



**BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**  
**TIONÓL PARLAIMINTEACH NA BREATAINE-NA**  
**hÉIREANN**

**INTERIM REPORT**

**from**

**Committee C (Economic Affairs)**

**on**

**The implications of Brexit for the agri-food sector**

**July 2017**

## **Introduction**

### **Background to the inquiry and overview of work carried out so far**

1. In July 2016, in the aftermath of the UK's referendum on leaving the European Union (EU), the Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into the consequences of the UK's decision on the agri-food sectors across the BIPA member jurisdictions. We were conscious that this sector played an important role in both the UK and Ireland and that there were significant trading relations between the jurisdictions which would be affected by the UK's decision to leave the EU.
2. During the course of our inquiry, we have heard evidence from a range of stakeholders in Belfast (13 October 2016), Dublin (14 October 2016), and Cardiff (29 November 2016). The Committee is grateful to all of those who attended these meetings and shared their expertise and opinions as well as to those who helped to organise our meetings in the different places.
3. It was our intention to visit all the member jurisdictions, as well as Brussels, and to talk to relevant stakeholders in those places to get a full picture of the potential implications of the UK leaving the EU for the agri-food sector. However, uncertainty about when Article 50 would be triggered, and what the key negotiating points would be on either side meant that we have not yet been able to secure meetings in some jurisdictions. The rapidly changing circumstances, including a snap general election in the UK in June 2017, suggest to us that it would be better to present our interim findings now. We hope to produce a final report at a later date, which might include contributions and evidence from hearings in London, Edinburgh and Brussels.
4. This interim report provides:
  - an overview of the significance of the agri-food sectors in the BIPA member jurisdictions;
  - some key statistics about the sector across these islands; and
  - some provisional recommendations.

## **Our inquiry**

### **Meetings and evidence**

5. The Committee has held three meetings to date. On 13 October 2016, the Committee met in Belfast and heard evidence from representatives of the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA); the Ulster Farmers Union; and Northern Ireland Environmental Link. We sought a meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and none was forthcoming.
6. On 14 October 2016, the Committee met in Dublin and heard evidence from representatives of: the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; the Irish State Agencies, including Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia and Teagasc; and sectoral organisations such as the Irish Exporters Association, the Irish Farmers Association, Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association, and Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association.
7. On 29 November 2016, the Committee met in Cardiff and heard evidence from representatives of the Government of Wales; farming organisations, including the National Farmers' Union, the Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) and the Wales Young Farmers Committee; and Welsh academics working in relevant fields. Further details on those who attended and gave evidence at these meetings is included at Annex A.

### **The agri-food sector**

8. The agri-food sector includes primary production (agriculture or farming), and the processing of food and drinks (excluding tobacco). In Ireland, agri-food is the country's largest indigenous industry, employing an estimated 165,700 people and accounting for 7.6% of Gross Value Added (GVA) at factor cost in 2014.<sup>1</sup> That sector in the United Kingdom employed approximately 3.9 million people and accounted for a total estimated

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<sup>1</sup> MerrionStreet.ie (2015) *Spotlight: Irish agrifood industry in numbers*. Available at [http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/allaboutjobs/Features-Articles/Spotlight\\_Irish\\_agrifood\\_industry\\_in\\_numbers.html](http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/allaboutjobs/Features-Articles/Spotlight_Irish_agrifood_industry_in_numbers.html) and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (2016) *Fact Sheet on Irish Agriculture – June 2016*. Available at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/publications/2016/June2016Factsheet010616.pdf>

GVA of £108 billion or 7.2% of national GVA in the same year.<sup>2</sup> The sector thus plays an important role in the economies of both Ireland and the UK.

### **Key figures about the agri-food sectors in BIPA member jurisdictions**

9. In Ireland, the beef and milk production currently account for 69% of agricultural output at producer prices (excluding forage).<sup>3</sup> Figures from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine show that 81% of the agricultural area is devoted to pasture, hay and grass silage (3.6 million hectares), 11% to rough grazing (0.5 million hectares) and 8% to crops (including cereals), fruit and horticulture production (0.36 million hectares).<sup>4</sup> Bord Bia (the Irish Food Board) estimated that Ireland exported €10.83 billion worth of food and beverages in 2015, “a result in large measure of Ireland’s high level of self-sufficiency in many products”.<sup>5</sup>
  
10. In 2015, the Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) in the UK was 17.1 million hectares, covering 70% of land in the UK.<sup>6</sup> The UK was the largest EU producer of sheep and goat meat, accounting for around 40% of EU production and the third largest producer of wheat, milk, beef and veal for the EU-28 Member States in 2015.<sup>7</sup> The UK produces around 60% of the food it consumes and is particularly reliant on imports for fruit and many vegetables. However, setting aside these headline figures, the agri-food sectors in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales are all different, with dissimilar vulnerabilities and areas of strength, which mean they will all be affected differently by the UK leaving the European Union.
  
