

Attendees: Darragh Page, Andy Mullins (Bord Bia)

Time: 10.30am

Date: 17th January 2023

Purpose: To discuss the National Priority Sites List and other related matters.

Notes of meeting:

I gave an overview of the National Priority Sites list, the scoring methodology, the current sites on the list and the issues that causes sites in the F&D sector to be on the NPS list.

AM stated that they were tightening up on the criteria for including in the Food Processing Standards and Origin Green. He advised that members will have to notify Bord Bia if they are on the NPS or they face suspension from the scheme. He also mentioned that they may suspend members from the scheme if they have been prosecuted in the previous year and they will automatically not be entitled to gold membership of the scheme (irrespective of when the offence occurred). They are finalising their new scoring guide which they will forward to the EPA in due course. He advised it will contain reference to the NPS and EPA enforcement actions.

AM outlined the changes that are happening to the development of standards with an overarching standard with modules sitting under it relating to the specific sectors such as pig, poultry and horticulture. Bord Bia will be looking to the EPA to sit on the Technical Advisory Committee which oversees this and is likely to write to Laura Burke soon to request a nominee. I advised that this may be someone from our licensing section.

I flagged that we were particularly focused on the illegal extraction of peat in the EPA and that this was an important consideration in the context of their sustainability standards for the horticulture sector and they wanted to address it. He agreed and advised that the casing standard was to be revised and this would be a consideration in it. I advised I could not give too much in terms of specifics at this stage but I advised of the injunction in place, the fact that we have three cases in progress and that we were investigating 12-14 operators in total. We would be in a position to be more specific in the coming weeks/months when the cases conclude.

We agreed to meet again on Tuesday 21st March and the focus will be on peat. Thereafter we agreed it would be useful to meet quarterly.

I also agreed to communicate the NPS lists to him when published.

Signed:



END