**DAERA Directed Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) Research Work Programme 2018/19**


# 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 **26 October 2018** 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

**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 2018/19. 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 Brexit (Study 1) on Agri-Food Supply Chains** Put forward an outline methodology and once agreed by DAERA, apply it to gain a better understanding of the supply chains on the island of Ireland for certain commodities, to include the flows and the degree of integration/cooperation. | 2 years | **Elaine McCrory** |
| **Impact of Brexit (Study 2) - Benefits of Producer Organisations to Northern Ireland (including cross-border POs)** Current and future advantages/ disadvantages for the NI agri-food sectors in working within a Producer Organisation.  To include cross border trade.  | 1 year | **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** |
| **Farm safety** Research is required to consider ways in which behavioural 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.  | 6 months - 1 year | **Louise Millsopp** |
| **Evaluation of Crisis Measures**Evaluation of effectiveness of intervention measures taken in Northern Ireland in response to crises in the agriculture sector including domestic measures as well as EU measures (such as Intervention/Private Storage Aid, Dairy Fund and Exceptional Adjustment Aid measures). This project should also consider the effectiveness of measures adopted in other countries. | 6 months - 3 years | **Brenda Cunning** |
| **Climate Change - Impacts of weather related risks.**Assessment of current farm systems and management practices and the impact of weather-related risks on the resilience and profitability of farmers; implications for land capability and future farm policy.  | 1-3 years | **Steven Millar/Brenda Cunning** |

**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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PMB 2 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline Duration** | **DAERA Policy Lead** |
| **Socioeconomic factors impacting on farm safety** A socioeconomic study to examine those factors which impact on behaviours and actions to improve farm-level safety | 1.5 years | **Louise Millsopp****With support from Bryan Monson** |
| **Development of a whole farm systems model** – to facilitate the technical, environmental and economic evaluation of agricultural systems | 3 years | **Paul Keatley** |
| **Recreational use of Northern Ireland** – Research is required to develop an annual database on recreational activity within Northern Ireland, using sampling throughout the year (Statistical project).  | 1.5 years | **Mark Hammond** |
| **Recreational demand in the face of plant health disease outbreaks.** Research is required to consider the potential cost of loss of access to recreational areas following a plant disease outbreak. | 2 years | **Diane Stevenson** |
| **Economic impact of land use on water quality/quantity**.An assessment of the economic impact of land use change in terms of the achievement of good water quality and quantity status, and the value of the associated ecosystem services in Northern Ireland. Proposals should complement and build on research within ongoing projects 16/2/07 and 16/2/04 through phased work packages. | 2 years | **Wendy McKinley** |
| **Supporting land use change to forestry (phase 2) –** Follow on research is needed to develop a new sub-model to DAERA directed AFBI research project 16/2/04 which will show the importance of planting new trees in the right place to maximise their benefits to people and assist decision makers to plan new woodland. A new sub-model should include the role forests can play in improving the condition of the water environment and build on recently completed spatial data produced by Forest Research in NI. | 1 year | **Stuart Morwood** |
| **An assessment of the economic and social impact of agricultural education and training in NI.**  An assessment of the economic return on the publicly funded investment in agri-food education in NI is required Project to assess/measure the actual benefits to the NI economy. | 2 years | **Zita Hale** |
| **Contribution of Tourism to the local economy** Research is required to consider the contribution that the local tourism offer makes to the rural economy and to the sustainability of rural communities, including identifying opportunities for increasing its contribution. | 2 years | **Niall Heaney** |
| **Literature review –** **Incentivisation of ecosystems services in agri-environment schemes’**A literature review is required to establish how the link between payments and the provision of ecosystems services in agri-environment schemes’ could be improved. | 1 year | **Paul Caskie** |