11. For example, we learned that agri-food plays a key role in the economy of Northern Ireland where it is the largest indigenous industry, the biggest manufacturing industry,

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<sup>2</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2016) *Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2015* (page 96). Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/535996/AUK-2015-07jul16.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535996/AUK-2015-07jul16.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service, *Fact sheet on Irish Agriculture—June 2016*. Available at: <http://igees.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/June-2016-Factsheet-Final.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (2016) *Fact Sheet on Irish Agriculture – June 2016*.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2016) *Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2015*. Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/535996/AUK-2015-07jul16.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535996/AUK-2015-07jul16.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Information in this paragraph has been sourced from *Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2015* available at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/535996/AUK-2015-07jul16.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535996/AUK-2015-07jul16.pdf)

and the most important exporter. An estimated 100,000 people are employed within the sector, accounting for 25% of those employed in manufacturing (through food processing) and making the agri-food sector the largest manufacturing employer in Northern Ireland.<sup>8</sup>

12. Agri-food is one of the Welsh Government's priority economic sectors: it accounts for 40,000 enterprises and 4% of total employment, and contributed £1.6 billion in GVA to the Welsh economy in 2013.<sup>9</sup>

13. Approximately 80% of Scotland's land mass is under agricultural production. Scotland's farmers, crofters and growers produce output worth around £2.9 billion a year, and are responsible for much of Scotland's £5 billion annual food and drink exports. Agriculture directly employs around 67,000 people, with a further 360,000 jobs being dependent on that sector.<sup>10</sup>

14. In England, the agri-food sector is also of economic importance. UK Government statistics on England's food chain illustrate this: consumer expenditure on food, drink and catering totals nearly £203 billion per annum, its GVA is £100.8 billion, the sector employs over 3.4 million individuals and accounts for more than 210,000 enterprises.<sup>11</sup>

### **Trade between the member jurisdictions**

15. The agri-food industries in BIPA member jurisdictions are closely connected, including through significant trade and (joint) processing aspects. The BIPA members are key export and import markets for each other's agri-food sectors. The UK and Ireland are each other's largest export market for food and drink. Within this category, the main sub-

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<sup>8</sup> Agri-Food Strategy Board April (2013) *Going For Growth*. Available at <http://www.agrifoodstrategyboard.org.uk/uploads/Going%20for%20Growth%20-%20Web%20Version.PDF>

<sup>9</sup> Welsh Government, Priority sector statistics. Available at <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/priority-sector-statistics/?lang=en>

<sup>10</sup> NFU, Scotland. We do not have much data on Scotland as we have not taken evidence there to date.

<sup>11</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Food statistics pocketbook 2016. Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/608426/foodpocketbook-2016report-rev-12apr17.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/608426/foodpocketbook-2016report-rev-12apr17.pdf)

sectors are dairy, meat, prepared consumer food and beverages, and alcoholic beverages.<sup>12</sup>

16. Trade between the UK and Ireland is significant. The Irish Food Board, Bord Bia, finds that 37% of Ireland's food and drink exports are to the UK—the largest category of exports—while 32% of Ireland's food and drink exports go to other EU countries and the remaining 21% to international markets.<sup>13</sup> For the UK, the value of food, feed and drink exports was £18 billion, with the principal destinations being the Irish Republic (17%), France (11%) and the USA (10%).<sup>14</sup> UK exports to the Irish Republic in 2015 had a value of over £3 billion.<sup>15</sup> On the other hand, agri-food imports into the UK amounted to £38.5 billion, with the principal countries of dispatch being the Netherlands (12%), the Irish Republic (10%) and France (10%).
17. Ireland exports food and drink worth €4bn to the UK, making it a key destination for the Irish food industry. Ireland exports around 55% of its meat exports (valued at around €2bn) and 30% of its dairy (valued at around €1bn) to the UK.
18. In 2016, Teagasc (Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority) published an analysis which suggested that the UK's departure from the EU would lead to a reduction in the value of Irish agri-food exports of anything from €150 million to €800 million per year, depending on post-Brexit trading arrangements.<sup>16</sup> The higher end of these estimates equates to more than 7% of Ireland's total agri-food exports.<sup>17</sup> Notwithstanding, IBEC, the group that represents Irish business both domestically and internationally, has

