**DARD Directed Agri Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) Research Work Programme 2016/17**


# 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 DARD 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. A new strategy will be developed to succeed the 2015-17 EIS, and will meet the Evidence and Innovation needs of the new Department and is likely to see longer-term programmes of research in selected areas with linkages to evidence based projects as appropriate.

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.dardni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/evidence-and-innovation-strategy-2015-17final.pdf>

# 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 DARD 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 DARD’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.

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

# DARD 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 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 DARD 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 DARD.
* Proposals falling outside our Evidence and Innovation needs will not be considered;
* Guideline costs are provided as an indication of the expenditure of previous similar projects and are not target costs. Costs may exceed or come in under these guideline figures. 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 DARD Policy**

* Further information on each priority need can be obtained from the nominated DARD Policy Lead. AFBI Project Leaders with an interest in responding to an Evidence and Innovation Need are encouraged to contact the nominated DARD 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 DARD Policy Lead using the Concept Note (CN) pro-forma which is available on the DARD website. This step is not mandatory;
* A FFP should be completed for each proposed submission.The template form can be obtained from the DARD 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 DARD 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**

* DARD 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 DARD.

**Closing Date**

* The proposal window closes on **8 April 2016** and all FFP(s) received up to this date will be scrutinised by PMBs;
* CNs 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@dardni.gov.uk; or

**Heather Maginnis**

Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy Division, DARD

Room 356, Dundonald House

Ballymiscaw

Upper Newtownards Road Belfast

BT4 3SB

**Assessment and Approval Process**

* All FFPs will be scrutinised and, where appropriate, challenged by DARD Policy Leads and DARD Science Advisory Branch. AFBI should answer any queries promptly;
* FFPs will be selected at random for assessment by DARD 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 DARD Directed AFBI Research Work Programme 2016/17. Publicity or marketing of any of the proposals must acknowledge DARD as the core funder.**

# Evidence and Innovation Needs

Evidence and Innovation needs to be addressed for each Programme Management Board follow (pages 6 - 18).

**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 annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy** **Lead** |
| **Increased efficiency in production systems.**Assessment of measures to increase efficiency of production in all sectors through: achievement of market led efficiencies; better use of home grown resources; new developments in precision agriculture; genetic improvement; or precision in nutrient/feed input requirements. | £300k | 3 years  | Brenda Cunning |
| **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. | £150k | 3 years  | Stephen Johnston |

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| **PMB 1 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy** **Lead** |
| **Resilience of local food supply chain.**  Study to consider the resilience of local food supply chains (products of animal origin) - in the context of animal disease outbreak (in NI, GB, UK, ROI) and the possible impacts on (a) the resilience of local food supplies and (b) ongoing capability with regard to exports. | £80k | 2 years  | Jonathan Guy |
| * **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.
 | £200k | 3 years  | Brenda Cunning |
| **Responding to climate change.** Assessment of the ability of current farming systems to cope with severe weather and determining, where appropriate, mitigation strategies to address the impacts of changing weather patterns in the future (desktop review). | £100k | 1 year | Steven Millar |
| **Improving Forest Productivity and Exploiting Opportunities.*** Revise the baseline information in relation to the contribution of forestry to the NI and Irish economies and recommend how resources can be best targeted. Key outputs will be the cost per job, the market and non-market contributions, and benchmark with the forestry component of the Irish, Welsh, Scottish and English economies. As an adjunct, estimate the GVA of the forestry and crops sectors in NI, and the social and environmental value of forestry, to inform the effort that should be expended protecting the sector against pests and diseases.
 | £100K | 2yrs | 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 annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Supporting land use change to forestry.** Work funded under the *“UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow on Phase 2014”* demonstrated the importance of planting new trees in the right place to maximize their benefits to people and assist decision makers to plan new woodland. A study is required to determine how applicable these findings are to Northern Ireland.  | £50-80k | 3 years | Stuart Morwood |
| **Socio-economic and infrastructure linkages and interdependencies between urban and rural areas and how these impact on different rural communities (case study based approach).**A study is required to build on the policy priorities identified in the Rural White Paper Action Plan and the outcomes of previous research that considered the links between rural and urban areas, particularly around access to higher paid jobs, good infrastructure linkages and how this manifests itself in differing rural communities such as 'accessible rural areas' (mainly the rural commuter belt around the Greater Belfast area) and 'remote rural areas' such as the rural West. Work should consider policy tools available to government to target support where it is needed rather than adopting a regional approach to government assistance/support. The impact that government interventions such as the RDP are having on the sustainability of remote rural areas may also be included. | £50-80k | 2 years | Niall Heaney |

