

**DAERA Directed Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) Research Work Programme 2017/18**



# Background

The Evidence and Innovation Strategy updated for 2015-17 (EIS)1 sets out the overarching framework for research and development to underpin evidence-based policy and delivery, and to promote innovation in agri-food, fishing, forestry and other rural businesses. It provides the framework for funding the Department’s policy-relevant and industry-relevant research and innovation during the period prior to the establishment of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), and for a period of 1 year following the establishment and bedding-in of the new Department.

Whilst the 2015-17 EIS sets out a framework for research, the detailed evidence and innovation activities are co-ordinated through four Programme Management Boards (PMBs), which align broadly to the EIS Strategic Goals.

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| **EIS Goal** |  | **PMB** |
| **Goal 1:** To help the Agri-Food Industry Prepare for Future Market Opportunities and Economic Challenges | **PMB1:** Performance in the Marketplace |
| **Goal 2:** To Improve the Lives of Farmers and Other Rural Dwellers, Targeting Resources where they are most needed | **PMB2:** Informing Policy and Improving the Lives of Farmers and Other Rural Dwellers |
| **Goal 3:** To enhance Animal Fish and Plant Health and Animal Welfare on an all Ireland basis | **PMB3**: Animal and Plant Health and Animal Welfare |
| **Goal 4:** To Help Deliver Improved Sustainable Environmental Outcomes | **PMB4:** Sustainable Environment |

1 See<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/evidence-and-innovation-strategy-updated-2015-17>

1. **Programme Development**

One of the major roles and responsibilities of each PMB is to review, identify and prioritise investment in evidence gathering or innovation support activity in light of policy needs and/or evidence gaps. Evidence and innovation needs are identified by DAERA on an ongoing basis, informed by both informal and formal engagement with stakeholders.

This process ensures the development of an evidence and innovation programme that is appropriately aligned to policy needs, provides a robust evidence base for future policy development, implementation and review and/or supports industry innovation within the scope of DAERA’s policy interests.

An overarching Evidence and Innovation Priorities Group (**EIPG**), to which the PMBs report, is responsible for making the final decisions on the overall priority assigned to evidence and innovation requirements and, ultimately, the activities that will be funded in any particular year. EIPG is seeking to achieve a balanced research programme.

In this document, each of the PMBs include clustered evidence needs in key areas. For example, innovation to improve livestock production efficiency and a series of studies on the impact of the current Rural Development Programme (PMB 1); studies on the potential impact of Brexit (PMB2); studies on BVD-virus (PMB 3); and studies on ammonia emissions and nutrient management (PMB4). Such an approach will facilitate the transition to longer-term programmes of research in selected areas with linkages to evidence based projects as appropriate.

Approved proposals agreed through this annual process form part of the work programme delivered by AFBI for DAERA[[1]](#footnote-1).

# DAERA Directed AFBI Research Work Programme

# Our priority needs are set out in the sections that follow.

* It is anticipated that AFBI will submit Full Format Proposals (FFP) to address each of the Evidence and Innovation needs identified. If AFBI is not able to address a particular evidence need due to capacity or capability reasons, it should highlight this to DAERA at the earliest opportunity;
* Proposals should reflect AFBI’s current and foreseeable capacity and capability, the AFBI Science Strategy[[2]](#footnote-2), and AFBI efficiency proposals agreed with DAERA.
* Proposals falling outside our Evidence and Innovation needs will not be considered;
* FFPs must reflect the actual costs anticipated for the project. Costs should be profiled as accurately as possible and not simply spread evenly through the duration of a project.
* The associated timetable and evaluation procedures are provided at Annex A.