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<sup>12</sup> Much of the information in this section has been extracted from IBEC (2016) *The impact of a possible Brexit on Irish business*. Available at [http://www.ibec.ie/IBEC/Press/PressPublicationsdoclib3.nsf/vPages/Newsroom~new-ibec-report-sets-out-brexit-risks-10-04-2016/\\$file/The+UK+referendum+on+EU+membership++The+impact+of+a+possible+Brexit+on+Irish+business.pdf](http://www.ibec.ie/IBEC/Press/PressPublicationsdoclib3.nsf/vPages/Newsroom~new-ibec-report-sets-out-brexit-risks-10-04-2016/$file/The+UK+referendum+on+EU+membership++The+impact+of+a+possible+Brexit+on+Irish+business.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Bord Bia, Factsheet on the Irish Agriculture and Food & Drink Sector. Available at: Factsheet on the Irish Agriculture and Food & Drink Sector

<sup>14</sup> Food Research Collaboration, *The UK Agri-Food Sector, Brexit and International Trade: Opportunities and Challenges*. Available at: <http://foodresearch.org.uk/2017/01/the-uk-agri-food-sector-brexit-and-international-trade-opportunities-and-challenges/>

<sup>15</sup> Cardwell and Smith (2017), *The UK agri-food sector, brexit and international trade: opportunities and challenges*. Available at: <http://foodresearch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/FRC-Blog-Final-Michael-Cardwell-and-Fiona-Smith.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Teagasc (2016) *Brexit – Potential Implications for the Irish Agri-Food Sector Report*. Available at <https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2012/BrexitPaperApril13final.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

suggested that Ireland will continue to be an important market for the UK even when it leaves the EU as businesses tend to sell perishable goods to nearby countries.

19. Aside from the large amount of trade in agri-food between the BIPA member countries, The UK's decision to leave the EU has also drawn attention to the inter-connection of the sectors in terms of production. On the island of Ireland, certain aspects of processing could be affected by the UK's exit from the EU, in particular meat processing and dairy. Over 1,000 bovines and 10,000 pigs are exported live from Ireland to Northern Ireland each week, with around 5,000 lambs imported into Ireland from Northern Ireland each week.<sup>18</sup>
  
20. In the dairy industry, approximately 75% of the processing capacity in Northern Ireland is now wholly or jointly owned by co-ops from Ireland, with one commentator noting that the figure would increase to almost 100% if United Dairy Farmers were ever to do a deal with Glanbia or Dairy Gold.<sup>19</sup> In 2015, bulk milk imports into Ireland for processing by creameries and pasteurisers amounted to 594 million litres, with nearly all of this coming from Northern Ireland. This imported milk is equivalent to 9% of domestic Irish supplies and 26% of Northern Ireland's annual milk supplies in 2015.<sup>20</sup>
  
21. In this context, standards and customs controls could become very important factors for such businesses post-Brexit. The Single Market effectively means that goods can move freely within the EU without being subject to tariffs, quotas, duties or customs delays. The possibility of tariffs on transactions after the UK leaves the EU could lead to problems, particularly for trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland. In the absence of a trade agreement with the EU, the UK would have to fall back on to World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms for trade with the EU member states. This might mean, for example, that agricultural exports from Northern Ireland to EU countries would face certain tariffs. CBI Brussels explained to a House of Lords Committee looking at this

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<sup>18</sup> Bord Bia (2016) *Brexit Briefing Document June 2016*. Available at <http://www.bordbia.ie/corporate/press/Documents/2016/BrexitBriefingInformation.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Halleron, R. (2016) *Opinion: Northern Ireland's border becomes Brexit frontier*. Available at <https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/opinion-irelands-farming-and-food-sectors-must-be-put-on-border-alert/#>

<sup>20</sup> Information in this paragraph is sources from National Milk Agency (2016) *Annual Report and Accounts 2015*. Available at <http://nationalmilkagency.ie/uploads/files/annualreports/2015/annualreport2015.pdf>

issue that if the UK reverted to WTO rules it could result in 40% tariffs being levied on dairy and agri-food produce.<sup>21</sup>

22. For the UK, departure from the EU will also mean withdrawal from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its support system (which includes direct subsidies, rural development programmes and emergency market support measures) and regulatory regimes.<sup>22</sup> We were told that 80% of farm income in Wales comes from EU funding. This will have implications for the farming and agri-food sectors in the UK although it is too early to say how.

