

Date: 10 July 2026

Cyclo No: 83/2026

UFU raises key horticulture priorities with DAERA

The Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) hosted DAERA Minister, Andrew Muir MLA on the farm of UFU vegetable committee chair Trevor Gabbie to discuss the key challenges facing Northern Ireland's horticulture industry.

The meeting, requested by the UFU, provided an opportunity to raise several issues on behalf of commercial growers, including plant protection product availability, the UK-EU SPS negotiations, horticulture pilot schemes, organic production, peat-free growing and the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS).

UFU vegetable committee chair, Trevor Gabbie, said, "This was a valuable opportunity to outline directly to the Minister the challenges facing horticultural growers across Northern Ireland. Our industry continues to face significant pressures, and what we need is clarity, commitment and support.

"We were pleased to secure agreement that DAERA, CAFRE, agrochemical companies and growers will come together to explore practical short-term solutions and funding support to help progress emergency use and off-label applications for plant protection products. That is a positive step, but it is important that momentum is maintained."

The UFU also highlighted the importance of securing a UK-EU SPS agreement that reduces barriers to the movement of horticultural products and helps address the growing challenges around plant protection product availability.

Mr Gabbie continued, "The long-term availability of plant protection products remains one of the biggest concerns for growers. While a UK-EU SPS agreement has the potential to improve the position, we also need practical solutions urgently that help businesses bridge the gap."

UFU deputy president, Clement Lynch, thanked the Gabbie family for hosting the visit and said it was important that growers had the opportunity to raise their concerns directly in a setting that reflects the hard work they put in day in, day out.

"Horticulture is a vital part of Northern Ireland's agri-food sector and the issues facing growers deserve continued attention," said Mr Lynch.

"The UFU will continue to press for practical solutions that support productive businesses and give growers confidence to invest for the future."

The meeting also covered the progress of the Horticulture Pilot Schemes, with the UFU noting the encouraging feedback from participating growers.

Mr Gabbie concluded by inviting the Minister and DAERA officials to attend a horticulture industry event in Boston later this year to see innovation and best practice within the sector.

ENDS//

Photo caption: UFU vegetable committee chair, Trevor Gabbie, UFU deputy president, Clement Lynch and UFU vegetable committee vice-chair, Roy Lyttle.

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Media Contacts

James McCluggage m: 07748 564 628

Niamh McGovern m: 07345 704 083

Katherine McIlldowney m: 07345 995 141

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination
Sent: 28 November 2025 11:53
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination
Subject: FW: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production *Deadline Noon 4th December*
Attachments: Acknowledgement.msg; Correspondence.msg

Hi [REDACTED],

Please provide advice and draft reply.

Once cleared by [REDACTED], please return to CAFRE Co-ordination CAFRE.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk by noon Thurs 4th, ccing in [REDACTED].

If content is contentious or sensitive requiring CAFRE Director clearance please return to CAFRE Co-ordination by the earlier deadline of COP Tuesday 30th Sept, indicating [REDACTED]'s clearance is required.

Many Thanks, [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 November 2025 11:28
To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; McKendry, Martin <Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DAERA FFRAG Coordination <FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination <CAFRE.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; Young, Jonathan (DAERA) <Jonathan.Young@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Moore, Martin <Martin.Moore@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group <PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of [REDACTED] to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date referred: 28/11/2025

ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide advice & draft reply for signature by the Minister. The CM container for this case is AE2-25-219113 and it is the Business Area's responsibility to determine access controls and save all correspondence appropriately.

Word documents and CM links should be returned to private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk not later than Noon 05/12/2025. Please ensure Private Office is included in the edit access permissions to the CM documents.

The Invitation Quick Advice Template & examples of draft responses can be found under Invitations at the following link: <http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/articles/ministerial-cases> . Please ensure the templates from this link are used, if the correct templates are not used, they will be returned for correcting.

If you require part input from another Department, please let Private Office know by return.

Please consider if this area is impacted by the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations. If so, you should contact the Windsor Framework Implementation Team at WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk without delay to discuss handling arrangements. Guidance on the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations, can be found at the following link: <http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/documents/windsor-framework-implementation-regulations-2024-daera-guidance>

****When making any revisions to Ministerial advice, correspondence or statements, officials should advise Private Office if these revisions are based on the Minister's comments or if they constitute official NICS/DAERA advice. A Content Manager record should be kept by the business area****

For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office

[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)
Attachments: UFU letter to Minister Muir 27 Nov 2025 (002).docx
Categories: [REDACTED]

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]<[REDACTED]plants.co.uk>
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

FAO Minister Andrew Muir
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards



UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture

On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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27th November 2025

Minister Muir

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Dear Minister Muir,

Re: Support for professional vegetable production – concerns about recent messaging and peat policy

I am writing on behalf of the UFU Vegetable Committee in response to the way recent public messaging from DAERA, and from yourself as Minister, appears to characterise vegetable production in Northern Ireland. As things stand, that messaging risks undermining a sector that already operates to some of the highest standards of assurance and traceability anywhere in these islands.

Your visit to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] – and the accompanying Facebook post of [REDACTED] particularly brought this to the fore. In that post you referenced “ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By way of context, I am Chairman of the UFU Vegetable Committee and a first-generation vegetable plant producer. Our nursery produces in excess of 60 million plants annually to order for farmers across both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This is a professional, highly regulated supply chain that relies on consistency, safety, welfare and traceability.

Professional vegetable producers here are audited annually under independently verified assurance schemes such as Red Tractor, GLOBALG.A.P., the Soil Association, Bord Bia and others. These schemes exist to protect consumer trust, guarantee food safety, and demonstrate

real environmental responsibility. Against that backdrop, I struggle to understand how DAERA can encourage a rapid expansion of small CSA-type systems which, by their nature, are unlikely to carry comparable external accreditation or verification. If assurance standards are central to public policy as DAERA repeatedly states then they must also be central to DAERA's public promotion.

I am also concerned by the lack of practical understanding within DAERA about the peat transition for food production horticulture. At the Growers' Gathering for Production Horticulture at Greenmount Campus on 29 October, the discussion focussed on the stopping of peat use. When I raised the production-side implications with [REDACTED], Head of the Peatlands Policy Team, it was clear that DAERA has not fully grasped the real-world risks and constraints facing professional growers and plant producers.

For the avoidance of doubt, these are not theoretical issues. The sector needs clear answers on:

1. What are the realistic, scalable alternatives to peat for food-production growing media?
2. How will DAERA guarantee those alternatives are safe and free from pathogens such as *Listeria*, *E. coli* or *Salmonella*?
3. Will professional producers be permitted to import peat or compliant peat-based media from other countries if alternatives fail to meet safety and performance requirements?
4. If Northern Ireland growers face restrictions not applied elsewhere, what action will DAERA take to prevent market displacement by imported vegetables produced under lower or different standards?

If I cannot access growing media that is reliable, consistent and demonstrably safe, then I cannot guarantee dependable plant supply for farmers, nor can I protect the food chain. That is a direct threat to the local vegetable sector and to the very objectives DAERA claims to support. The inevitable result will be increased reliance on imports from regions operating under standards that Northern Ireland producers are expected to exceed.

Given the scale of these challenges, I invite you and your advisers to visit our nursery outside Comber this spring. Seeing the production realities first-hand would be helpful to ensuring your policy direction and DAERA's public messaging aligns with what genuinely sustainable for Northern Ireland consumers and growers alike.

Yours faithfully,

Trevor Gabbie
Chairman, UFU Vegetable Committee

Ferry, Pamela

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman
Attachments: UFU letter to Minister Muir 27 Nov 2025 (002).docx
Categories: [REDACTED]

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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INVITATION QUICK ADVICE

DAERA PRIVATE OFFICE

INV Ref:	INV-0951-2025
To:	ANDREW MUIR MLA Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
CC:	Katrina Godfrey, G_DAERA PressOffice.Group, [REDACTED], Perm Sec mailbox (perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk), Martin McKendry, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], DAERA FFRAG Co-ordination, DAERA SAFD Co-ordination, DAERA Agricultural policy, [REDACTED].
Lead Official:	[REDACTED]
Branch:	Horticulture Branch
Contact number (incl. mobile)	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Date advice returned:	02 December 2025
Invitation from:	Trevor Gabbie Chairman, UFU Vegetable Committee
Invitation type (click box to check):	☐ Event ☐ Meeting ☒ Farm Visit ☐ Site Visit ☐ Other (please specify):
Details of event/meeting (including necessary background)	Trevor Gabbie, in his role as Chairman of the UFU Vegetable Committee, has invited you to visit his plant nursery outside Comber this spring. The invitation offers a tour of his facilities and proposes two principal issues for discussion: In relation to a Facebook post by you on the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He also raises the possible impacts of a ban on peat use by the production horticulture industry and his view that DAERA lacks understanding of the implications of this potential ban on food production horticulture. You have met Trevor Gabbie on several occasions previously including Balmoral Show (2024 and 2025) and at a meeting with the UFU Horticulture Committee at Caledon Estate (20 March 2024). Gabbie Nurseries provides vegetable plug plants for growers across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