**Liaison with DAERA Policy**

* Further information on each priority need can be obtained from the nominated DAERA Policy Lead. AFBI Project Leaders with an interest in responding to an Evidence and Innovation Need are encouraged to contact the nominated DAERA Policy Lead at an early stage. Contact details are listed at **Annex B**;
* To facilitate early discussion, outline proposal(s) may be submitted by the AFBI Project Leader to the DAERA Policy Lead using the Concept Note pro-forma which is available on the DAERA website. This step is not mandatory;
* A FFP should be completed for each proposed submission.The template form can be obtained from the DAERA website. There are some minor changes to the FFP from previous years and Project Leads should ensure that the latest version is completed. The AFBI Project Leader should work closely with the DAERA Policy Lead to ensure that the proposal is the correct fit for the Evidence and Innovation Need identified. It should be noted that the FFP forms the Economic Appraisal for the proposal.

**Co-Funding Opportunities**

* DAERA will seek to identify and liaise with potential co-funders. If AFBI project leader(s) wish to pursue potential co-funding, they should inform SEIPD (contact details below) who will co-ordinate co-funding arrangements with DAERA.

**Closing Date**

* The proposal window closes on 28 July 2017 and all FFP(s) received up to this date will be scrutinised by PMBs;
* Concept notes will not be accepted as a substitute for FFPs; and
* All completed forms should be submitted via the AFBI central contact point to:-

[e&i@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:e&i@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Assessment and Approval Process**

* All FFPs will be scrutinised and, where appropriate, challenged by DAERA Policy Leads and DAERA Science Advisory Branch. AFBI should answer any queries promptly;
* FFPs will be selected at random for assessment by DAERA Resource Economics Branch. AFBI should answer any queries promptly;
* All FFPs will be assessed, scored and ranked by PMBs;
* EIPG will provide final approval for proposals. Approval will be subject to a satisfactory economic appraisal (mostly within the FFP) and proposals must have a sound scientific basis;
* EIPG will seek to achieve a balance across all PMBs and preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a holistic, inter-disciplinary approach to addressing the priority need(s) and/or attract co-funding from another source;
* **Work cannot start until EIPG signs off the proposal; and**
* **The outcome of this process is referred to as the DAERA Directed AFBI Research Work Programme 2017/18. Publicity or marketing of any of the proposals must acknowledge DAERA as the core funder.**

# Evidence and Innovation Needs

Evidence and Innovation needs to be addressed for each Programme Management Board follow (pages 5 – 15).

**PMB 1 - PERFORMANCE IN THE MARKETPLACE**

The overall objective of PMB 1 is to identify and prioritise evidence gathering and innovation support activity to promote the sustainable economic development of the local agri-food, fisheries and forestry industries. In order to inform policy development and delivery, it is paramount that there is a sound understanding of the complex social, political and economic interactions which affect the operating environment in which these industries function.

PMB 1 aims to achieve this objective through the delivery of evidence and innovation projects in 9 themed areas as outlined in the Evidence and Innovation Strategy updated for 2015-2017 (EIS 2015-2017):

Evidence and Innovation Research Needs Areas:

1. Evaluate impact of policy changes on the sector;
2. Sustainable and competitive production evidence;
3. Sustainable and competitive production innovation;
4. Efficient use of resources;
5. Novel and innovative products and processes;
6. Production sustainability in energy resource technologies;
7. Improving forest productivity and exploiting opportunities;
8. Competitiveness and sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture; and
9. Responding to climate change – adaptation and mitigation.