23. Accordingly, the shape of trade policy post-Brexit is of intense interest to the sector in all member jurisdictions: decisions taken during the process of withdrawal may have a direct impact not only on producers, but also, for example, on food prices for consumers and on food quality and safety as products are traded across international boundaries.<sup>23</sup>

### **Key issues**

24. Certain key issues and concerns have already begun to emerge from the evidence we have heard. This section provides a brief outline of some of these areas, and we hope to explore these and other areas in future meetings.

### ***The border between Ireland and Northern Ireland***

25. In Belfast and Dublin, the Committee heard that at present the agri-food sector operates seamlessly across the border. Raw materials are sourced and sent back and forth across the border, and the supply chain moves back and forth across the border as well during different stages of processing. Some farms physically straddle the border, with land in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The re-imposition of border controls would impose additional costs and time delays which could be extremely onerous and would be unwelcome to producers and businesses. Managing this was a key priority for those who met with the Committee.

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<sup>21</sup> Evidence to the House of Commons International Trade Committee, 24 January 2017. Available at: <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/international-trade-committee/uk-trade-options-beyond-2019/oral/46458.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> House of Commons Library (2016) *EU Referendum: Impact on UK Agriculture Policy*. Available at <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7602/CBP-7602.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Michael Cardwell, Professor of Agricultural Law, University of Leeds and Fiona Smith, Professor of International Economic Law, University of Warwick, *The UK Agri-Food Sector, Brexit and International Trade: Opportunities and Challenges*, January 2017, <http://foodresearch.org.uk/2017/01/the-uk-agri-food-sector-brexit-and-international-trade-opportunities-and-challenges/>

26. Furthermore, the Committee heard that the island of Ireland forms one single biogeographic unit, which is very different from Great Britain. This reality will need to be factored into future plans for environmental protection and disease control, especially if the regulatory regimes in Ireland and the UK diverge.

### ***Labour***

27. The Committee also heard that the agri-food sector will need access to a steady supply of workers from outside the UK and Ireland. At present, many of those working in the agri-food sectors are migrant workers from other EU member states. Changes to existing immigration regimes may impact the availability of workers for the sector.

### ***Currency***

28. In Dublin, the Committee heard about the challenges that currency volatility presents for farmers and businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Fluctuations and volatility are putting pressure on all, especially the small operators. The problems posed by currency fluctuations are emblematic of the uncertainty facing the agri-food sector. For example, we were told that for some EU seasonal migrant workers, the fall in the value of the pound was already beginning to make the UK less attractive. The Committee heard across the board that clarity is needed so that producers and businesses can take decisions and make plans.

### ***Trade***

29. In Belfast, Dublin and Cardiff, witnesses identified trade as a key area of concern for the agri-food sector. For all EU member states, including the UK, trade policy is determined by the EU. That means that any external trade deals (i.e. those outside the EU Single Market and Customs Union) to which the UK is a signatory are negotiated by EU officials. Within the UK, trade policy has not, to date, been a devolved issue—although agriculture was. There were concerns that the UK would opt for a cheap-food policy to the detriment of Irish, Welsh and other higher cost farmers in difficult areas. While there is a Joint Ministerial Council, to take into account the views of and likely impact of decisions on Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, we heard concerns in Wales and Belfast, that the negotiation of any new trade deals might only pay lip service to the priorities of the devolved administrations.

## *EU funding and the Common Agricultural Policy*

30. The Committee participated in extensive discussions about EU funding and arrangements to replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the UK. These discussions highlighted the opportunity for reform, but there was also anxiety that any new UK agricultural policy might not take account of variations between the different constituent parts of the UK. In relation to funding support for the agri-food sectors, we heard that in limited circumstances it might be possible for the UK to have access to EU funding for certain projects through partnerships and collaboration with Ireland.

## **Future work of the inquiry and interim recommendations**

31. During this inquiry, we heard about the opportunities and challenges of Brexit for the agri-food sector in the different member jurisdictions where we were able to hold meetings. This included possible increases to the cost of trade between the UK and the Republic of Ireland (and other EU Member States), as well as opportunities to make positive changes to the UK's agricultural policy and regulation. **We also learned about collaborative work on these issues which is already being undertaken for example by the farmers unions. Such collaboration is positive and we would like to see it continue.**