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| **PMB 2 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **An assessment of farm diversification, business innovation and entrepreneurship in rural areas as a result of government interventions.**A study to consider the direct impact of the RDP on wealth & job creation in rural areas, with a particular interest in; gauging whether or not farm diversification measures and the funding that comes with it have brought about innovative enterprises and created jobs in rural areas that are sustainable; and an assessment of how other government agencies that provide support for job creation (i.e. Invest NI) can link with this to provide continuing business support to these projects.  | £50-80K | 2 years | Niall Heaney |
| **Addressing the economic impact of Northern Ireland’s key plant health risks.**An assessment of the likely economic impact of Northern Ireland’s key plant health risks (as set out in the Northern Ireland Plant Health Risk Register), is required. This research should consider the natural assets which should be protected and determine their contribution to our natural capital/economy.This research will give an economic valuation to the assets which require protection by assessing their contribution to our natural capital enabling an evidence-based cost/benefit approach to policy development and decision making for plant health interventions. | £50-80k | 2 years | Diane Stevenson |
| **Economic/ Environmental management.** Research is required to assess how the spread of ***Chalara fraxinea*** and its environmental impact in Northern Ireland might compare with that experienced elsewhere in Europe. This research is to consider the success of various management strategies, with the aim of producing an optimisation model, and recommend the most cost effective mitigation options.  | £50-80k  | 3 years | Diane Stevenson |
| **PMB 2 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Legal and economic implications of the new EU Plant Health Directive and EU Safer Food Initiative**.Research is required to consider the range of legal and economic implications of the new EU Plant Health Directive and EU Safer Food Initiative for Northern Ireland. The EU is developing an integrated approach to food safety to assure a high level of food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health. This will result in new and amended legislation in Northern Ireland. This project will examine the regulation changes, assess the current legislative provision and future needs and determine economic effectiveness of control and compliance.  | £50-80k | 2 years | Diane Stevenson |
| **An evaluation of non-market values of ecosystem services in Northern Ireland.**Research is required to evaluate the non-market values of ecosystem services in Northern Ireland.This research should aim to attribute economic values to selected ecosystem services within NI. | £50-80k | 3 yrs | David Garrett (on behalf of Brian Ervine) |

**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 annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Disease association, on farm transmission dynamics and risk factors of rotaviruses detected in porcine enteric pathologies.**Research to develop a better understanding of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea and to inform policy decisions in the context of new virulent forms of the disease that are emerging. | £200k | 2 years | Denis Savage |
| **Maedi Visna/Caprine Arthritis Encaphalitis in goats/sheep.**An evaluation of the efficacy of test kits and their potential utility in maintaining our maedi-visna complex disease free status. | £200K | 1 years | Denis Savage |
| **Use of penside tests to improve diagnostics.** Development of efficient tests improving diagnostics which will speed up animal recovery, prevent loss of livestock and reduce the inappropriate use of antibiotics. | £200k | 2 years | Denis Savage |

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| **PMB 3 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Management of nuisance and vector flies in livestock production.**In view of the increased risk of introduction of Bluetongue and other vector borne diseases, further research is required to investigate vector management (impact and risks) and, in particular, the role of insect repellents and integrated pest management plans. | £200k | 3 years | Denis Savage |
| **Gamma interferon test format*** **sample submission time**
* **investigation of PPD performance and alternative antigens**
* **new tests and test platforms/antibody engineering**
* **presentation of tuberculins for whole blood stimulation**