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| **PMB 1 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline Duration** | **DAERA Policy Lead** |
| **Increased efficiency in production systems.**  Assessment of measures to increase efficiency of production in all sectors through: achievement of market-led efficiencies; increased use of sustainable resources; new developments in precision agriculture; genetic improvement; or precision in nutrient/feed input requirements. | 1-3 years | **Brenda Cunning** |
| **Impact of RDP (study 1) Farm Business Improvement (FBIS) Scheme – Longitudinal study.**  A research programme for the overall FBIS, is required to undertake longitudinal studies of the technical and financial performance of assisted and non-assisted farms and attempt to differentiate the impacts of the programme and its individual strands from the underlying volatility and cyclical nature of farm performance. | 5 years | **Brenda Cunning** |
| **Impact of RDP (study 2) Farm Business Improvement Scheme Capital (FBIS-C) – setting baseline and methodology.**  Research is required to set methodology for assessing actual outcomes of the FBIS capital scheme, along with data gathering of Tier 1 Tranche 1 initial outcomes by Autumn 2017, to be followed by data gathering and evaluation for all future tranches of the capital scheme. | 6mths (Initially) | **Brenda Cunning** |
| **Impact of RDP (study 3) Farm Business Improvement Scheme Capital (FBIS-C) – review of tranche 1 and 2.**  Research is required to review tranche 1 and Tranche 2 of the FBIS Capital in terms of appetite for investment and projected outcomes / benefits – to report following closure of Tier 2 Tranche 2 in 2018 [this project to inform development of 2nd Outline Business Case for the scheme]. | 1.5 years | **Brenda Cunning** |
| **Impact of RDP (study 4) Evaluation of Food Processing Grant Scheme** **–** setting the baseline (to inform subsequent longitudinal study) (*subject to approval of* Outline Business Case). | 1 year | **Stephen Johnston** |
| **Impact of Brexit (study 1)**  Research to consider the economic benefits of Protected Geographical Indication (PGI)- type designation for NI agri-food products, post-Brexit. | 1 year | **Elaine McCrory/**  **Stephen Johnston** |
| **Impact of Brexit (study 2)**  Research to consider how the structure conduct and performance of the NI agri-food industry will need to change in response to possible post-Brexit trading scenarios. | 1-3 years | **Elaine McCrory** |
| * **Soil and growing medium management.** * Research to consider innovative approaches to soil management which will improve soil management and potentially achieve reduction in compaction and other soil health issues. Proposals are invited which could lead to improved precision of fertiliser use/ nutrient utilisation in a local context. | 1-3 years | **Brenda Cunning** |
| **Impact of flooding on farm businesses in flood plains.** (desk top study)  Research to examine crop performance and potential for alternative land uses in floodplains in response to one of the recommendations in the Strong Report, commissioned by Rivers Agency following the heavy and prolonged rainfall in the winter of 2015/16[[3]](#footnote-3). | 1 year | **Steven Millar** |
| **Farm safety**  Research is required to consider ways in which behavioral change to mitigate health and safety risks within the production; agriculture; and horticulture sectors might be achieved. This project should consider reporting issues with: near misses; risk perception; equipment and machinery, and consider international best practice for achieving better farm safety outcomes through changed attitudes and behaviours.  There is a lack of hard data relating to near misses on farms. A study of this (including a look at risk perception on farms) and appropriate actions to reduce near misses. | 3 years | **Louise Millsopp** |
| **Novel and innovative food products and processes.**  Development of novel and innovative food products and processes, including, packaging, health/well being and shelf life extension techniques to meet market requirements. Proposals should complement the work of the Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre. | 3 years | **Stephen Johnston/**  **Joy Alexander** |
| **Forestry production systems**.  The UK Forestry Standard requires managers to consider alternatives to clearfell systems, such as continuous cover forestry (CCF), where suitable sites and species combinations allow and management objectives are compatible. However CCF requires a range of skills and monitoring systems that are distinct from the methods commonly used in even-aged woodland management. The research need is to improve protocols for assessing growth, yield and productivity, timber quality and woodland values to operate effectively and achieve high environmental standards. A key requirement is to extend the existing forest inventory system to include CCF, to include information on the performance of privately owned woodlands, and integrate it with UK and Irish data reporting and modelling programmes. | 2 years | **Stuart Morwood** |

**PMB 2 – Informing Policy And Improving the lives of farmers and other rural dwellers**

A key objective of PMB 2 is to build the evidence base to inform the Department’s broad rural policy agenda. In particular, it is seeking to use research to develop a more robust and sophisticated understanding of the social and economic characteristics of rural areas, with a particular focus on identifying the specific needs of disadvantaged groups and what this means for the development and equitable delivery of government policy for both the farming and non-farm sector. A second key objective of PMB 2 is to commission cross-cutting economic research that will provide a deeper insight into the impact of policy options right across the Department’s remit and inform future policy development on agri-food industry competitiveness, animal health and welfare and environmental sustainability.

