minister on an aquaculture licence application, or by the revocation or amendment of an aquaculture licence, may make an appeal within one month of publication (in the case of a decision) or notification (in the case of revocation/amendment).

Bord Iascaigh Mhara: BIM's mission is to grow a thriving Irish seafood industry; expand the raw material base, add value and develop efficient supply chains that together deliver on the Government's Food Harvest 2020 targets for seafood and create sustainable jobs.

Marine Institute: The Marine Institute is the State agency responsible for marine research, technology development and innovation in Ireland. The Marine Institute carries out environmental, fisheries, and aquaculture surveys and monitoring programmes to meet Ireland's national and international legal requirements. The Marine Institute also provides scientific and technical advice to Government to help inform policy and to support the sustainable development of Ireland's marine resource.

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): The SFPA was established under the provisions of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 and is Ireland's competent authority for Seafood Safety and Sea-Fisheries Protection.

"The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority is committed to the effective and fair regulation of the seafishing and seafood sectors that fall within our mandate. This means all fishing vessels operating within Irelands 200-mile limit, Irish fishing vessels wherever they operate, and all seafood produced in Ireland wherever it is marketed."

Bord Bia: The functions of Bord Bia set out in the Bord Bia Act 1994, as amended by the Bord Bia Amendment Act 2004. The functions of the Board shall be to promote, assist and develop in any manner which the Board considers necessary or desirable the marketing of Irish food and livestock and the production, marketing and consumption of horticultural produce. Bord Bia acts as a link between Irish food, drink and horticulture suppliers and existing and potential customers throughout the world.

National Milk Agency: The National Milk Agency was established under the Milk (Regulation of Supply) Act, 1994 for the purposes of maintaining an adequate supply of liquid milk within the State given the extra costs associated with all year round production of liquid milk of a sufficient quality to used for heat treatment for liquid consumption. The National Milk Agency is financed by the liquid milk industry itself by means of a levy.

Teagasc: The Agriculture and Food Development Authority is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities.

Veterinary Council of Ireland: The Veterinary Council of Ireland is the Statutory Body established under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. The Veterinary Practice Act 2005 was passed in July 2005. The Veterinary Practice (Amendment) Act was passed in July 2012. The principal function of the Council is to regulate and manage the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing in the State in the public interest.