INV Ref:	INV-0951-2025
Presentational issues:	DAERA supports the sustainable growth of the horticulture industry in general but does not have a specific strategy in relation to the support of small-scale horticulture growers in Northern Ireland. This may be raised as an issue at a potential meeting.
Venue/Location (provide address inc postcode):	Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Road, Comber, Co Down, BT23 5PH, Northern Ireland.
Date and time:	Spring 2026 (No date or time is specified)
Recommendation (click box to check): (if selecting 'offer official', confirmation of official availability is required)	☒ Accept (specify reason): As Chair of the UFU Vegetable Committee, Trevor Gabbie represents a number of the main production horticulture businesses in the sector. Industry consultation on the proposed ban on peat use in production horticulture is planned by the Peatlands Policy Team and engagement with industry around this issue may help to reassure industry that their views are being taken on board. DAERA is also engaged in preliminary discussions with the Climate+ Co-Centre regarding the future strategy direction for the horticulture industry and a meeting to understand the concerns of relatively larger growers in relation to CSA type systems may help to reassure them that their views are being taken on board. ☐ Decline (specify reason): ☐ Offer Official (specify reason and name of Official):
Priority (click box to check):	☐ Urgent ☐ 1-2 months ☐ 2-4 months ☒ 4 months + ☐ Not applicable
PRIVATE OFFICE USE	
Other events scheduled for the above date (Completed by Private Office)	☐ Yes – Diary attached ☐ No ☒ N/A

**From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**

Trevor Gabbie
Mourne View
15 Ballymaleddy Road
Comber
BT23 5PH
[REDACTED].co.uk



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

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Private Office
First Floor, Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast, BT3 9ED
Telephone: 028 9052 4140
Email: private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: INV-0951-2025

Date: xx December 2025

Dear Trevor,

**SUPPORT FOR PROFESSIONAL VEGETABLE PRODUCTION – CONCERNS
ABOUT RECENT MESSAGING AND PEAT POLICY**

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 November 2025 requesting a meeting to discuss recent messaging about Community Supported Agriculture and Peat Policy.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss these issues.

My Diary Manager, [REDACTED], will contact you in due course to make the necessary arrangements.

Please note my attendance at this meeting will be subject to any urgent diary commitments which may arise in the meantime, or Assembly or Executive business which may be called at short notice

Yours sincerely,

ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

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We invest in people Standard

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 December 2025 10:30
To: DAERA Private Office
Cc: [REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED];
DAERA FFRAG Coordination; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural
Policy; [REDACTED]; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA
PermSec; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss
support for professional vegetable production

Attachments: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman ; RE: letter for Minister Muir
- From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025); INV-0951-2025 -
Quick advice invite to Trevor Gabbie s plant nursery.tr5; INV-0951-2025 -
Acceptance Letter Invite to Trevor Gabbie.tr5; INV-0951-2025 - Quick advice invite
to Trevor Gabbie s plant nursery.DOCX; INV-0951-2025 - Acceptance Letter Invite to
Trevor Gabbie.DOCX

Private Office,

Please see attached advice and draft reply, approved by [REDACTED].

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:28

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; McKendry, Martin <Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA FFRAG Coordination <FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA
CAFRE Co-ordination <CAFRE.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination <SAFD.Co-
ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-ni.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Moore, Martin <Martin.Moore@daera-ni.gov.uk>; McGinn,
Dan <Dan.McGinn@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group
<PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of [REDACTED] to discuss support for professional
vegetable production

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional
vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]

Date referred: 28/11/2025

ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide advice & draft reply for signature by the Minister. The CM container for this case is AE2-25-219113 and it is the Business Area's responsibility to determine access controls and save all correspondence appropriately.

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****When making any revisions to Ministerial advice, correspondence or statements, officials should advise Private Office if these revisions are based on the Minister's comments or if they constitute official NICS/DAERA advice. A Content Manager record should be kept by the business area****

For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office

[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED] McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 09 December 2025 12:30
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination;
DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); [REDACTED];
(DAERA); [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA PermSec
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support
for professional vegetable production
Attachments: Response Issued.msg; Ministers Clearance.msg; Sent for Clearance.msg

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date referred: 09/12/2025

Please see attached response issued by email this afternoon and Ministers Clearance. The CM container for this case is AE2-25-219113 and it is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately.

For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]
Private Office
[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy;
[REDACTED]; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)
Attachments: Letter from Minister Muir MLA .pdf; UFU letter to Minister Muir 27 Nov 2025 (002).docx
Categories: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] @daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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An Roinn
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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06
To: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

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This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

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FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Minister Muir
Sent: 03 December 2025 19:20
To: DAERA Private Office
Cc: 2024 DAERA Spad; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: INV-0951-2025 Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Categories: [REDACTED]

Approved

Andrew

Andrew Muir MLA | Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Jubilee House | 111 Ballykelly Road | Ballykelly | Limavady | BT49 9HP

Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED

www.daera-ni.gov.uk Mobile Telephone [REDACTED]

I sometimes send emails out of hours; I do not expect others to do so, do not feel obligated to respond outside of your normal working hours.

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 December 2025 12:33

To: DAERA Minister Muir <Daeraminister@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: 2024 DAERA Spad <Daeraspad@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk

Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: INV-0951-2025 Invitation to Visit the Nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Minster,

Please see attached Advice and Draft Reply to Trevor Gabbie, The Ulster Farmers' Union, for your consideration.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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

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

DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination

From: DAERA FFRAG Coordination
Sent: 23 April 2026 07:23
To: DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination
Cc: DAERA FFRAG Coordination
Subject: FW: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: PO to UFU - will be in touch.msg; [REDACTED] to PO -07.05.26 Not suitable.msg; T.Gabbie to PO - 07.05.26 Accepted.msg

Hi [REDACTED],

CAFRE coordination must have been missed off the cc list for the quick advice when this was submitted - therefore forwarding on for info/tracking/filing please.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Agri-Food & Corporate Support | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs |
Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED | Phone: [REDACTED] (64959) | E-mail:
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2026 18:17

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; McKendry, Martin
<Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA FFRAG Coordination
<FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA SAFD Co-
ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>;
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey,
Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group
<PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Raised By: [REDACTED] - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]

Date Referred: 22/04/2026

Please see attached for info and your records.

Reminder, it is the business areas responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on Content Manager.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Private Office

[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy;
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 22 April 2026 18:15
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

That's no problem. We will be in touch in due course when a suitable date is identified to reschedule this visit.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk) ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 22 April 2026 14:05
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back to me. Regrettably, I have a prior engagement on 7th May afternoon and would not be able to be in attendance. I have spoken with Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chair if possible could you please offer an alternative date and time to take this meeting forward.

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience but this is an important industry matter and we do hope your diary allows to offer us an alternative date and time.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 April 2026 12:02
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning [REDACTED],

Minister Muir would be available to visit Mr Gabbie's plant nursery on Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this would be suitable. An early response would be appreciated.

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] @daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2026 13:31

To: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED] >; [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope to be in touch with you in the coming weeks to offer a date for this visit. Thanks for your patience on this.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | **DD:** 20824



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
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An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:43

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] .co.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

FAO Minister Muir

Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chairman has asked I follow up with your office and tie down a date and time to take forward horticulture matters.

Since our letter the issue of Article 53 Emergency Use, cost and relationship with HCP are also high on the committee agenda.

We look forward to receiving a date and time to take these important matters forward for the horticulture industry. Any questions in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture and Equine
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |

Contact: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk)> ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] | ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



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and Rural Affairs**
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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 22 April 2026 14:05
To: DAERA Private Office; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Categories: [REDACTED]

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back to me. Regrettably, I have a prior engagement on 7th May afternoon and would not be able to be in attendance. I have spoken with Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chair if possible could you please offer an alternative date and time to take this meeting forward.

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience but this is an important industry matter and we do hope your diary allows to offer us an alternative date and time.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 April 2026 12:02
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning [REDACTED],

Minister Muir would be available to visit Mr Gabbie's plant nursery on Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this would be suitable. An early response would be appreciated.

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2026 13:31

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope to be in touch with you in the coming weeks to offer a date for this visit. Thanks for your patience on this.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: ([REDACTED]) | **DD:** 20824



From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:43

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

FAO Minister Muir

Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chairman has asked I follow up with your office and tie down a date and time to take forward horticulture matters.

Since our letter the issue of Article 53 Emergency Use, cost and relationship with HCP are also high on the committee agenda.

We look forward to receiving a date and time to take these important matters forward for the horticulture industry. Any questions in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture and Equine
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk)> ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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an' Kintra Matthers**

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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[REDACTED]

From: t[REDACTED].co.uk
Sent: 22 April 2026 12:07
To: DAERA Private Office; 'perwin'
Cc: '[REDACTED].co.uk'; [REDACTED].co.uk
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)
Categories: [REDACTED]

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

We are confirming that this date is suitable for a visit and we look forward to welcoming to our vegetable plant raising business.

Kind regards
Trevor, Aveyline & Michael Gabbie

	JOHN GABBIE & SONS	Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Road, Comber, Co Down, BT23 5PH, Northern Ireland. Tel: + 44 (0) 28 9187 2077
	<i>plant raisers</i>	VAT REG No.: 252 9945 28 EORI No.s: GB252994528000 or XI252994528000
	Plant Passport GB-NI/3370	Trevor Gabbie Mobile + 44 (0) 7798 731 450 Aveyline Gabbie Mobile + 44 (0) 7803 508 474
	GLOBALG.A.P. Certified : GGN 4052852523868	

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 April 2026 12:02
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning [REDACTED],

Minister Muir would be available to visit Mr Gabbie's plant nursery on Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this would be suitable. An early response would be appreciated.