PMB 2 aims to achieve this objective through the delivery of evidence and innovation projects in 10 themed areas as outlined in the Evidence and Innovation Strategy updated for 2015-2017 (EIS 2015-2017):

Evidence and Innovation Research Needs Areas:

#### Understanding and evaluating socio-economic challenges, needs and potential of traditional land and marine-based industries and appropriate policy responses;

#### Identifying the particular challenges, needs and potential of rural and fishing communities and appropriate policy responses;

1. Using economic modelling frameworks to develop and test policy interventions and to assess their impacts;
2. Evaluating the costs and benefits to the economy of animal and plant disease prevention and control;
3. Understanding the economic value of improving environmental footprint in land and marine-based industries;
4. Understanding how best to affect behavioural changes within the agri-food, forestry and fishing sectors;
5. Understanding how best to maximise the returns from education and technology transfer;
6. Understanding how best to embed economic sustainability into rural policy interventions, including the role of innovative solutions, new technologies and social enterprise;
7. Evaluating the potential of innovation and new technologies (ICT) to deliver better social and economic outcomes in rural areas; and
8. Responding to climate change – adaptation and mitigation.

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| **PMB 2 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline Duration** | **DAERA Policy Lead** |
| **Economic evaluation of country parks.**  An economic evaluation of country parks and nature reserves concentrating on non-market values including benefits to health and tourism and creating an appreciation of the natural environment. | 1 year | **John Early** |
| **Research to improve a risk-based approach to plant health protection.**  Expand the Cost Benefit Analysis framework (including invasive alien species) and integrate it with the Northern Ireland Risk Register to improve the risk-based approach to plant health protection within NI with respect to forestry, agriculture and trade. | 3 years | **Diane Stevenson** |
| **Evaluation of the impact of Bronze Birch Borer.**  Identify the impact of the predicted spread of Bronze Birch Borer across Northern Ireland and develop a spatial model to support effective interventions. | 2 years | **Diane Stevenson** |
| **Impact of Brexit (study 3)**  Research to quantify the importance, both direct and indirect, on the agri-food sector and on wider rural society in NI of:   1. EU funding (including direct payments to farmers); 2. existing agri-food trade outside NI; and 3. potential impacts of Brexit for NI of new trading environment (to incorporate results from FAPRI trade analysis) | Part (i) and (ii) to be completed within 3 months, part (iii) to be undertaken in parallel and be completed 24 months. | **Niall Heaney/Elaine McCrory** |
| **Impact of Brexit (study 4)**  To explore the effectiveness of mechanisms which family farm businesses and households might use to develop a more resilient and sustainable farming sector and how their uptake may be encouraged. | 1 year | **Paul Keatley** |
| **Impact of Brexit (study 5)**  To undertake an evaluation of trends in Northern Ireland farm productivity at industry and sub-sector level, including the identification of key drivers and how productivity might be improved in the post-Brexit environment. | 2 years | **Seamus McErlean** |
| **Supply Response to Direct Payments**  To investigate and quantify the relationship between direct payments to farmers and any supply response for each of the main farm commodities produced in Northern Ireland | 1 year | **Mark Mclean** |

**PMB 3 - ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE**

The overall objective of PMB3 is to develop a strategic approach to protecting animal and plant health and animal welfare supported by sound scientific evidence. Information, gathered through targeted research, on the wider implications of animal / plant disease control strategies and interventions and animal welfare issues is needed to evaluate and inform the direction of future policy within Northern Ireland and to inform discussions with other Government bodies.

