



OFFICIAL DAERA MINUTES

MEETING TITLE	NAP4 Review Working Group
DIVISION/BRANCH REFERENCE	EFB / NEPD and WMU
VENUE	MS TEAMS
DATE/TIME	07/11/2023 at 14.00 – 16.00
LIST OF ATTENDEES	[REDACTED]
APOLOGIES	[REDACTED]
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions and structures for NAP4 Review• NAP Review timeline and preparation of SEA / HRA• Discussed the need for the Implementation Report, previously the Article 10 Report, to be completed and published by June 2024. Similar timescale for the NAP Review Report which will include recommendations any new or amending provisions for the new NAP 5 programme.• There is a need for different working groups – Scientific Working Group (SWG) and the Review Working Group (RWG). The Programme Management Board is the oversight group.• The Implementation Report is to include 2023 data and this will not be available from the lab until at least April 2024.• Concerns over timeframes especially with the guidance as well as other work priorities on Farm Sustainability Standards given current shortage of resources.• Scientific Working Group (SWG) is lead by AFBI with some representation from delivery and policy.• Review Working Group (RWG) is lead by Policy with representation from WMU operations, CAFRE advisors and AFBI when required.• SEA / HRA Working Group will service the contractor and provide data etc...• Guidance Working Group (GWG) will be lead by CAFRE with representation from WMU operations and policy.	

- All information to be retained in central NAP 4 Review CM containers for each Group/Work Package;
- A NAP Review report format - look at the RoI report as a guide to lay out. Include a table format with measure by measure review, then outcome of monitoring and any recommendations.
- Discussion around the next NAP and making sure that the measures are easy to measure and enforce. May be a need to have more arrangements in place for a joint up approach to monitoring and sharing of data across the Department.

Need to think about inspection and enforcement and how we can do this where possible using IT and if existing software and data sets can be utilised more.

- Discussion around what can be done to improve control of Manure exports and imports, to tighten up compliance with the 170kg N limit. Also how can we eliminate avoidance/exploitation of the measures which are in place.
- Derogation limit: the average is around 216 kg N although the limit is 250 kg N. The concern is not necessarily in the derogation, it is more so those intensively stocked farms who are not in the derogation because they are unable to satisfy the P balance limit. A key issue is how can we target those not in the derogation who are over the 170 kg N. AFBI evidence from the Upper Bann research programme indicate that the derogated farms are not causing WQ issues and have better management of P.
- We would need to look at catchments with high nutrient losses in more detail to identify causes. What about the green waste / AD spread where there are no records of or controls around – are we looking in the wrong areas.
- Discussion around the possibility of mandatory additional requirements in relation to highly stocked farms which are not in the derogation. i.e. any farm with N production over 170 would have to meet some of the requirements of the Derogation. If applying for the derogation then the limit is up to 250 kg N.
- Some work has started already coming out of the WQ Steering Group concerned with Lough Neagh.
- A spreadsheet from AFBI in early 2022 identified some potential new NAP measures. This will be circulated for the next meeting, along with similar lists compiled by EFB and WMU.
- Discussion around controls outside the remit of NAP but relevant to controls required to help with NAP, such as controls around export of AD, Fertiliser Register and how this is reported or controlled by the Department. There is potential to expand on AD but this consideration will need to be given to the legislative powers available. NAP policy can feed into this to influence the policy development and controls which will help to verify import records when carrying out on farm checks.

ACTION POINTS/OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE/TARGET DATE:

- **Action 1** [REDACTED] to circulate CM container for NAP 4 Review after the meeting.
- **Action 2** [REDACTED] to find the AFB list of potential measure and save in the NAP 4 Review Container.
- **Action 3** [REDACTED] to save the WMU table of issues identified through monitoring to the NAP 4 Review container.
- **Action 4** [REDACTED] to set up meetings of RWG on 29th November, then on a fortnightly basis at 2pm; excluding 27th December 2023 due to public holiday

Minutes written by:

[REDACTED]

Date:

07.11.23