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House|303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk Tel: [REDACTED] Ext: 20960|

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An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2026 13:31

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope to be in touch with you in the coming weeks to offer a date for this visit. Thanks for your patience on this.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:43

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; g [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

FAO Minister Muir

Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chairman has asked I follow up with your office and tie down a date and time to take forward horticulture matters.

Since our letter the issue of Article 53 Emergency Use, cost and relationship with HCP are also high on the committee agenda.

We look forward to receiving a date and time to take these important matters forward for the horticulture industry. Any questions in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture and Equine

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |

Contact: ✉ [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk)> ☎ **Tel:** [REDACTED] ☎ **Ext:** 20960 |

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Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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This email and any attachments to it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Email communications cannot be guaranteed to be secure or free from errors or viruses and the UFU accepts no responsibility for loss or damage arising from its use. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Ulster Farmers Union.

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[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 22 April 2026 12:07
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination;
DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA
PermSec
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss
support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: 07.05.26 @16.30 Offered.msg; PO to [REDACTED] - Will be in touch in coming
weeks.msg; [REDACTED] to PO - Req for date for visit & additional info.msg

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date Referred: 22/04/2026

Please note we have offered Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30 for this visit. We will advise in due course if this is accepted.

Reminder, it is the business areas responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on Content Manager.

Regards,
[REDACTED]
Private Office
[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:
[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; L [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy;
[REDACTED]; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 22 April 2026 18:17
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED];
[REDACTED] DAERA FFRAG Coordination;
DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; L [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA
PermSec
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss
support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: PO to UFU - will be in touch.msg; [REDACTED] to PO -07.05.26 Not suitable.msg;
[REDACTED] to PO - 07.05.26 Accepted.msg

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date Referred: 22/04/2026

Please see attached for info and your records.

Reminder, it is the business areas responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on Content Manager.

Regards,
[REDACTED]
Private Office
20960

Copied To For Information:
[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy;
[REDACTED]; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 April 2026 08:45
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: PO to UFU - will be in touch.msg; [REDACTED] to PO -07.05.26 Not suitable.msg; [REDACTED] to PO - 07.05.26 Accepted.msg

[REDACTED]

I note that you're the lead on this. Will there be a briefing coming round to contribute to or have I missed that?
I'm not sure if you would think it relevant for CSAO to add anything anyway.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 April 2026 18:17
To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; McKendry, Martin <Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DAERA FFRAG Coordination <FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] (DAERA) [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED] (DAERA) [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group <PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of [REDACTED] to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date Referred: 22/04/2026

Please see attached for info and your records.

Reminder, it is the business areas responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on Content Manager.

Regards,
[REDACTED]
Private Office
[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED] McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy;
[REDACTED]; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(DAERA);

DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA
EMFG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Godfrey,
Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]

(DAERA);

[REDACTED]; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA PermSec

Subject:

INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss
support for professional vegetable production

Attachments:

PO to [REDACTED] - Will be in touch in due course.msg; 24-06-26 not suitable - req for
alternatives.msg

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional
vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]

Date Referred: 04/06/2026

Please see attached for info . We'll advise in due course when a new date has been offered for this visit.

Reminder: it is the business areas responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on Content Manager.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Private Office

20824

Copied To For Information:

McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination;

[REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 22 June 2026 16:51
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED] DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA PermSec
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of [REDACTED] to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: 06-07-26 @10am or 23-07-26 @10am offered.msg; [REDACTED] to PO - Keen to get a date in early July.msg

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date Referred: 22/06/2026

Please see attached for info. We will advise when we receive a response to the latest date offered for this visit.

Reminder: It is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on Content Manager.

Regards,
[REDACTED]
Private Office
20824

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 22 June 2026 16:49
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. Would either of the following be suitable:

- Monday 6th July, 10am – 11am
- Thursday 23rd July, 10am – 11am

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or Assembly/Executive business which may be called at short notice.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | **DD:** 20824



Department of
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an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 15 June 2026 14:57
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

The chair of the UFU Vegetable Committee Trevor Gabbie would be keen we get a date in diary for an early July briefing and catch up with Minister Muir.

As mentioned below regrettably I am unable to attend on 24th June but keen UFU do secure an alternative date soon.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture & Equine
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 June 2026 15:25
To: 'DAERA Private Office' <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thank you and apologies diary availability can be a real challenge, so it would be good to get an alternative date agreed soon.

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2026 15:05
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Many thanks for getting back to us so quickly. We will be in touch in due course when a new potential is identified for this visit.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | **DD:** 20824



Department of
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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
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From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 02 June 2026 14:19
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Apologies I have a prior engagement on the 24th for Horticulture.

If possible could you please send alternative date(s) to help move this matter forward.

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 June 2026 14:05

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; T [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thanks for your patience on this. Would Wednesday 24th June, 4.15pm – 5.15pm, be suitable for this visit?

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



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an' Kintra Matthers**

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2026 18:15

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; T [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

That's no problem. We will be in touch in due course when a suitable date is identified to reschedule this visit.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 22 April 2026 14:05
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED].co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]y@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back to me. Regrettably, I have a prior engagement on 7th May afternoon and would not be able to be in attendance. I have spoken with Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chair if possible could you please offer an alternative date and time to take this meeting forward.

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience but this is an important industry matter and we do hope your diary allows to offer us an alternative date and time.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 April 2026 12:02
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning [REDACTED]

Minister Muir would be available to visit Mr Gabbie's plant nursery on Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this would be suitable. An early response would be appreciated.

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ **Tel:** [REDACTED] ☎ **Ext:** 20960 |

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 April 2026 13:31
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope to be in touch with you in the coming weeks to offer a date for this visit. Thanks for your patience on this.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



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**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:43

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

FAO Minister Muir

Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chairman has asked I follow up with your office and tie down a date and time to take forward horticulture matters.

Since our letter the issue of Article 53 Emergency Use, cost and relationship with HCP are also high on the committee agenda.

We look forward to receiving a date and time to take these important matters forward for the horticulture industry. Any questions in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture and Equine

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards



UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 15 June 2026 14:57
To: DAERA Private Office
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

The chair of the UFU Vegetable Committee Trevor Gabbie would be keen we get a date in diary for an early July briefing and catch up with Minister Muir.

As mentioned below regrettably I am unable to attend on 24th June but keen UFU do secure an alternative date soon.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture & Equine
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 June 2026 15:25
To: 'DAERA Private Office' <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thank you and apologies diary availability can be a real challenge, so it would be good to get an alternative date agreed soon.

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2026 15:05
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Many thanks for getting back to us so quickly. We will be in touch in due course when a new potential is identified for this visit.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 02 June 2026 14:19

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gabbieplants.co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Apologies I have a prior engagement on the 24th for Horticulture.

If possible could you please send alternative date(s) to help move this matter forward.

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 June 2026 14:05

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gabbieplants.co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thanks for your patience on this. Would Wednesday 24th June, 4.15pm – 5.15pm, be suitable for this visit?

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2026 18:15

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

That's no problem. We will be in touch in due course when a suitable date is identified to reschedule this visit.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk)> ☎ **Tel:** [REDACTED] ☎ **Ext:** 20960 |

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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Sent: 22 April 2026 14:05

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back to me. Regrettably, I have a prior engagement on 7th May afternoon and would not be able to be in attendance. I have spoken with Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chair if possible could you please offer an alternative date and time to take this meeting forward.

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience but this is an important industry matter and we do hope your diary allows to offer us an alternative date and time.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2026 12:02

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning [REDACTED]

Minister Muir would be available to visit Mr Gabbie's plant nursery on Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this would be suitable. An early response would be appreciated.

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] @daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2026 13:31

To: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED] .co.uk>; [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope to be in touch with you in the coming weeks to offer a date for this visit. Thanks for your patience on this.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
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An Roinn
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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:43

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] .co.uk>; [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

FAO Minister Muir

Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chairman has asked I follow up with your office and tie down a date and time to take forward horticulture matters.

Since our letter the issue of Article 53 Emergency Use, cost and relationship with HCP are also high on the committee agenda.

We look forward to receiving a date and time to take these important matters forward for the horticulture industry. Any questions in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Regards

Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture and Equine

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05

To: @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon ,

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards

Contact: | **DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House|303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |**
@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: | ☎ Ext: 20960|

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06

To: @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



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**Agriculture, Environment
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An Roinn
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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 23 June 2026 16:29
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]; DAERA
FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED];
DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA
EMFG Coordination; [REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Godfrey,
Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA PermSec
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss
support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: 06.07.26 @10am Confirmed.msg; 06.07.26 @10am Accepted.msg

From: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date referred: 23/06/2026

ACTION REQUIRED

This meeting/visit has been arranged for Monday 6th July, 10:00-11:00, at Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Road, Comber, Co Down, BT23 5PH

Please provide briefing to include the following: Agenda/Programme, Key Facts, Key Issues - Background Note & Lines to Take & directions from Bangor. Please note that where possible all annexes should be included in the same document as the covering briefing template.

The CM container for this case is AE2-25-219113 and it is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately.

The Word document and CM link should be returned to private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk not later than NOON 29/06/26. Please ensure Private Office is included in the edit access permissions to the CM document.

The Briefing template can be found in the Invitation section at the following link:
<http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/articles/ministerial-cases>. Please ensure the templates from this link are used, if the correct briefing template is not used, it will be returned for correcting.
If Part Input is required from another Department, please advise Private Office immediately.