Research is required to: * review the interferon gamma (INFg) test delivered to DARD as part of the disease control programme for bovine tuberculosis;
* explore the possibility of extending the time period of blood samples being submitted to the laboratory from within 8 hours, to within a 24 hour period;
* review the impact on test outcome with a view to using undialysed tuberculins, diluted to acceptable concentrations;
* investigate the impacts of alternative antigens to PPD on the diagnostic performance of the test; and
* Investigate alternative, more cost effective platforms for the gamma interferon test.
 | £400K | 3 years | Andrew Kell |
| **Enhanced culture of M. bovis from clinical samples.**Research to investigate the non-recovery of M. bovis from clinical samples. Resuscitation factors have recently been identified which aid mycobacterial growth in laboratory culture. Determining the utility of these resuscitation factors could be of great benefit in defining the cause of skin test positivity and improving recovery of M. bovis from clinical samples. | £400K | 2 years | Andrew Kell |

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| **PMB 3 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Genomic prediction for TB resistance in cattle.**Research to underpin genomic predictions for Tb resistance in cattle. There is now sound evidence that host genetics plays a role in susceptibility to bovine TB in cattle. Encouraging early findings indicate a role for genetics in a wider bovine TB risk management strategy. Genetic improvement could form a complementary part of the future control package. Harnessing the potential of livestock genetics, including genomics, is seen as an important enabling technology by the Agri-Food Strategy Board. | £180k  | 2 years | Andrew Kell |
| **Analysis of TB molecular typing data.**Research to consider the epidemiology of Tb and methods of controlling the spread of disease from cattle to cattle and between wildlife and cattle, including optimisation of epidemiological investigations. | £180k  | 2 years | Andrew Kell |
| **Rapid field detection of plant pathogens.**Research to develop more effective field detection methods for priority plant pathogens for DARD inspectors. This will result in on-site sampling methods, accurate sensitive tests, rapid results and lower cost testing. | £200k | 2 years  | Diane Stevenson |
| **Emerging pest and pathogens.**Research to improve early detection of new plant pests and pathogens through use of spore and insect trapping.  | £200k | 3 years  | Diane Stevenson |
| **Bee health - American Foul Brood.**Research to help improve the management of American Foul Brood in local honeybees. Incidence of the disease is high locally (40 cases per 1000 beekeepers in NI, compared with 1.5 cases per 1000 beekeepers in England), and represents a significant threat to honeybees locally. | £200k | 2 years | Diane Stevenson |

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| **PMB 3 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Crop protection.**Research to develop alternative pesticide-active substances from microbiological sources that will be effective in pest control, and reduce environmental or human health risks associated with current options. | £200k | 2 years | Diane Stevenson |

**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 annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Management of soil nutrients for sustainable grass-based dairy production in NI.** Sustainable nutrient management on high phosphorus index soils. Soils above P Index 2 pose a potential risk to water quality. Research is required to provide evidence that continuing livestock manure application to grassland soil may be compatible with achieving the dual objectives of reducing soil P to Index 2 while maintaining grass production at current levels. | £200k  | 3 years  | Brian Ervine |

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| **PMB 4 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Quantification of phosphorus release from sediments in Lough Neagh.** Research is required to quantify the impact of phosphorus release from sediments in Lough Neagh on water quality. This should include an assessment of the impact of agricultural nitrate reductions on the lake and an estimate of the time scale required to meet nutrient and biological targets.  | £200k  | 3 years  | Brian Ervine |
| **Factors affecting the ecological recovery of Northern Irish freshwaters.**Research is required to consider factors affecting the recovery of biological quality of rivers and lakes to inform future policy and reporting under the Water Framework Directive. | £200k  | 3 years  | Brian Ervine |
| **Water quality monitoring programme for NAP 2015-18 and Derogation.** Research is required to meet the specific monitoring (and reporting) requirements in the 2015 Nitrates Directive ‘Derogation Decision’ for Northern Ireland. This research should facilitate assessments of the impacts of derogation measures on water quality, by providing reliable information on N and P losses from derogated and non-derogated farms. | £300k | 3 years + | Brian Ervine |
| **Effect of low rate aeration of slurry on Ammonia, GHG and H2S emissions.**Previous research by AFBI and Teagasc has suggested that low rate aeration has the potential to reduce agitation requirements and thereby reduce the gaseous emissions. Further research is required to substantiate these findings and to develop recommendations for the optimal rate, duration and frequency of aeration. | £200k | 3 years  | Peter Scott |