32. Since this inquiry began in June 2016, the Committee has been pleased to hear that the Irish and the UK Governments have affirmed their commitment to avoiding a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. **The Committee welcomes the European Council's acknowledgement of the unique circumstances on the island of Ireland in the Guidelines for the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU.** These state that:

flexible and imaginative solutions will be required, including with the aim of avoiding a hard border, while respecting the integrity of the Union legal order. In this context, the Union should also recognise existing bilateral agreements and arrangements between the United Kingdom and Ireland which are compatible with EU law.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Available online at <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/04/29-euco-brex-it-guidelines/>

We also note that the terms of reference for the Article 50 TEU negotiations, published on 19 June 2017, note that in addition to three initial negotiating groups, “a dialogue on Ireland / Northern Ireland has been launched under the authority of the co-ordinators”.<sup>25</sup>

33. In the context of its importance to the agri-food sectors in the BIPA member jurisdictions, **we welcome the priority that has been indicated will be given to the issue of the Irish border during negotiations on the UK’s exit from the European Union.**
34. We hope to build on the work in this Report by holding meetings in Edinburgh, London and Brussels to hear further evidence from stakeholders across the agri-food sectors. We also intend to seek out the viewpoints of diverse groups within and linked to the agri-food sector to discuss the opportunities and challenges of the UK’s exit from the EU. We will compile a final report once we have taken further evidence, building on these interim findings and making further recommendations.

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<sup>25</sup> Department for Exiting the European Union, *Terms of reference for the Article 50 negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union*. Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/620409/Terms\\_of\\_reference\\_for\\_the\\_Article\\_50\\_negotiations\\_between\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_and\\_the\\_European\\_Union.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/620409/Terms_of_reference_for_the_Article_50_negotiations_between_the_United_Kingdom_and_the_European_Union.pdf)

## **Annex A – list of meetings and witnesses**

### **Belfast, 13 October 2016**

#### **Witnesses**

- Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA)
  - Conall Donnelly, CEO, NIMEA
  - Terry Acheson, CEO, Foyle Food Group
  - George Mullan, CEO, ABP Northern Ireland
- Ulster Farmers Union
  - Wesley Aston, CEO, UFU
  - Barclay Bell, President, UFU
- Northern Ireland Environmental Link
  - Patrick Casement, NIEL Chair
  - Sean Kelly, Parliamentary and Development Officer, NIEL
  - Joanne Sherwood, NI Director, RSPB (NIEL member organisation)
  - Craig McGuicken, Chief Executive, NIEL

#### **Members attending**

- Senator Denis Landy (Chair)
- Joan Burton TD
- Lord Empey
- David Ford MLA
- Helen Jones MP (Vice Chair)
- Deputy John Le Fondré
- Colin McGrath MLA

### **Dublin, 14 October 2016**

#### **Witnesses**

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Paul Savage, Principal Officer
- Representatives of the State Agencies
  - Michael Cantwell, Divisional Manager, Food, Enterprise Ireland
  - Garrett Murray, Manager, Policy, Enterprise Ireland
  - Aidan Cotter, CEO, Bord Bia
  - Pdraig Brennan, Business Analyst, Bord Bia
  - Dr Trevor Donnellan, Research Officer, Teagasc
  - Kevin Hanrahan, Research Officer, Teagasc
- Representatives of Sectoral Organisations
  - Simon McKeever, Chief Executive, Irish Exporters Association
  - Richard Kennedy, Deputy President, Irish Farmers Association
  - Bryan Barry, Acting General Secretary, Irish Farmers Association
  - Rowen Dwyer, Economist, Irish Farmers Association
  - Elaine Farrell, Oireachtas/Retail Executive, Irish Farmers Association

- John Enright, General Secretary, Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association
- John Comer, President, Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association
- Edmond Phelan, Beef Chairman, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association
- John Brooks, Sheep Chairman, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association

### **Members attending**

- Senator Denis Landy (Chair)
- Joan Burton TD
- Lord Empey
- David Ford MLA
- Helen Jones MP
- Deputy John Le Fondré
- Colin McGrath MLA

## **Cardiff, 29 November 2016**

### **Witnesses**

- Welsh Government
  - Leslie Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs
  - David McNeill, Brexit Team, Government of Wales
- Representatives of farming organisations
  - John Mercer, Director, National Farmers' Union (NFU)
  - John Davies, Deputy President, NFU
  - Nick Fenwick, Head of Policy, Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW)
  - James Evans, Wales Young Farmers Committee
  - Dafydd Jones, Wales Young Farmers Committee
- Welsh academics
  - Dr Jo Hunt, Cardiff University
  - Professor Peter Midmore

### **Members attending**

- David Ford MLA (in the Chair)
- Joan Burton TD
- Rosie Cooper MP
- Lord Empey