Please consider if this area is impacted by the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations. If so, you should contact the Windsor Framework Implementation Team at WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk without delay to discuss handling arrangements. Guidance on the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations, can be found at the following link: <http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/documents/windsor-framework-implementation-regulations-2024-daera-guidance>

NOTE: If amendments are required to the briefing after it has been submitted to Private Office, you should contact Private Office in the first instance to discuss. If Private Office agree to accept revised briefing, the briefing should be

resubmitted to Private Office with the Word and CM link with a note on the covering email detailing if the covering template/annexes have been amended. **When making any revisions to Ministerial advice, correspondence or statements, officials should advise Private Office if these revisions are based on the Minister's comments or if they constitute official NICS/DAERA advice. A Content Manager record should be kept by the business area.**

For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office
20960

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination;
[REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 23 June 2026 16:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thanks for that. I have confirmed this in the Ministers diary for Monday 6th July, 10:00-11:00, in Comber.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] [@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk) ☎ Tel: ([REDACTED]) ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 23 June 2026 12:42
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; C [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Thank you for getting back.
Confirmation – Monday 6th July 2026 at 10am on Farm with UFU Veg Chairman Trevor Gabbie.

Interim thanks for your patience and help with getting this request for meeting tied down.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 June 2026 16:49
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Thanks for your email. Would either of the following be suitable:

- Monday 6th July, 10am – 11am
- Thursday 23rd July, 10am – 11am

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or Assembly/Executive business which may be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 15 June 2026 14:57

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; T [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]o.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

The chair of the UFU Vegetable Committee Trevor Gabbie would be keen we get a date in diary for an early July briefing and catch up with Minister Muir.

As mentioned below regrettably I am unable to attend on 24th June but keen UFU do secure an alternative date soon.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture & Equine

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 June 2026 15:25

To: 'DAERA Private Office' <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

■

Thank you and apologies diary availability can be a real challenge, so it would be good to get an alternative date agreed soon.

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 June 2026 15:05

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; T [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Many thanks for getting back to us so quickly. We will be in touch in due course when a new potential is identified for this visit.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: ([REDACTED]) | DD: 20824



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From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 02 June 2026 14:19

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Apologies I have a prior engagement on the 24th for Horticulture.

If possible could you please send alternative date(s) to help move this matter forward.

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 June 2026 14:05

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gabbieplants.co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience but this is an important industry matter and we do hope your diary allows to offer us an alternative date and time.

Kind regards

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2026 12:02

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning [REDACTED]

Minister Muir would be available to visit Mr Gabbie's plant nursery on Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this would be suitable. An early response would be appreciated.

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: ([REDACTED]) ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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Department o'
**Fairmin, Environment
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From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2026 13:31

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope to be in touch with you in the coming weeks to offer a date for this visit. Thanks for your patience on this.

Kind Regards

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | **DD:** 20824



From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:43

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

FAO Minister Muir

[REDACTED] UFU Vegetable Chairman has asked I follow up with your office and tie down a date and time to take forward horticulture matters.

Since our letter the issue of Article 53 Emergency Use, cost and relationship with HCP are also high on the committee agenda.

We look forward to receiving a date and time to take these important matters forward for the horticulture industry. Any questions in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture and Equine
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED] DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House|303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: (028) 90 520960 | ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BT3 9ED



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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 23 June 2026 12:42
To: DAERA Private Office
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025) confirmed 10am at Comber

Categories: [REDACTED]

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

[REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back.
Confirmation – Monday 6th July 2026 at 10am on Farm with UFU Veg Chairman Trevor Gabbie.

Interim thanks for your patience and help with getting this request for meeting tied down.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 June 2026 16:49
To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. Would either of the following be suitable:

- Monday 6th July, 10am – 11am
- Thursday 23rd July, 10am – 11am

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or Assembly/Executive business which may be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: ([REDACTED]) | DD: 20824



From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Sent: 15 June 2026 14:57

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; T [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

The chair of the UFU Vegetable Committee Trevor Gabbie would be keen we get a date in diary for an early July briefing and catch up with Minister Muir.

As mentioned below regrettably I am unable to attend on 24th June but keen UFU do secure an alternative date soon.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture & Equine

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 June 2026 15:25

To: 'DAERA Private Office' <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].co.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thank you and apologies diary availability can be a real challenge, so it would be good to get an alternative date agreed soon.

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 June 2026 15:05

To: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].o.uk>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Many thanks for getting back to us so quickly. We will be in touch in due course when a new potential is identified for this visit.

Kind Regards

██████████



114

114

11/11/2016



From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2026 18:15

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; T [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

That's no problem. We will be in touch in due course when a suitable date is identified to reschedule this visit.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House|303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |**
Contact: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk)> ☎ Tel: ([REDACTED]) ☎ Ext: 20960|

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Sent: 22 April 2026 14:05

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

[REDACTED]

Thank you for getting back to me. Regrettably, I have a prior engagement on 7th May afternoon and would not be able to be in attendance. I have spoken with Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chair if possible could you please offer an alternative date and time to take this meeting forward.

My sincere apologies for any inconvenience but this is an important industry matter and we do hope your diary allows to offer us an alternative date and time.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 April 2026 12:02

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\].co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].co.uk)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning [REDACTED],

Minister Muir would be available to visit Mr Gabbie's plant nursery on Thursday 7th May, 16:30-17:30.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this would be suitable. An early response would be

appreciated.

Please note the Ministers attendance at this visit will be subject to any urgent business which may arise in the interim, or assembly/executive business which can be called at short notice.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] @daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ Tel: [REDACTED] ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2026 13:31

To: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>; [REDACTED] .co.uk>; [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Hi P [REDACTED]

I hope to be in touch with you in the coming weeks to offer a date for this visit. Thanks for your patience on this.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
First Floor | Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Sydenham Intake | Belfast | BT3 9ED
Tel: [REDACTED] | DD: 20824



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Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

From: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Sent: 04 March 2026 10:43

To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] .co.uk>; [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] @ufuhq.com>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

FAO Minister Muir

Trevor Gabbie UFU Vegetable Chairman has asked I follow up with your office and tie down a date and time to take forward horticulture matters.

Since our letter the issue of Article 53 Emergency Use, cost and relationship with HCP are also high on the committee agenda.

We look forward to receiving a date and time to take these important matters forward for the horticulture industry. Any questions in the interim please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Senior Policy Officer for Arable Horticulture and Equine
[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2025 12:05

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Please see attached letter from Minister Muir MLA in response to Mr Gabbie's letter of 27 November 2025.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will not follow in the post.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk)> ☎ Tel: ([REDACTED]) ☎ Ext: 20960 |

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From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2025 11:06

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@ufuhq.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ufuhq.com)>

Subject: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025)

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached correspondence to Minister Muir.

This request is currently under consideration and a response will issue in due course.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Private Office
1st Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West



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www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

From: [REDACTED]@ufuhq.com>
Sent: 27 November 2025 21:37
To: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED].co.uk>
Subject: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman

FAO Minister Andrew Muir

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Please find letter attached from Trevor Gabbie Chairman UFU Vegetable Committee

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

UFU Senior Policy Officer for Arable & Horticulture
On behalf of UFU Vegetable Policy Chairman Trevor Gabbie

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INVITATION BRIEFING TEMPLATE

DAERA PRIVATE OFFICE

INV Ref:	INV-0951-2026
To:	Andrew Muir MLA Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
CC:	Katrina Godfrey, G_DAERA Pressoffice.Group, Perm Sec mailbox (perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk), [REDACTED], Martin McKendry, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Daera FFRAG Coordination, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
From (SO or above):	[REDACTED] (Head of Horticulture Branch)
Branch:	Horticulture Branch
Contact number (incl. mobile)	[REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]
Name & mobile number of official(s) attending the meeting/event in support of Minister:	[REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]
Press Officer attending meeting/event:	☒ Yes – [REDACTED] ☐ No
Note taker (Business area to provide)	[REDACTED]
Windsor Framework Implementation consideration	Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 ('the EU Organics Regulation') is directly applicable in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework and is under the direction and control of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Defra are the Competent Authority for Organics Policy in NI. Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 laying down rules regarding the authorisation of plant protection products is included in Annex 2 of the Windsor Framework. The Secretary of State exercised discretion for this Regulation and it is therefore under your direction and control.
Venue:	Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Rd, Comber, County Down, BT23 5PH

INV Ref:	INV-0951-2026	
Date and time:	Monday, 6th July, 10:00-11:00	
Invitation from:	Trevor Gabbie, Chairman, UFU Vegetable Committee	
Invitation type (click box to check):	☐ Event ☐ Meeting ☒ Farm Visit ☐ Site Visit ☐ Other (please specify):	
Summary of event/meeting (further detail to be provided in the background section)	The visit has been requested by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which may misrepresent certification and risk undermining confidence in a highly regulated vegetable sector. Mr Gabbie also wishes to highlight the perceived gap between policy and production realities, particularly the risks from peat phase-out without viable alternatives, clear safety assurances, or flexibility on imports, which could disrupt supply and increase reliance on lower-standard imports. The availability of Plant Protection Products is also likely to be raised as an issue.	
Publicity (please confirm with the organiser/host and provide details of any planned publicity including media invites, press releases video content or social media articles. Please mark N/A if no publicity is taking place)	☒ If publicity is planned, please tick to confirm that the event organiser has been advised to notify DAERA Media Team at pressoffice.group@daera-ni.gov.uk	
External meeting attendees (click box to check):	☐ None ☐ Not Known ☒ Yes (please specify): [REDACTED] (UFU), [REDACTED] (UFU) and [REDACTED] (UFU).	
Annexes:	Annex A:	Programme
	Annex B:	Key Facts
	Annex C:	Key issues – Background and Lines to Take
	Annex D:	Pen Pictures
	Annex E:	Directions

PROGRAMME / AGENDA

10:00 Arrival at Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Rd, Comber, County Down, BT23 5PH.

