

**Food, Farming and Rural Affairs
Group**
Agricultural Policy Division



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: DAERA/24-232

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22 May 2024

Dear ██████████

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on **08 May 2024** which sought the following information:

Under freedom of information can you please confirm the date that the future agricultural policy introduced by minister Poots in 2022 was brought before the DAERA committee for scrutiny prior to being implemented. If available can you please provide me with a copy of the minutes of this meeting?

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested.

Please see responses below:

- 1. Under freedom of information can you please confirm the date that the future agricultural policy introduced by Minister Poots in 2022 was**

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brought before the DAERA committee for scrutiny prior to being implemented.

DAERA Officials met with the AERA Committee in closed session on 25 November 2021 to discuss the Department's policy proposals for the Future Agricultural Policy Programme for Northern Ireland in advance of the public consultation on the policy proposals launching on 21 December 2021.

The Committee subsequently received an Oral Briefing from DAERA officials on the Future Agriculture Policy Consultation Responses on 10 March 2022.

Minister Poots delivered his Oral Statement on the Future Agricultural Policy decisions for Northern Ireland to the NI Assembly on 24 March 2022. The transcript of his statement is on pages 1 to 3 with associated questions from members from page 3 to 8 of the attached Hansard Report <https://data.niassembly.gov.uk/HansardXml/plenary-24-03-2022.pdf> .

The Oral Statement provided NI Assembly members the opportunity to question the Minister on the policy decisions he had made.

If available can you please provide me with a copy of the minutes of this meeting?

We do not hold the minutes from the AERA Committee meeting on 10 March 2022. The minutes are held by the NI Assembly and can be found at [10 March 2022 \(niassembly.gov.uk\)](https://niassembly.gov.uk) and the recording of the AERA Committee meeting is at <https://niassembly.tv/committee-for-agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs-meeting-thursday-10-march-2022/> .

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

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If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

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