**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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PMB 3 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline Duration** | **DAERA Policy Lead** |
| **The role that deer and camelids play in the current bTB epidemic**Deer in particular are being identified as the source of, or a factor in, localised cattle TB breakdowns but we have insufficient evidence to assess this.  A study is required to establish baseline data on population distribution; distribution and prevalence of infection in that population; epidemiological links with cattle infection (established through ecology, prevalence, strains, distribution of TB in the population, means of contact etc.).  | 3 years | **Neal Gartland** |
| **Analysis of strain types in NI**There are approximately 9 years of data from all VL cattle confirmed with *M. bovis* in NI which hasn’t been fully evaluated. Evaluation of that data is required to contribute to our capability to understand and control infection at local and regional levels and contribute, where possible to policy development. This research should consider:* + defining the home ranges for the common *M. bovis* strain types within NI;
	+ exploration of the spatio-temporal evolution of strains when they become established in a new area;
	+ frequency with which strains are disclosed in a new area but appear to die out; and
	+ analysis of strains entering a new area and its detection in wildlife species and any other elements that AFBI consider to be of benefit.
 | 3 years | **Neal Gartland** |
| **Environmental factors of slurry**The risk of spread of *M. bovis* from slurry spreading, anaerobic digesters and other cattle waste storage and disposal methods. A study on this area could include: * + an assessment of the risk from cattle faeces
	+ Frequency with which *M. bovis* is isolated from TB infected cattle faeces.
	+ Quantitative assessment of the concentration of *M. bovis* in infected faeces; and
	+ an assessment of the factors that affect the survival of *M. bovis* in slurry and modelling of these against natural infection concentrations and rates.
 | 3 years | **Neal Gartland** |
| **Wildlife model for transmission dynamics in NI** Research is required to adapt the Adjou type model for use in NI including a user friendly front end to enable third parties to easily adjust model inputs and assess the ‘what if’ questions through modification of the model input.  | 1 year | **Neal Gartland** |
| **Cattle model for transmission dynamics in NI** Research is required to develop a cattle TB model for use in NI including a user friendly front end to enable third parties to easily adjust model inputs and assess the ‘what if’ questions through modification of the model input. This should be developed with a view to integrating it with a badger TB model with spatial components. | 1-3 year | **Neal Gartland** |
| **Comparison with ROI programme**A detailed comparison is required of the NI TB eradication programme with that of the RoI. This should also include, if possible, an indication of the impact of implementing RoI measures not currently included in the NI programme. | 1 year | **Neal Gartland** |
| **Risk Based sampling in plant health**Preventing the introduction of new pests and diseases is the most cost effective strategy for maintaining plant health. It is imperative that limited resources are focused on those areas of trade and shipments which pose the greatest risk. It is widely accepted that developing a data driven strategy for directing port inspections and post-port surveillance will deliver the best chance of maintaining biosecurity. A model-based management tool needs to be developed to direct interventions to areas of greatest impact.  | 3 years | **Diane Stevenson** |
| **Developing the resilience and resistance of Northern Ireland’s tree species against pathogens and climatic effects**From recent and current outbreaks of pests (e.g. ash sawfly) and diseases (e.g. Ash dieback, *P. ramorum*) in Northern Ireland it is clear that our woodlands are under serious challenge from biotic and abiotic threats (e.g. drought stress, cold stress). These threaten both our commercial forestry and wider woodland environment. Different strategies are required to minimise the effects of pests and diseases and climatic factors on our trees. Research is required to consider the potential for genetic testing to improve the resilience and disease tolerance of planted trees, and to consider the potential for biostimulants to induce tolerance in trees to disease, pests and abiotic stress (e.g. drought stress). | 3 years  | **Diane Stevenson** |
| **Scoping study to outline the integration of plant health risks with agriculture, horticulture, trees, landscape and environment (Short term project)**The impact of plant pests and disease is often only assessed in relation to the direct effects on commercial agricultural, forestry or horticultural production, with insufficient attention given to impacts on the wider Northern Ireland environment and economy.A desk based project is required to examine how plant health threats may impact on the wider Northern Ireland environment and economy, and how that would enable integration of policy across different Departments.The potential for spatial mapping of key risk spots to inform decision making on risk management and integrated actions should be considered.  | 1 year | **Diane Stevenson** |
| **Producer-led solutions to mitigate tail biting and tail docking in pigs.** DAERA has funded two research projects over recent years identifying the multifactorial causations of tail biting and exploring best practice in other European nations. Follow on research is required to consider farmer led solutions to reduce tail docking, which are tailored directly to Northern Ireland production systems. | 1 year | **Chris Andrews** |
| **Research into the Welfare of Live Animals during Transport from Northern Ireland to EU Member States**There has been increasing stakeholder interest in the welfare standards of live animals being exported from Northern Ireland to other EU member states. Research is required to explore potential changes to current policy and options for a new regulatory regime for live animal transport, post Brexit. | 1 year | **Chris Andrews** |
| **The Economic Benefits of Bovine Electronic Identification for Producers**DAERA is currently considering implementation of bovine electronic identification (EID) for cattle in Northern Ireland. The benefits of EID for traceability and the red meat industry are well documented, however, the cost of implementing bovine EID is borne by the producers, to whom the financial benefits are not so obvious. A desk top study is required to review the monetary and non-monetary benefits that have been realised for both farmers and producers where bovine EID programmes have been established in other countries. | 1 year | **Chris Andrews** |