10:05 Tour of glasshouse production facilities with discussion of issues.

11:00 Departure.

KEY FACTS

- **In line with the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations 2024, organics policy in Northern Ireland is subject to the direction and control of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).**
- **Where the Northern Ireland production horticulture sector faces real challenges, suitable transition periods and exemptions will minimise economic impact and allow suitable peat-free strategies to be developed.**
- **My officials have been engaging with representatives of the crop protection industry and users of PPPs to discuss availability issues and to help raise awareness of the authorisation application types, available for the NI market, as alternatives to standard applications, such as mutual recognition and parallel trade permits.**

KEY ISSUES, BACKGROUND AND LINES TO TAKE

KEY ISSUE:

[REDACTED]

Lines to Take:

- I am pleased to visit a commercial vegetable and salad plant propagator to gain a better understanding of issues facing the sector.

Background:

1. [REDACTED] are a vegetable and salad plant propagator based in Comber, Co. Down supplying 52 million young plants per year to the edible crop sector throughout Ireland, with [REDACTED] being a Partner and [REDACTED] wife, [REDACTED], and son, [REDACTED] working within the business.
2. They focus on growing and distributing young plants to growers utilising advanced automation systems to enhance productivity and efficiency in their operations.
3. Their glasshouses are up to half an acre in size and split up into bays, which are up to ten metres wide and 16 metres long with walkway provision for forklift and tractor access. They have incorporated high levels of automation into their operations.

KEY ISSUE: OVERVIEW OF THE HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN NI.

Lines to Take:

- **DAERA supports the sustainable growth of the Horticulture industry in Northern Ireland through a range of education, knowledge transfer and innovation programmes provided by CAFRE.**
- **DAERA seeks to reduce fragmentation and improve competitiveness and sustainability within the agri-food sector through schemes such as the Horticulture Pilot Scheme.**
- **DAERA's Plant Health Inspection Branch implements regulation related to pests and diseases, pesticides, plant passporting, imports and exports, surveys and compliance helping to safeguard the industry's future.**

Background:

1. The Northern Ireland production horticulture industry is divided into two broad sectors, each with several subsectors:
 - Production - Edible Crops: includes mushrooms, vegetables, top fruit (apples), soft fruit, salads and herbs.
 - Production - Ornamental Crops: includes nursery stock, bedding plants, pot plants, cut flowers and foliage.
2. The Northern Ireland production horticulture Industry is an important contributor to the local economy with a farmgate output of £96.4 million. The industry provides employment for over 2,670 people in at least 572 businesses. The Northern Ireland production horticulture sector also provides the fresh produce inputs for approximately 50 food businesses, employing 3,068 people, with a gross turnover estimated at £416.1m.
3. Northern Ireland production horticulture growers operate in an extremely competitive global marketplace and face a multitude of challenges including, supermarket pricing policies, the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and labour shortages.
4. DAERA support for the Northern Ireland production horticulture Industry includes the 3 year extension to the Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme and the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise's (CAFRE) knowledge transfer and innovation support to those working in the production horticulture sector, which includes the Horticulture Pilot Scheme. CAFRE also supports both sectors via education programmes delivered from Level 2 to BSc in Horticulture with full-time and part time provision.

KEY ISSUE: Horticultural Peat Bill

Lines to Take:

- **I recognise that transition will be harder for some than others, and my officials will be engaging with horticultural industry representatives via 2 events in August to understand difficulties, prior to launching a public consultation exercise.**
- **Where the sector faces real challenges, suitable transition periods and exemptions will minimise economic impact and allow suitable peat-free strategies to be developed.**

Background:

1. Healthy resilient peatlands have a central role in mitigating and adapting to the linked climate and nature emergencies. Commercial extraction of peat degrades this vital ecosystem. Horticulture is the main end use of commercially extracted peat in the UK (>95%), with relatively small amounts extracted for other uses.
2. Across the UK, planning policy and peatland strategies collectively have established a presumption against peat extraction and disturbance, alongside a strong emphasis on protection and restoration.
3. In spring 2026, Ministers from all parts of the UK agreed to a UK-wide collaborative approach to banning the sale of peat for horticulture in order to minimise disruption to supply chains within the UK, maintain a level playing field for industry, enable efficient management of imports and exports of peat-containing products, and manage WTO and UK Internal Market Act considerations.
4. Ministers are committed to a ban on the sale of horticultural peat that is ambitious, realistic and sensitive to the needs of industry and a cross-UK policy group with officials from all four nations is now working towards legislating for a peat sales ban. At this stage in the process, it is proposed that any ban will apply to both domestic and imported peat.
5. In the UK, the retail sector has largely transitioned away from peat, with peat constituting less than 17% of growing media sold for retail use. In the professional sector, although in 2022 peat use fell below 50% peat, transition rates have been slower than in the retail sector.
6. The current thinking is to ban the sale of peat in stages, beginning with the retail horticulture sector, which accounts for around two thirds of all peat used in UK horticulture. The ban would then be widened to include the sale of peat for professional horticulture. This might be achieved by applying a general ban on the sale of peat (for all purposes) with exemptions, some time-limited to allow for transition.

KEY ISSUE: Organic Certification

Lines to Take:

- **Organic Policy in Northern Ireland is subject to the direction and control of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.**
- **Defra is the Competent Authority for Organics in Northern Ireland.**
- **I am aware of the additional regulatory requirements for organic operators including the requirement to be certified by an approved organic control body.**
- **I am also aware that there are five Organic Certification Bodies operating in Northern Ireland.**

Background:

1. In line with the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations 2024, Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 ('the EU Organics Regulation') is directly applicable in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework and is under the direction and control of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Defra is the Competent Authority for Organics Policy in NI. As a result, organic operators here are required to meet EU Organic Production Standards in order to receive recognised certification.
2. DAERA Officials engage regularly with the Defra Competent Authority team and also take part in meetings with the Devolved Administrations through the Four Nations Working Group.
3. There are currently five Approved Organic Control Bodies who operate in Northern Ireland.
4. [REDACTED] from Ben Vista Farm contacted Officials back in 2022 regarding organics. At this time, he was advised to contact one of the approved Organic Control Bodies and the NI Competent Authority for further advice on Organic Production and Standards.
5. On the most recent list of organic operators (December 2024) we received from Defra, Ben Vista and Mourne View Farm do not appear on this list. Defra has also confirmed that they also do not appear on the list of registered organic operators as at December 2025.

KEY ISSUE: Horticultural Pilot Scheme

Lines to Take:

- **I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Horticulture Pilot Scheme and your role as the lead applicant for one of the vegetable groups that submitted an application to the Sustainable Sector Growth Group.**
- **I am delighted that your son [REDACTED] who completed the Level 3 Diploma in Horticulture course at CAFRE in 2024, is also participating in the Growers' Training and Support Scheme. I trust that your business will benefit from these two schemes.**
- **Sustainable Sector Growth Groups are a great opportunity for self-selected groups of growers who see opportunities to grow their businesses through cooperation with four years of facilitation, agronomy, business and supply chain support.**
- **The Innovation Driver and Support pilot scheme aims to derisk investment in innovative crops, systems and technologies, and it is expected that all production horticulture sectors should be able to identify opportunities within its spending limits. I am pleased that the Innovation Driver and Support Scheme is open for Expressions of Interest on the CAFRE website until 4th Sept. £2.66 million will be available for purchases to a maximum of £250,000 or 40% of the purchase cost, thus allowing for potential purchases of up to £625,000.**
- **Growers' Training and Support pilot scheme**
All sectors need to have new growers entering or developing to ensure their long-term sustainability, productivity and resilience.

Background:

1. **The Horticulture Pilot Scheme is part of the Sustainable Agriculture Programme and consists of three elements: Sustainable Sector Growth Groups; Innovation Driver and Support; and Growers' Training and Support pilot scheme.**
2. **The scheme aims to help foster the growth and viability of the whole NI production horticulture sector through measures designed to improve collaboration, innovation, and increase the number of horticulture growers.**
3. **Growth in local production horticulture will help improve overall agri-sector productivity and sustainability, grow the economy, and help ensure the stability of the food supply chain by increasing local resourcing. This will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the policies that the DAERA has included in the agriculture sector input to the Climate Action Plan 2023-2027**
4. **DAERA's Horticulture Pilot Scheme comprises three pilot sub schemes:**

- Sustainable Sector Growth Groups – which aims to increase productivity by providing specialist agronomy, business development and supply chain professional advice to participating self-selected groups of growers, helping them to share information and explore market opportunities collectively.
- Growers' Training and Support scheme - will provide the opportunity for growers to attend professional development training and activities and events that will allow them to develop the knowledge and skills required to start a production horticulture enterprise or increase their existing production horticulture businesses' productivity, sustainability and resilience.
- Innovation Driver and Support pilot - growers with viable ideas will be supported to invest in new systems, technologies and crops to enable improved productivity, sustainability and resilience.