PMB 3 aims to achieve this objective through the delivery of evidence and innovation projects in 8 themed areas as outlined in the Evidence and Innovation Strategy updated for 2015-2017 (EIS 2015-2017):

Evidence and Innovation Research Needs Areas:

1. Improving detection and control of endemic animal diseases;
2. Understanding risks to aquaculture and fish health;
3. Assessing and improving animal welfare;
4. Animal disease horizon scanning – emerging risks;
5. Improving diagnosis and surveillance of plant pests and disease;
6. Costs, benefits and risk profile of animal and plant disease prevention and control strategies
7. New techniques/approaches to disease prevention and control; and
8. Responding to climate change – adaptation and mitigation.

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| **PMB 3 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline Duration** | **DAERA Policy Lead** |
| **Root knot nematode pests of grassland.**  Research to address knowledge gaps in the risk, potential impact and mitigations of emerging pests which have been identified as a growing threat to grassland and cereal crops in Northern Ireland. | 3 years | **Diane Stevenson** |
| * **Fungal pathogens of grassland.** * Research to investigate current levels of crown rust and Drechslera and other fungal pathogens in grassland in NI; assess levels of fungal resistance to currently available fungicides; and examine alternative methods of pathogen control. | 3 years | **Diane Stevenson** |
| **The protection of pigs as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking.**  To provide an up-to-date review of research on tail biting in pigs and provide some associated KT.  Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336 was issued to reduce the need for routine tail-docking and the provision of enrichment materials to pigs. A broad variety of research projects are in place across the EU, some Member States have implemented different measures suitable to their situations to aid compliance. | 1 year | **Jim McKelvey** |
| **BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) infection transfer - contact with other host species.**  The extent of the presence of pestivirus in sheep in N. Ireland is unknown, as is the risk this poses to the control programme. Research is required to:   * Undertake enhanced surveillance of sheep abortions presented to AFBI- Disease Surveillance and Investigation Branch (DSIB) to determine the presence of pestiviruses. * This work will provide knowledge on the role of these viruses in ovine abortions in NI and allow an assessment of any risks to cattle.      * Determine the extent of exposure of sheep to pestivirus in Northern Ireland. * Contact with infected sheep or other ruminants may pose a risk to cattle herds, particularly in low prevalence areas, as they can act as a viral reservoir and their presence could delay the control of the disease and the objectives of the eradication programme. | 1 year | **Seamus Murray** |
| **Phylodynamics – BVD genotyping and tracing.**  The outputs from this component of the programme would be to develop a knowledge base and herd investigation tool for veterinary practitioners and their clients to use. This research would seek to:   * Carry out genotyping methods such as whole genome sequencing of BVD samples from the enhanced surveillance in sheep abortions, the serum survey as well as on bovine samples submitted to AFBI-VSD for routine diagnostic or confirmation BVD testing within the BVD eradication programme for NI. * To use the information from BVD genotyping and animal movement data to construct phylodynamic trees to measure the dynamics of infections within and between animal populations. * To develop practical tools for the investigation of herd outbreaks using pathogen genotyping. This tool is likely to be of particular importance as part of any post BVD eradication surveillance, for example to assist with the investigation of novel incursions of the infection into NI. | 2 years | **Seamus Murray** |

**PMB 4 - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

The overall objective of PMB 4 is to address the environmental considerations which are major factors in health and well being. Such issues include climate change, pollution, air / water quality, bio-diversity, waste management and protection of the landscape and natural resources. The main focus of evidence gathering and innovation support activity is to gain a better understanding of the issues surrounding environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation and the potential economic value attached to their effective management and exploitation. A better appreciation of the interaction between land/marine based industries and the natural environment and the regulatory compliance within and between these industries will help promote enhanced policy making and regulatory capabilities.

PMB 4 aims to achieve this objective through the delivery of evidence and innovation projects in 7 themed areas as outlined in the Evidence and Innovation Strategy updated for 2015-2017 (EIS 2015-2017):

Evidence and Innovation Research Needs Areas:

1. Understanding and improving the environmental footprint of the agri-food industry;
2. Assessing and improving the impact of agri-environment programmes;
3. Understanding the environmental impact of changes in agricultural land use patterns and intensity;
4. Sustainable manure and nutrient management;
5. Assessing and improving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
6. Delivering resilient forests, crops and amenity horticulture in a changing climate; and
7. Responding to climate change – adaptation and mitigation.

