

**REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD FOR
NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL WAGES (REGULATION)
(NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1977**

FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

*Laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly under Article 12 of the Agricultural Wages
(Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural
Development for Northern Ireland*

01 April 2018

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Constitution

1. The Agricultural Wages Board for Northern Ireland (the Board) is constituted under the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977. The Board's functions are to fix the minimum rates of wages and certain other related matters, such as holiday remuneration for agricultural workers in Northern Ireland.

Agricultural Workforce

2. The total number of persons working both full and part-time in Northern Ireland farms at 1 June 2017 was 48,700, an increase of 2.0% on the 2016 total of 47,700. An increase was recorded in the category of Total Farmers, while there was a decrease in the Spouses and Other Workers categories. Further details of employment are set out in the appendix.

Activities of the Board

3. The Board held three meetings in 2016 and three meetings in 2017. It made two Orders during this period. Order No. 96 in 2016 increased the minimum rate of wages for agricultural workers by 2% across all grades from 6 April 2016. Order No. 97 in 2017 increased the minimum rate of wages for agricultural workers by 1.75% across all grades from 1 April 2017.
4. Copies of the Orders made by the Board are available from the TSO Online Bookshop at www.tsoshop.co.uk.

Ministerial Appointments and Reappointments

5. One reappointment was made under Article 3 and Schedule 1 of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977. Mr Rodger McKnight was reappointed as Chair for a 3 year period, expiring 31 May 2020.

Minimum Rates of Wages

6. The tables below give details of the minimum hourly rates of gross wages payable to agricultural workers.

Minimum Rates of Wages Payable from 6 April 2016:

Order No. 96

	Rate per hour £
Grade 1 – Minimum Rate Applicable for the first 40 weeks cumulative employment	6.76
Grade 2 Standard Worker	7.05
Grade 3 Lead Worker	7.74
Grade 4 Craft Grade	8.31
Grade 5 Supervisory Grade	8.80
Grade 6 Farm Management Grade	9.53

Minimum Rates of Wages Payable from 6 April 2017:

Order No. 97

	Rate per hour £
Grade 1 – Minimum Rate Applicable for the first 40 weeks cumulative employment	6.88
Grade 2 Standard Worker	7.17
Grade 3 Lead Worker	7.88
Grade 4 Craft Grade	8.46
Grade 5 Supervisory Grade	8.95
Grade 6 Farm Management Grade	9.70

Holiday Entitlement

7. The minimum holiday entitlement for an agricultural worker is 5.6 weeks or 28 days (proportionally). An agricultural worker in continuous employment with the same employer for more than one year is entitled to a maximum of 29 days, made up of 28 days leave plus one additional day from a list of 14 public holidays.

Enforcement of Minimum Rates

8. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Agricultural Wages (Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 and Orders made by the Agricultural Wages Board. Department Inspectors investigate complaints by workers about any matters within the remit of the Board's Orders. Complaints should be addressed to The Secretary, Agricultural Wages Board, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB.

Complaints

9. Multiple complaints against two separate employers were received during the period of the report. Initial investigations were carried out on these complaints but they were all subsequently withdrawn.

Costs of Administering the Order

10. The total costs of the Board's operations were:

Year ended 31 December 2016:	£ 21,246.20
Year ended 31 December 2017:	£ 21,643.80

Members of the Board

11. The membership of the Board at 31 December 2017 was:

Name	Position	Where they come from
Mr Rodger McKnight	Chair	Co. Antrim
Ms Patricia O'Callaghan	Independent	Co. Down
Vacant	Independent	N/A
Ms Joanne McWilliams	Unite	Co. Armagh
Mr Ronnie Corbett	Unite	Co. Tyrone
Mr Brian Hewitt	Unite	Co. Down
Mr John Anderson	Unite	Co. Antrim
Mr Peter McCrea	Unite	Co. Tyrone
Mr Harry McBride	Unite	Co. Londonderry
Mr Wilbert Mayne	UFU	Co. Tyrone
Mr Crosby Cleland	UFU	Co. Down
Mr Thomas Douglas	UFU	Co. Tyrone
Mr Chris Osborne	UFU	Co. Down
Mr Roy Lyttle	UFU	Co. Down
Mr Robert McCloy	UFU	Co. Londonderry

(Please note that an Independent Member appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Ms Eileen Mullan, left the Board during the period of this report.)

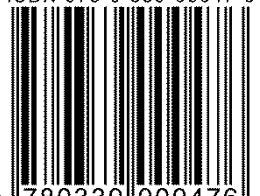
APPENDIX

Farm Labour (as indicated by the NI Agricultural Census Returns)

('000 workers)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Farmers					
Full-time	16.2	16.2	16.6	16.2	16.8
Part-time	12.8	12.9	13.4	13.6	13.6
Total	29.0	29.1	30.1	29.8	30.4
Farmers' Spouses	6.4	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.4
Other Workers					
Full-time	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.4
Part-time	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.3
Casual/Seasonal	4.9	4.9	4.4	4.1	4.1
Total Other Workers	12.4	12.5	11.8	11.5	11.9
Total Farmers, Spouses and Other Workers	47.8	47.9	48.0	47.7	48.7
Decrease on Previous Year	1.00%	-	-	0.1%	-
Increase on Previous Year		0.2%	0.2%		2.0%

ISBN 978-0-339-00047-6



9 780339 000476