KEY ISSUE: PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCT (PPP) AVAILABILITY

Lines to Take:

- **I recognise growers' concerns about plant protection products withdrawals, particularly in the horticulture sector as a result of active substance withdrawals, commercial decisions leading to the discontinuation of PPP's and slower development of replacements.**
- **DAERA is committed to supporting farmers through guidance, knowledge transfer, and innovation to enable a transition to more sustainable systems.**
- **Integrated Pest Management should underpin decision making, reducing reliance on chemical inputs where possible. It is not only a policy priority but also supports efficient farm business by lowering costs, strengthening resilience, and protecting natural resources.**
- **Officials will continue to engage closely with growers and industry stakeholders to monitor emerging issues, identify practical solutions within the existing regulatory framework, and provide appropriate support within the Department's available financial resources.**

Background:

- 1 Stakeholders report reduced availability of key herbicides and concerns regarding future fungicide supply, particularly in the arable and horticulture sectors.
- 2 Alignment with EU regulatory requirements under the Windsor Framework means continued availability depends on manufacturers maintaining EU approvals. Further, due to Northern Ireland's small market size and regulatory complexity, companies are increasingly choosing not to support products here.
- 3 The impact is most acute in the horticulture sector, which relies on specialised, low volume, crop specific products that are less commercially attractive for manufacturers to support. The loss of even a single fungicide or insecticide can have immediate and significant consequences for production, as alternatives are often limited or unavailable.
- 4 Stakeholders are seeking practical support to maintain access to PPPs, including greater use of alternative authorisation routes (e.g. Extension of Authorisations for Minor Use (EAMUs) and Emergency Authorisations), support for retaining EU approvals, and incentives to sustain niche products. There is also a need to improve access to substitutes and strengthen uptake of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

KEY ISSUE: Horticulture Research and Development

Lines to Take:

- **The Department is committed to ensuring R&D investment delivers practical benefits to growers and the wider sector.**
- **DAERA-funded research is focused on innovation, sustainability and improving productivity.**
- **Knowledge transfer remains a key priority, ensuring research outcomes are adopted at farm and business level.**

Background:

1. To support DAERA corporate priorities, the department funds research in environmental footprinting, low-carbon innovations, pest and crop management and soil health or nutrient use.
2. This spans a range of funded and co-funded programmes, including DAERA's collaborative research calls, the Co-Centres Programme, the DAERA-Directed AFBI Work Programme, and the DAERA Postgraduate Scheme.
3. In addition, strong emphasis is placed on transferring knowledge to growers via CAFRE, ensuring research is practical, widely adopted, and delivers scalable, impactful value for money.
4. DAERA is engaging with the Climate, Biodiversity and Water Co-Centre to develop an industry-led research project to inform future horticulture policy, alongside ongoing work on food waste and circularity in the Sustainable Food Systems Co-Centre.
5. DAERA recognises horticulture's role in a sustainable, resilient agri-food system and will continue to refine its research and development approach—guided by stakeholder engagement—to maximise impact and long-term viability.

KEY ISSUE: Horticulture Labour Shortages

Lines to Take:

- I am aware that horticulture businesses are experiencing real impacts on their productive capacity, with inadequate labour having been identified as a fundamental factor. The NI mushroom sector faces particular skills gaps, necessitating a reliance on migrant workers. Stakeholders have communicated that filling these positions from the domestic workforce continues to be a challenge and is not a realistic option.
- I am deeply concerned about the impact of the UK Government's Immigration Policy on the Northern Ireland agri-food industry.
- I have communicated the issues with the Defra Secretary of State and Minister for Citizenship and Migration on several occasions and suggested modest policy adjustments to resolve the issues. The situation has not improved. Stakeholders continue to communicate the serious operational and financial impacts that inadequate labour is having.
- Robotics and automation trials are ongoing for several sectors in NI but in order for these new technologies to effectively reduce the reliance on migrant labour, this will take substantial investment and time and the industry needs to be viable in the intervening period.
- In Northern Ireland, the proximity of the Irish border and policy differentials exacerbates the labour problem. As the only part of the UK with an EU border, our competitive disadvantage to the EU free-movement model and more flexible visa system, is starkly in view. This is particularly evident for the mushroom sector.

Background:

1. The Northern Ireland Mushroom Growers Association (NIMGA) have also requested a joint meeting with you and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Matthew Patrick MP, to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing NI mushroom businesses (Refs: INV-0119-2026 and INV-0287-2026).
2. Current challenges outlined by NIMGA include the limitations intensified by recent changes to the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme (SAWS), the competitive pressure from the proximity to the Republic of Ireland where the sector benefits from more favourable conditions, and the reality that automation as a solution to labour shortages remains some way off.
3. The SAWS allows migrant workers to come to the UK for up to 6 months in any rolling 10-month period to perform temporary horticulture work. The mushroom sector is currently the main user of the SAWS visa route in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland mushroom sector has an all-year-round production cycle, therefore, the restrictions on the length of time someone can remain in the UK on this visa route means it is not effectively addressing the industry's labour needs.

PEN PICTURES

██████████ is a well-established horticulture professional based in Comber, County Down, and Chair of the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) Vegetable Committee.

A first-generation grower and plant propagator, he is a Partner at ██████████ a specialist nursery business supplying young vegetable plants into the commercial supply chain across Northern Ireland and beyond, with his wife, ██████████, and son ██████████ working within the business.

With a background in large-scale plant production, he represents Northern Ireland's professional vegetable sector on key industry and policy issues, including sustainability, supply chain resilience and horticulture strategy development.

He is also actively involved in wider industry initiatives, including the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society and Balmoral Show, where he promotes local produce and engages with consumers on the importance of Northern Ireland's horticulture sector.

Trevor brings practical, production-led insight to policy discussions, with a strong emphasis on maintaining high standards of assurance, traceability and food safety within the vegetable supply chain.

██████████ is a Senior Policy Officer with the UFU, with responsibility across key commodity areas including vegetables, fruit, potatoes, and arable crops.

She plays a central role in shaping and communicating UFU policy positions on arable and horticulture issues, regularly producing "Commodity Watch" updates and representing the organisation in engagement with DAERA, industry stakeholders and research bodies.

██████████ works closely with UFU commodity chairs and committees to coordinate industry input into consultations and policy development, particularly on sustainability, regulation and sectoral support.

She is actively involved in promoting Northern Ireland's horticulture sector through industry events such as the Balmoral Show and wider stakeholder initiatives, with a focus on strengthening the sector's visibility, resilience and long-term competitiveness.

██████████ brings a strong policy and stakeholder engagement perspective, ensuring that the practical concerns of growers are reflected in regional agricultural policy discussions.

██████████ is a Director of ██████████, a major Northern Ireland producer and supplier of fresh field vegetables and a former horticulture industry representative on CAFRE's College Advisory Board. The company produces and packs a wide range of vegetables grown on 125 acres in the Ards Peninsula and North Down. Vegetables are grown, harvested, prepared, packed and delivered to most of the major multiple retailers in Northern Ireland. ██████████ also produces a range of organic vegetables and potatoes and some vegetables grown on farm are now being processed.



██████████ is committed to promoting quality Northern Ireland fresh produce. He is a member of the UFU Vegetable Committee, Veg NI (Treasurer), and the Agricultural Wages Board. The ██████████ business hosts school and community visits to educate people about where their food comes from and explain how other businesses can benefit from the work of local producers. A purpose-built viewing gallery permits visiting groups to view the packing of produce.

██████████ is the Deputy President of the UFU. He is a full-time, hill sheep farmer from Park, near Claudy Co, Derry. The farm is in a severely disadvantaged area (SDA) in the Sperrin Mountains. ██████████ is a member of the Northern Ireland sheep programme, and his farm is a Sheep Technology Demonstration Farm.



██████████ has been a member of the UFU throughout his farming life which is in excess of 40 years. He has always believed that the UFU has played an important role in representing all agriculture sectors in Northern Ireland. ██████████ has served as chairperson of the UFU Northwest Derry Group and is currently vice chairperson of the UFU Hill Farming Committee.

At present, the Hill Farming Committee are striving to influence policy makers regarding livestock being part of a new future environmental policy where hills can accommodate livestock as well as sequestering carbon. The committee are also working with the beef and lamb committee and other interested groups, to secure funding for the sheep sector in the future agricultural policy proposals for NI.

DIRECTIONS

Bangor, Ward Avenue, Bangor, UK	0.0
Head south on Ward Ave towards Clifton Rd	0.3
Turn right onto Shandon Dr	0.3
Turn left onto College Ave	0.5
Turn left onto Ballyholme Rd	0.5
Turn right onto Hamilton Rd	0.6
At the roundabout, continue straight to stay on Hamilton Rd	1.0
Slight left onto Main St	1.1
At the roundabout, continue straight onto Abbey St	
Go through 1 roundabout	1.4
Turn left onto Newtownards Rd/A21	2.2
At Newtownards Rd Roundabout, take the 2nd exit and stay on Newtownards Rd/A21	
Newtownards	
A21	2.5
At Rathgael Rd Roundabout, take the 2nd exit and stay on Newtownards Rd/A21	5.9
At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Georges St/A21	6.1
Turn left onto Portaferry Rd/A20	6.3
At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Castlebawn Rd/A20	6.6
At Castlebawn Roundabout, take the 1st exit and stay on Castlebawn Rd/A20	6.9
At Comber Rd Roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Comber Rd./A21	
Continue to follow A21	9.7
At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Copeland Cres/A21	
Continue to follow A21	11.9
Turn right onto Hillsborough Rd/B178	12.1
Turn right onto Ballymaleddy Rd	

Destination will be on the right

12.5

Arrive: 15 Ballymaleddy Rd, Comber, Newtownards BT23 5PH, UK



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2026 15:23
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: Transition-to-peat-free-horticulture in Scotland. CXC-main-report. March 2026.PDF

Hi [REDACTED]
I have included some thoughts below on the questions included in Trevor Gabbie's letter.