**PMB 4 - SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

The overall objective of PMB 4 is to address the environmental considerations which are major factors in health and wellbeing. 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PMB 4 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline Duration** | **DAERA** **Policy Lead** |
| **Effects of grassland management on soil carbon stocks in Northern Ireland**Research is required to demonstrate how soils under intensive grassland management can either increase or maintain their carbon stocks in the long-term. The proposal should consider the resilience of soil carbon stocks to grassland intensification as well as provide evidence which can contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of livestock production systems.  | 3 Years | **Terence Patton** |
| **Identification of Ammonia Reduction Techniques**There is an ongoing imperative for Northern Ireland agriculture to reduce its ammonia emissions. While a number of ammonia reduction measures are being analysed as part of an ongoing research programme, there is a need for further research to identify and review additional ammonia reduction measures, many of which will be novel or not currently implemented in Northern Ireland. | 3 years  | **Paddy Savage** |
| **GIS-based Integrated Land Management & Hydromorphology Assessment Tool (Phase 1**A desk based study is required to scope thedevelopment of a GIS-based assessment tool using a pilot catchment to inform prioritisation of hydro-morphological remediation measures at a catchment scale. The study should consider pressures impacting on habitat (fish) continuity, sediment distribution and flow and potential to improve resilience to climate change. Future phases may include ground truthing and extending to all of NI. | 1 year | **Wendy McKinley** |
| **Monitoring and modelling of nutrient losses to water in agricultural catchments to evaluate the effectiveness of the Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) and the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS).**The project should aim to build on work undertaken as part of the NAP E&I 16/4/03 and EAA Soil Sampling and Analysis Scheme to: (i) Extend monitoring and modelling within the Upper Bann research platform to strengthen research in support of the NAP, exploiting newly available soil and CSA risk mapping data. (ii) Undertake an evaluation of EFS measures to improve water quality in paired control and implementation sub-catchments in Upper Bann. | 5 years | **Brian Ervine** |
| **Protecting Bathing and Shellfish Waters** Research is required to monitor and model loses of bacteria to water in agricultural catchments and the impact on bathing and shellfish water. These models would to evaluate whether the current Nitrates Action Programme and Environmental Farming Scheme are effective in protecting water quality. | 5 years | **Claire Vincent** |
| **Prediction and discounting model to protect bathing waters**DAERA and AFBI are currently involved in the INTERREG SWIM project to develop models to protect bathers at 6 of Northern Ireland’s identified bathing waters. Many of our bathing and shellfish waters are failing due to our agricultural practices (slurry spreading season during summer) and climate change (warm, damp summers with flashy rainfall events). The models being developed examine when rain and tidal conditions are likely to impact bathing waters so that notices / text alerts can alert bathers to a predicted deterioration in water quality. This is an approach endorsed in the EU Bathing Waters Directive. Research is required to further develop the approach for the remaining bathing waters and examine the application for shellfish waters also. | 3 years | **Claire Vincent** |
| **Mapping Sand-eel Habitat**Research using bathymetric surveys and ground-truthing is required to establish a better understanding of sand-eel habitat. Sand-eels are the primary foodstuff of terns and other protected species of birds. An understanding of this habitat is limiting decision making in the new offshore SPAs that have been identified in the last few years. Understanding sand-eel habitat is also important in underpinning sustainable commercial fisheries. | 1-2 years | **Colin Armstrong** |

**Annex A**

1. **Timetable**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Activity** |
| **2nd August 2018** | Proposal window opens  |
| **26th October 2018** | Latest date for FFP(s) submission |
| **November/December 2018** | FFP(s) assessed & scored by PMBs and Science Advisory Branch |
| **January 2019** | EIPG makes final decision on approval of project(s) |
| **From April 2019** | 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**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DAERA Contact** | **Division/Branch** | **Tel. No** | **E-mail** |
| Chris Andrews | Animal Identification and Welfare | 028 7744 2067 | Christopher.Andrews@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Colin Armstrong | Marine Conservation and Reporting | 028 9056 9235 | Colin.Armstrong@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Paul Caskie | Statistics and Analytical Services | 028 9052 4427 | Paul.Caskie@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Brenda Cunning | Agri-Food Policy I Branch | 028 9052 4009 | Brenda.Cunning@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Brian Ervine | Environmental Farming Branch | 028 9052 5570 | Brian.Ervine@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Neal Gartland | TB/BR Policy and Research | 028 9052 4551 | Neal.Gartland@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Zita Hale | Policy, Economics and Statistics Division | 028 9037 8511 | Zita.Hale@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Mark Hammond | Countryside, Coast and Landscape | 028 9056 9579 | Mark.Hammond@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Niall Heaney | Sustainable Rural Communities | 028 9076 5869 | Niall.Heaney@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Norman Henderson | Chief Scientific Adviser’s Office | 028 7744 2229 | Norman.Henderson@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Stephen Johnston | Agri-Food Policy II Branch | 028 9052 4804 | Stephen.Johnston@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Paul Keatley | Statistics and Analytical Services | 028 9052 4063 | Paul.Keatley@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Elaine McCrory | Sustainable Agri-Food Development | 028 9052 4372 | Elaine.McCrory@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Wendy McKinley | Water Assessment, Data and Evidence Branch | 028 9262 3089 | Wendy.McKinley@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Steven Millar | Sustainable Agri-Food Development | 028 9052 4239 | Steven.Millar@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Louise Millsopp | Agri-Food Support Branch | 028 9052 0805 | Louise.Millsopp@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Stuart Morwood | Woodland Development & Strategies Branch | 028 6634 3092 | Stuart.Morwood@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Seamus Murray | Animal Health Strategy & TSE | 028 9025 4056 | Seamus.Murray@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Terence Patton | Agri Emissions and Land Branch | 028 9052 4143 | Terence.Patton@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Paddy Savage | Agri Emmisions and Land Branch | 028 9076 5839 | Patrick.Savage@daera-ni.gov.uk  |
| Diane Stevenson | Plant Health Policy Branch | 028 6634 3012 | Diane.Stevenson@daera-ni.gov.uk |
| Claire Vincent | Marine Strategy and Licensing Branch | 028 9056 9250 | 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)