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| **PMB 4 Evidence and Innovation Needs** | **Guideline annual project Cost** | **Guideline duration** | **DARD Policy Lead** |
| **Potential for remote sensing for biodiversity and habitat mapping/monitoring.**Research is required to demonstrate how remote sensing technologies can provide a cost-effective means of identifying and mapping habitats (including field boundaries), and monitoring changes to these over time. The outcomes would be used for policy/scheme refinement and development, evidence of compliance and, for agri-environment schemes control purposes.  The research should consider existing mapping/monitoring techniques employed by the NIEA and focus on maximizing synergy between these and existing systems in DARD in addition to exploiting new technologies/techniques. | £150K | 2 years | Herbie Jones |

**Annex A**

1. **Timetable**

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| **Date** | **Activity** |
| **9 February 2016** | Proposal window opens  |
| **8th April 2016** | Latest date for FFP(s) submission |
| **April/May 2016** | FFP(s) assessed & scored by PMBs and Science Advisory Branch |
| **May 2016** | EIPG makes final decision on approval of project(s) |
| **From June 2016** | 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 DARD Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy Division and passed to a central contact in AFBI. DARD Policy leads will not provide feedback to AFBI Project Leaders directly.

 **Annex B DARD Contact Details**

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| **DARD Contact** | **Division/Branch** | **Tel. No** | **E mail** |
| Rosemary Agnew | Policy Development Branch  | 028 9052 4074 | rosemary.agnew@dardni.gov.uk |
| Paul Caskie | Farm Surveys Branch | 028 9052 4427 | paul.caskie@dardni.gov.uk |
| Brenda Cunning | Farm Policy Branch | 028 9052 4009 | brenda.cunning@dardni.gov.uk |
| Paul Devine | Science Advisory Branch (SEIPD) | 028 9052 0821 | paul.devine2@dardni.gov.uk |
| Brian Ervine | Environmental Policy | 028 9052 5570 | brian.ervine@dardni.gov.uk |
| Gareth Evans | Rural Development North | 028 90 524597 | gareth.evans@dardni.gov.uk |
| Jonathan Guy  | Epizootics and Portal Operations | 028 9037 8555 | jonathan.guy@dardni.gov.uk |
| Niall Heaney | Sustainable Rural Communities Branch | 028 9076 5869 | niall.heaney@dardni.gov.uk |
| Ian Humes | Sea Fisheries Policy & Grants Branch | 028 9052 5469 | ian.humes@dardni.gov.uk |
| Stephen Johnston | Food Policy Branch | 028 9052 4804 | stephen.johnston@dardni.gov.uk |
| Andrew Kell | TB/BR Policy Branch | 028 9052 4982 | andrew.kell@dardni.gov.uk |
| Russell McCurry | TB/BR Policy Branch | 028 7034 6904 | russell.mccurry@dardni.gov.uk |
| Elaine McCrory | Food Policy Branch | 028 9052 4496 | elaine.mccrory@dardni.gov.uk |
| Heather Maginnis  | Research Policy Branch (SEIPD) | 028 9052 5036 | heather.maginnis@dardni.gov.uk |
| Louise Millsopp | Supply Chain Development | 028 9052 0805 | louise.millsopp@dardni.gov.uk |
| Stuart Morwood | Afforestation & Plant Health Branch | 028 9052 4465 | stuart.morwood@dardni.gov.uk |
| James O’Boyle | Loughry College Services | 02886768126 | james.oboyle@dardni.gov.uk |
| Terence Patton | Agri-Emissions and Land Branch | 028 9052 4143 |

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| terence.patton@dardni.gov.uk |  |  |
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| Hazel Quinn | Resource Economics Branch | 028 905 25010 | hazel.quinn@dardni.gov.uk |
| Jackie Robinson | Animal Identification Legislation and Welfare) | 028 9052 4912 | jackie.robinson@dardni.gov.uk |
| Denis Savage | Animal Disease Control and Trade Policy Branch | 028 9052 4660 | denis.savage@dardni.gov.uk |
| Peter Scott | Agri-Emissions and Land Branch | 028 9037 8593 | peter.scott@dardni.gov.uk |
| Michael Sweeney | Animal Health Strategy & TSE | 028 9052 5274 | michael.sweeney@dardni.gov.uk |

1. See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2004/3327/article/6/made> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See <http://www.afbini.gov.uk/science-strategy-2014-2020.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)