1. What are the realistic, scalable alternatives to peat for food-production growing media?
2. How will DAERA guarantee those alternatives are safe and free from pathogens such as *Listeria*, *E. coli* or *Salmonella*?
3. Will professional producers be permitted to import peat or compliant peat-based media from other countries if alternatives fail to meet safety and performance requirements?
4. If Northern Ireland growers face restrictions not applied elsewhere, what action will DAERA take to prevent market displacement by imported vegetables produced under lower or different standards?

1. Growing Media Manufacturers (GMM) are developing peat-free alternatives - number of trials are progressing across the UK I believe. There have been general queries over the availability of source materials (wood fibre, coir etc) but presumably GMM are pursuing new suppliers and materials?
2. The responsibility for guaranteeing the safety of growing media will rest with GMM, not DAERA? I think that standards for peat-free media were under development - perhaps by the Horticultural Trades Association?
3. As far as I know, the current plan is not to allow the sale (and possibly import) of peat-containing products. Allowing the import of peat will defeat the purpose of the ban and export the problem of habitat destruction/GHG emissions elsewhere.
4. I don't have the answer to this query specifically - however, what safeguards are in place for the import of other agricultural commodities such as beef, lamb etc? Is this a similar scenario?

I think it's worth bearing in mind that the horticultural industry as a whole have known about a potential ban on the use of peat for quite some time. DEFRA tried to take forward a voluntary move away from peat around 2010-2011, which never really happened, hence the proposed legislative route. In the Peatland Strategy, Action 14 (d) states that DAERA will "Commission, fund and deliver peatland research, where appropriate, such as research into the development of alternative growing media particularly those of relevance to the Horticulture Industry. This should include examining the barriers to uptake of alternatives". Timescales and exemptions have not yet been agreed - though dates of 2030 and even slightly beyond have been bandied about. You will be aware of the Scottish Government-commissioned Climate Exchange report (attached) on the transition to peat free horticulture in Scotland - they concluded that "the principal challenge for Scotland's peat-free transition is the coordination of infrastructure, standards, supply chains and technical growing practice – rather than a lack of alternatives or willingness in the sector". The report also included indicative transition timelines for various sectors. Successful transition will depend on co-ordinated action and the following:

- Clear and consistent quality standards for peat-free media;
- Structured, commercially meaningful growing trials;
- Reliable domestic processing capacity;
- Access to technical guidance and workforce training;
- Clarity and alignment of policy across the UK.

I certainly think there is a job of work for DAERA to support all of the above points and hence a successful peat free transition.

Happy to discuss further [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 25 June 2026 08:55

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi [REDACTED]

See comments from [REDACTED] below. We might need to have a chat later about some of the questions that Trevor raises e.g. the 4 questions that he asks. I'm in a meeting all morning but I'll give you a ring later.

Renny

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 24 June 2026 15:57

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Thanks [REDACTED]

I have reviewed and moved some of the lines into the background.

[REDACTED] - we need to just ensure that Minister has already been briefed on the topic/issues (and this isn't the first time he will become aware of the approach). Is there anything else he needs to be aware of for the visit in terms of the issues raised in the correspondence from our policy perspective?

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 24 June 2026 14:17

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; P [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

All

Please see email trail below - [REDACTED] (Head of Horticulture Branch, CAFRE) has requested input to the attached Briefing on the forthcoming Horticultural Peat Bill for Minister Muir's forthcoming visit to Trevor Gabbie's vegetable plant nursery (6th July). I have added in LTT and Background notes. Please let me know if you are content and I can return to [REDACTED] note that he has requested return by COP tomorrow (Thursday).

Happy to discuss

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2026 23:24

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find the briefing attached this time, thanks

Regards

Head of Horticulture Branch (Acting)

H CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45, Tirgracy Road, Antrim, BT41 4PS C

@daera-ni.gov.uk

(Ext 63638)

(Mobile)

www.facebook.com/discoverCAFRE

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 June 2026 23:15

To: @daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: @daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi

The Minister will visit Trevor Gabbie on the 6th of July to discuss in part the transition to peat free. Could you please add a part input concerning the Horticulture Peat Bill and upcoming consultations, etc by COP this Thursday to allow time to CAFRE management to review the briefing. I have included Trevor's original invite letter for context,

Regards

Head of Horticulture Branch (Acting)

H CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45, Tirgracy Road, Antrim, BT41 4PS C

@daera-ni.gov.uk

(Ext 63638)

(Mobile)

www.facebook.com/discoverCAFRE

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2026 16:29

To: @daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: @daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>; McKendry, Martin
<Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA FFRAG Coordination
<FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA SAFD Co-
ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA EMFG Coordination <EMFG.Coordination@daera-
ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Env Policy Coordination
<envpolicycoordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-
ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; @daera-ni.gov.uk>;
@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group <PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA
PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

From: Trevor Gabbie - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]

Date referred: 23/06/2026

ACTION REQUIRED

This meeting/visit has been arranged for Monday 6th July, 10:00-11:00, at Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Road, Comber, Co Down, BT23 5PH

Please provide briefing to include the following: Agenda/Programme, Key Facts, Key Issues - Background Note & Lines to Take & directions from Bangor. Please note that where possible all annexes should be included in the same document as the covering briefing template.

The CM container for this case is AE2-25-219113 and it is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately.

The Word document and CM link should be returned to private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk not later than NOON 29/06/26. Please ensure Private Office is included in the edit access permissions to the CM document.

The Briefing template can be found in the Invitation section at the following link:

<http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/articles/ministerial-cases>. Please ensure the templates from this link are used, if the correct briefing template is not used, it will be returned for correcting.

If Part Input is required from another Department, please advise Private Office immediately.

Please consider if this area is impacted by the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations. If so, you should contact the Windsor Framework Implementation Team at WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk without delay to discuss handling arrangements. Guidance on the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations, can be found at the following link: <http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/documents/windsor-framework-implementation-regulations-2024-daera-guidance>

NOTE: If amendments are required to the briefing after it has been submitted to Private Office, you should contact Private Office in the first instance to discuss. If Private Office agree to accept revised briefing, the briefing should be resubmitted to Private Office with the Word and CM link with a note on the covering email detailing if the covering template/annexes have been amended. **When making any revisions to Ministerial advice, correspondence or statements, officials should advise Private Office if these revisions are based on the Minister's comments or if they constitute official NICS/DAERA advice. A Content Manager record should be kept by the business area.**

For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office

20960

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED] DAERA EMFG Coordination;
[REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2026 10:12
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; DAERA Trade Policy
Subject: RE: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: INV-0951-2026- Trevor Gabbie Invitation - Briefing.tr5

Hi [REDACTED]

I have added input relating to labour shortages in the horticulture sector, focussing on the mushroom sector, to the briefing pack. There haven't been any policy changes affecting the SAWS route for horticulture workers this year, so the input is based on previous briefing. Apart from the requests for a Ministerial meeting (referred to in the background note), the sector haven't been in contact with me directly since January this year.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 June 2026 12:00
To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for this,

Regards
[REDACTED]

Head of Horticulture Branch (Acting)
H CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45, Tirgracy Road, Antrim, BT41 4PS C [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ☎ 0 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Ext 63638)
[REDACTED] (Mobile)
www.facebook.com/discoverCAFRE

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 June 2026 10:39
To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi [REDACTED],

Yes, that's fine, I will let you know when my input has been included in the briefing pack.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 24 June 2026 10:09

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Good morning [REDACTED],

The Minister will visit Trevor Gabbie on the 6th of July to discuss in part the transition to peat free. Could you please add a part input concerning labour shortages in horticulture as this will likely be raised. If you could add this by COP this Thursday to allow time to CAFRE management to review the briefing ahead of the deadline on the 29th of June. Apologies for the tight turnaround,

Regards

[REDACTED]

Head of Horticulture Branch (Acting)

H CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45, Tirgracy Road, Antrim, BT41 4PS C [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Ext 63638)

[REDACTED] (Mobile)

www.facebook.com/discoverCAFRE

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2026 16:29

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; McKendry, Martin

<Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; L [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA FFRAG Coordination

<FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA SAFD Co-

ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA EMFG Coordination <EMFG.Coordination@daera-

ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Env Policy Coordination

<envpolicycoordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-

ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group <PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA

PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

From: Trevor Gabbie - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]

Date referred: 23/06/2026

ACTION REQUIRED

This meeting/visit has been arranged for Monday 6th July, 10:00-11:00, at Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Road, Comber, Co Down, BT23 5PH

Please provide briefing to include the following: Agenda/Programme, Key Facts, Key Issues - Background Note & Lines to Take & directions from Bangor. Please note that where possible all annexes should be included in the same document as the covering briefing template.

The CM container for this case is AE2-25-219113 and it is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately.

The Word document and CM link should be returned to private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk not later than NOON 29/06/26. Please ensure Private Office is included in the edit access permissions to the CM document.

The Briefing template can be found in the Invitation section at the following link:

<http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/articles/ministerial-cases>. Please ensure the templates from this link are used, if the correct briefing template is not used, it will be returned for correcting.