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| **PMB 4 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline Duration** | **DAERA Policy Lead** |
| **Research on factors affecting the ecological recovery of Northern Irish freshwaters.**  Research is required to identify factors affecting the recovery of biological quality of rivers and lakes to inform future policy and reporting under the Water Framework Directive. The project should include sediment research. | 3 years | **Brian Ervine** |
| **Evaluation of ammonia emissions from livestock enterprises**  A portfolio of co-ordinated research projects to increase the scientific robustness of ammonia emission factors and investigate mitigation strategies for the livestock sectors in Northern Ireland. To include:-   1. Investigation of dietary factors to reduce ammonia emissions. 2. For the poultry sector, a 2-year study to quantify the relationship between dry matter of litter and ammonia (and other air quality) emissions, leading to the establishment of NI appropriate scientifically robust ammonia emission factors. 3. Investigation of relationships between slurry and fertiliser applications and ‘dry’ and ‘wet’ ammonia deposition monitored at AFBI Hillsborough. | 2-3 years | **Terence Patton** |
| **Research to consider the feasibility of ‘real time’ water quality monitoring**  This scoping study should identify how a water quality monitoring programme could produce information which would be of practical benefit to farmers in improving farming practice and driving behavioural change. | 1 year | **Wendy McKinley** |
| **An assessment of the NI Agri input to the UK Ammonia Inventory**  This desk study should interrogate the UK Ammonia Inventory, investigating the gaps where NI Agri data is not currently presented or is not up to date, with a view to populating the relevant sections to assist in providing the most accurate picture of NI Agri Ammonia emissions. | 1year | **Terence Patton** |
| **Targeted Agri-Environmental Landscape Interventions**  A research project is required to quantify the impacts both woody riparian strips and woody bio-filtration blocks have as potential water quality interventions. Testing, via proof of concept, how targeted Interventions manage waste waters from point and diffuse sources including, but not limited to, an assessment of the removal of phosphorus as a result of using these interventions. | 3 years | **Terence Patton** |
| **Nutrient applications to grassland and crops**  **Part 1. Nutrient application by soil moisture and temperature conditions.** This desk study should assess the viability of using technology for timing nutrient application based on soil conditions. The study should identify the environmental and economic impacts of applying nutrients based on soil moisture and temperature and plant uptake of nutrients, including during the closed period. The study should also examine the scientific rationale behind the closed period.  **Part 2. A modelling study to predict optimal conditions for slurry spreading to maximise nutrient uptake and minimise nutrient run off/losses.** Evidence suggests that nutrient levels and microbiological pollution of fresh and marine waters is causing failures in respect of meeting Water Framework Directive (including shellfish water protected areas) and Bathing Water Directive targets. This is despite strict controls on the spreading of manures and slurries, including a closed period. This project should investigate whether localised environmental, climatic and soil conditions can be modelled/predicted to inform farmers in real-time when best to spread, and when it is not appropriate to spread. | 1 year | **Brian Ervine**  **Claire Vincent** |
| **Research on re-distribution of livestock slurries.**  **Part 1. The bio-security implications of exporting slurries and manures.** The bio-security risk of spreading animal disease is a barrier to optimising nutrient management at a regional level through the transfer of slurry between farms. This desk study should investigate potential methods of treating slurries and farm manures for bio-secure redistribution, and assess their economic and environmental benefits.  Part 2. A study to investigate practical and economically viable technologies to help reduce environmental risks to water quality by separating slurry and digestate for redistribution to areas where the nutrients are required. | 1-year  2-years | **Terence Patton** |

**Annex A**

1. **Timetable**

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| **Date** | **Activity** |
| **14 June 2017** | Proposal window opens |
| **28 July 2017** | Latest date for FFP(s) submission |
| **August/September 2017** | FFP(s) assessed & scored by PMBs and Science Advisory Branch |
| **September 2017** | EIPG makes final decision on approval of project(s) |
| **From October 2017** | Approved projects commence |

1. **Evaluation criteria**

# PMBs will provide a final scoring for each proposal received, based on the following criteria (not in order of importance).

* Ability of objectives to meet policy needs;
* Scientific quality;
* Evidence of collaboration with other scientific groups / industry;
* Provision of additional information to that already known in this area;
* Appropriate project management including risk management;
* Appropriate milestones and deliverables;
* Clear strategy for knowledge exchange;
* Potential for co-funding from other sources and
* Value for Money.
  1. **Additional information**
* FFP forms should be completed in **Arial font size 12.**
  1. **Feedback**
     + Feedback on unsuccessful proposals will be coordinated by DAERA Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy Division and passed to a central contact in AFBI. DAERA Policy leads will not provide feedback to AFBI Project Leaders directly.

**Annex B**

**DAERA Contact Details**

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| **DAERA Contact** | **Division/Branch** | **Tel. No** | **E-mail** |
| Joy Alexander | Food Technology Development, CAFRE | 028 8676 8132 | [Joy.Alexander@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Joy.Alexander@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Brenda Cunning | Agri-Food Policy I Branch | 028 9052 4009 | [Brenda.Cunning@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Brenda.Cunning@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| John Early | Regional Operations Branch | 028 9056 9561 | [John.Early@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:John.Early@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Brian Ervine | Environmental Farming Branch | 028 9052 5570 | [Brian.Ervine@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Brian.Ervine@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Niall Heaney | Sustainable Rural Communities | 028 9076 5869 | [Niall.Heaney@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Niall.Heaney@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Stephen Johnston | Agri-Food Policy II Branch | 028 9052 4804 | [Stephen.Johnston@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Johnston@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Paul Keatley | Statistics and Analytical Services | 028 9052 4063 | [Paul.Keatley@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Keatley@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Elaine McCrory | Sustainable Agri-Food Development | 028 9052 4372 | [Elaine.McCrory@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.McCrory@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Seamus McErlean | Economics and Evaluation Branch | 028 9052 4675 | [Seamus.McErlean@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Seamus.McErlean@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Jim McKelvey | Animal Identification Legislation and Welfare Branch | 028 9052 5470 | [Jim.McKelvey@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.McKelvey@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Wendy McKinley | Water Assessment, Data and  Evidence Branch | 028 9262 3089 | [Wendy.McKinley@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Wendy.McKinley@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Steven Millar | Sustainable Agri-Food Development | 028 9052 4239 | [Steven.Millar@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.Millar@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Louise Millsopp | Agri-Food Support Branch | 028 9052 0805 | [Louise.Millsopp@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.Millsopp@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Stuart Morwood | Woodland Development &  Strategies Branch | 028 6634 3092 | [Stuart.Morwood@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Morwood@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Patrick Murphy | Science Advisory Branch (SEIPD) | 028 9052 4178 | [Patrick.Murphy2@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Patrick.Murphy2@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Seamus Murray | Animal Health Strategy & TSE | 028 9025 4056 | [Seamus.Murray@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Seamus.Murray@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Terence Patton | Agri Emissions and Land Branch | 028 9052 4143 | [Terence.Patton@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Terence.Patton@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Diane Stevenson | Plant Health Policy Branch | 028 6634 3012 | [Diane.Stevenson@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Diane.Stevenson@daera-ni.gov.uk) |
| Claire Vincent | Marine Strategy and Licensing Branch | 028 9056 9250 | [Claire.Vincent@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Vincent@daera-ni.gov.uk) |

1. See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2004/3327/article/6/made> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See <https://www.afbini.gov.uk/publications/science-strategy> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See : <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/alan-strongs-report-review-winter-flooding-northern-ireland-2015-2016> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)