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Please consider if this area is impacted by the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations. If so, you should contact the Windsor Framework Implementation Team at WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk without delay to discuss handling arrangements. Guidance on the Windsor Framework (Implementation) Regulations, can be found at the following link: <http://nics.intranet.nigov.net/daera/documents/windsor-framework-implementation-regulations-2024-daera-guidance>

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For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office
20960

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination;

[REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 June 2026 13:11
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: 06.07.26 @10am Confirmed.msg; 06.07.26 @10am Accepted.msg

Hi [REDACTED]

Would it be possible to get myself from the Press Office down as attending for this invite? Unless it's already gone up to Private Office.

Thanks,

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 June 2026 16:29
To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; McKendry, Martin <Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DAERA FFRAG Coordination <FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DAERA EMFG Coordination <EMFG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DAERA Env Policy Coordination <envpolicycoordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group <PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

From: Trevor Gabbie - UFU
Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date referred: 23/06/2026

ACTION REQUIRED

This meeting/visit has been arranged for Monday 6th July, 10:00-11:00, at Mourne View, 15 Ballymaleddy Road, Comber, Co Down, BT23 5PH

Please provide briefing to include the following: Agenda/Programme, Key Facts, Key Issues - Background Note & Lines to Take & directions from Bangor. Please note that where possible all annexes should be included in the same document as the covering briefing template.

The CM container for this case is AE2-25-219113 and it is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately.

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For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office
20960

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination;
[REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Windsor Framework Business Management Office
Sent: 26 June 2026 17:06
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; DAERA Windsor Framework Business Management Office
Subject: RE: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for sending through, just confirming back that we are content from a Windsor Framework perspective.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 June 2026 16:34
To: DAERA Windsor Framework Business Management Office <WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi [REDACTED]

The PPP section is now complete. Can you have a look and let me know if this is ok,

Regards

[REDACTED]

Head of Horticulture Branch (Acting)

H CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45, Tirgracy Road, Antrim, BT41 4PS C [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk ? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Ext 63638)

[REDACTED] (Mobile)

www.facebook.com/discoverCAFRE

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Windsor Framework Business Management Office <WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 June 2026 11:43
To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Windsor Framework Business Management Office <WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Hi [REDACTED]

We have now reviewed this and made some additions to the WF consideration box. I think that there is one more addition coming on PPP's so could I please ask for a final quick look once added? Otherwise, we are so far content from a Windsor Framework perspective.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 June 2026 23:05

To: DAERA Windsor Framework Business Management Office <WFBusinessManagementOffice@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Good morning,

The Minister will visit Trevor Gabbie on the 6th of July. Can you please comment on the attached briefing. If this could be completed by Friday afternoon to allow time to CAFRE management to review the briefing ahead of Monday's deadline that would be much appreciated. I have included Trevor's original invite letter for context and the link to the briefing document, thank you and apologies for the tight deadline,

Regards

[REDACTED]
Head of Horticulture Branch (Acting)

H CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45, Tirgracy Road, Antrim, BT41 4PS C [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ext 63638)

[REDACTED] (Mobile)

www.facebook.com/discoverCAFRE

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2026 16:29

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; McKendry, Martin

<Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA FFRAG Coordination

<FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA SAFD Co-

ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA EMFG Coordination <EMFG.Coordination@daera-

ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Env Policy Coordination

<envpolicycoordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-

ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group <PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA

PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: CM: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

From: Trevor Gabbie - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date referred: 23/06/2026

ACTION REQUIRED

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For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]
Private Office
20960

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED] McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination;
[REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination

From: DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination
Sent: 29 June 2026 11:54
To: DAERA Private Office
Cc: Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec); DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group; DAERA PermSec; [REDACTED] (DAERA); McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] (DAERA);
Subject: FW: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: RE: letter for Minister Muir - From UFU Vegetable Chairman (DAERA REF: INV-0951-2025) ; 06.07.26 @10am Accepted.msg; INV-0951-2026- Trevor Gabbie Invitation - Briefing.DOCX; INV-0951-2026- Trevor Gabbie Invitation - Briefing.tr5

Private Office,

Please see attached, cleared by [REDACTED].

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 June 2026 16:51

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; McKendry, Martin <Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA FFRAG Coordination <FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination <SAFD.Co-ordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Agricultural Policy <agriculturalpolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA EMFG Coordination <EMFG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA Env Policy Coordination <envpolicycoordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey, Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DG_DAERAPressOffice.Group <PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]
Date Referred: 22/06/2026

Please see attached for info. We will advise when we receive a response to the latest date offered for this visit.

Reminder: It is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on Content Manager.

Regards,
[REDACTED]
Private Office
20824

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] DAERA); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA SAFD Co-ordination; DAERA Agricultural Policy; [REDACTED]; DAERA EMFG Coordination;
[REDACTED]; DAERA Env Policy Coordination; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination

From: DAERA FFRAG Coordination
Sent: 29 June 2026 17:27
To: DAERA CAFRE Co-ordination
Subject: FW: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: Briefing Sent to Minister.msg; Briefing.msg

Hi [REDACTED]

One that CAFRE Coord haven't been included in the CC list.

Regards
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: DAERA Private Office <Private.Office@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 29 June 2026 17:25

To: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; McKendry, Martin <Martin.McKendry@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA FFRAG Coordination

<FFRAG.Coordination@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>; Godfrey,

Katrina (DAERA – Perm Sec) <Katrina.Godfrey@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk>;

<PressOffice.Group@daera-ni.gov.uk>; DAERA PermSec <perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Raised By: Trevor Gabbie - UFU

Reference: INV-0951-2025

Subject: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production

Referred To: [REDACTED]

Date Referred: 29/06/2026

The attached briefing has been processed and passed to the Minister.

If amendments are required to the briefing, you must contact Private Office in the first instance to discuss. If Private Office agree to accept revised briefing, the briefing should be resubmitted to Private Office with the Word and CM link, with a note on the covering email detailing if the covering template/annexes have been amended.

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Reminder: it is the Business Area's responsibility to save all correspondence appropriately on CM.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Private Office
20960

Copied To For Information:

[REDACTED]; McKendry, Martin; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; DAERA FFRAG Coordination; [REDACTED] (DAERA); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Invitation cases cc list DAERA

[REDACTED]

From: DAERA Private Office
Sent: 29 June 2026 17:03
To: DAERA Minister Muir
Cc: 2024 DAERA Spad
Subject: BRIEFING: INV-0951-2025 : Invitation to visit the plant nursery of Trevor Gabbie to discuss support for professional vegetable production
Attachments: Briefing front cover.pptx; INV-0951-2026 Briefing.DOCX

Minister,

Please see attached Briefing for your visit to Trevor Gabbie's farm on Monday 6th July.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | DAERA Private Office | First Floor, Clare House | 303 Airport Road West | Belfast | BT3 9ED |
Contact: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@daera-ni.gov.uk) ☎ **Tel:** [REDACTED] | ☎ **Ext:** 20960 |

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**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
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An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

MINISTER'S PRE-BRIEF AND MEETING NOTE

It is the business area's responsibility for keeping a CM record of the final agreed note.

☐ PRE-BRIEF

☒ MEETING

INV / SUB Reference Number: INV-0951-2026

DATE OF MEETING: 06/07/2026

TITLE/ORGANISATION:		UFU invite to visit John Gabbie & Sons –Plant Propagators Nursery Visit		
VENUE:	John Gabbie & Sons Nursery Premises			
☐ Parliament Buildings	☐ Clare House	☒ OTHER: 15 Ballymaleddy Rd, Comber, Newtownards BT23 5PH	☐ Virtual	☐ Hybrid
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
☒ Minister	☐ SpAd	☐ PS	☒ APS	
OFFICIALS:	[REDACTED], Head of Horticulture Branch, CAFRE. Note taker: [REDACTED], Horticulture Branch, CAFRE. Press Officer: [REDACTED], DAERA.			
External Attendees:	• Trevor Gabbie (TG), John Gabbie & Sons. • [REDACTED] Ltd. • [REDACTED], Ulster Farmers Union			

KEY POINTS DISCUSSED:

1. An online DAERA post describing a vegetable producer as organic was discussed. Attendees agreed the description was incorrect. Discussion highlighted that small-scale growers have a role, but large-scale commercial production is required to meet market demand.
2. TG and RL outlined key industry challenges, including the need for greater automation and support for larger-scale growers. Attendees agreed that some level of labour will remain essential despite increased automation and highlighted the importance of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme. The Minister sought views on how growers could expand production and noted potential future restrictions on migrant labour.

Horticulture Pilot Scheme

3. DD provided an update on the Horticulture Pilot Scheme, highlighting that delivery is beginning for two parts of the scheme, with the third part now open for Expressions of Interest ahead of a launch date in October for applications.
4. Positive feedback from pilot work was noted, with lessons learnt already from an initial evaluation of the scheme.

Plant Protection Products (PPP)

5. Concerns were raised regarding restrictions on product availability. The Minister outlined potential options being considered and confirmed DAERA's commitment to supporting growers. The importance of maintaining access to approved products for commercial production was emphasised. The Minister requested UFU to submit preferred options for consideration.

Peat Use

6. Concerns were raised regarding restrictions on peat use and the lack of suitable alternatives for commercial production. The Minister acknowledged these concerns and reiterated support for growers during any future transition away from peat.
7. A DAERA industry consultation in August on the future use of peat in commercial horticulture was noted.

Farm Tour

8. TG provided a tour of the farm, highlighting production processes, technology use and the significant investment required for large-scale vegetable production.