

NIEA Board 25 June 2026 - Minutes

Meeting details				
Title	NIEA Board			
Reference	NIEA-NIEA Board-June 2026			
Date (Time)	Thursday 25 th June 2026 at 10:00am			
Venue	NIEA Lisburn Glenelly Boardroom with MS Teams			
List of Attendees				
Name	Initials	Business Area	In Attendance (Y/N)	Deputy sent
NIEA Board Members				
NIEA Chief Executive				
Richard Crowe	RC	Chief Executive	No	N/A
G5 Directors				
Liz Loughran	LL	Natural Environment Division (NED) - Chair	Yes	N/A
Brian McVeigh	BMcV	Water Regulation and Enforcement Division (Water RED)	Yes	N/A
Alistair Beggs	AB	Waste & Industrial Pollution Regulation and Enforcement Division (WIPRED)	Yes	N/A
Non-Executive Board Members				
Stephen Welch	SW	Non-Executive Board Member	Yes	N/A
Veronica Morris	VM	Non-Executive Board Member	Yes	N/A
Formal / Other Attendees				
Teresa O'Neill	TO'N	Central Services Unit (CSU)	No	No
Anne McDowell	AMcD	NIEA Corporate Services Branch (CSB)	Yes	N/A
Janice Riddell	JR	NIEA Chief Executive's Office (CEO)	No	No
Charles Barnett	CB	NIEA Financial Reporting Branch (FRB)	Yes	N/A
Phillip Walker	PW	NIEA Budgetary Reporting Branch (BRB)	Yes	N/A
Alison Glass	AG	DAERA Health & Safety – Item 6 only	Yes	N/A
Craig Hartin	CH	Lough Neagh Update – Item 7 only	Yes	N/A
Cara Lavery	CL	Operational Review Programme – Item 11 only	Yes	N/A
Secretariat				
David Coulter	DC	NIEA Corporate Services Branch (CSB)	Yes	N/A
Deputies				Deputised for
N/A				

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Agenda Item	Key Points Discussed	Action Points
Welcome and Apologies		
1	- LL welcomed all attendees to the meeting. - AMcD advised of apologies from RC, TO'N and JR. - LL asked meeting to agree to take agenda items in an ad hoc order.	
Conflicts of Interest		
2	No applicable conflicts of interest.	
Minutes & Action Points from the last meeting 26 March 2026		
3	- Meeting attendees agreed & endorsed the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2026. - Updates on the Action Points stemming from the previous meeting were given. These are recorded in CM (Content Manager) reference: AE1/26/1639501, which is also Board Paper 26-3-3. - Carried Forward Action Points (CFAPs) from previous meetings and New Action Points (NAPs) from this meeting are recorded in CM reference: AE1/26/1997427.	3 CFAPs and 7 NAPs
NIEA Resources and People Committee Update		
4	VM summarised the key items from the meeting on 11 June 2026 which included: - Challenging budget position - Bids submitted as part of 1st Monitoring Round - Aged debt progress - Progress of the Annual Report & Accounts - The committee asked management to continue to push the timely completion of End Year Reviews, Personal Development Plans and Personal Performance Agreements. The Board discussed the use of Agency staff within NIEA and also the number of vacancies that could be filled based on the current contingency budget. CB advised of proposed changes to the Terms of Reference (ToR). CB to provide a Board Paper, for the next meeting, seeking approval of the revised ToR. AP 26-2-1	NAP 1
NIEA ARAC Verbal Update on the Meeting of 19 June 2026		

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5	SW and CB reported on ARAC meeting on 19 June 2026. - Draft Report To Those Charged With Governance (RTTCWG) reviewed. Revised financial estimates are awaited by NIAO for the options to remediate the Mobuoy illegal waste dump. - RTTCWG includes a qualified opinion, on an 'except for' basis again. A revised RTTCWG will issue after receipt of the estimated costs, no other significant changes are anticipated. ARAC are content that the management response to this issue from previous years remains valid. - There were no material adjustments to the Annual Report & Accounts. - Internal Audit provided an overall satisfactory opinion of governance, risk management and control for 2025-26.	
NIEA Corporate and Business Planning		
8	AMcD reported on the following: - Draft Validation Report on the 2025-26 Key Performance Targets was received from Internal Audit on 24 June 2026. The report confirms management reporting. - DAERA Permanent Secretary requested a number of changes to the draft NIEA Interim Business Plan which had been incorporated. The latest amendments will be reviewed by Richard Crowe on his return from leave next week before being reissued to the DAERA Permanent Secretary.	
NIEA Risk Register		
9	- AMcD advised that each Director had been assigned as SRO for two of the six identified key risks in the NIEA Risk Register. Action owners are still to be assigned. - The Resource Risk has been raised from 'Amber' to 'Red' due to the uncertainty caused by the budget allocation. - The new Risk Register format was well-received by ARAC. - It was agreed that small focus groups with Directors were an effective method for developing the Risk Register and it was recommended that these meetings continue. AP 26-2-2 - It was agreed that refresher training for risk management would be useful for a lot of staff. AP 26-2-3	NAP 2 NAP 3
Update from NIEA Planning Management Meeting (including NIEA Planning Improvement Plan)		
10	LL presented the update and the Board noted the following: 94% of current year applications are reported within target. - On track to clear backlog. - Report of positive meeting on NI Renewables. Useful information obtained on where current problems and actions will be incorporated into the Planning Improvement Plan.	
Health & Safety Report		

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6	AG joined the meeting and summarised the paper. - AG confirmed that during the investigation of reported incidents that it was demonstrated how well-prepared staff were in responding correctly to each incident. - HSCB has been in contact with management at NIEA Crawfordsburn regarding the upcoming H&S audit. - There were some tick bite incidents in the report. - LL stated the management spreadsheet has not identified any hotspots for tick bite incidents. A reminder will be issued to all staff to report tick bites as there may be under-reporting. AP 26-2-4	NAP 4
Lough Neagh Update		
7	CH joined the meeting and summarised the progress reported in the paper. - Board noted reported progress. - Board suggested the Lough Neagh Team should consider making better use of media reporting to communicate progress on actions to the public. - An OEP review of the Lough Neagh Action Plan is due to take place, looking at implementation and effectiveness of actions. - BMcV has agreed to present an NIEA specific update on the Lough Neagh Plan to the next ARAC meeting. AP 26-2-5	NAP 5
NIAO Waste Crime in NI Report		
12	AB reported on progress made since the report was issued. - One issue has not progressed, establishing the value of waste crime in Northern Ireland. - Reporting of incidents is available to the public on the DAERA website. - Fees & Charges Review is nearing completion. - A consultant will be appointed to review the adequacy and frequency of the inspection regime. - Work on solutions to remedy staffing and associated retention of staff in waste crime posts is progressing. - Recent Financial Provision Follow-up Audit Report upgraded to a satisfactory opinion with all Parent Company Guarantees replaced by bonds.	
Update on ORPT		
11	CL joined the meeting and summarised the key points of the tabled paper. Board noted the update provided.	
AOB		

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13	<u>Skills Matrix</u> AMcD presented the skills matrix paper and identified the most pressing skills needs amongst regular attendees. • AMcD to identify appropriate training. AP 26-2-6 • It was agreed that Natural Resource Management could be incorporated as a topic at a future Board meeting. AP 26-2-7 <u>OneAdvanced Meeting Software</u> AMcD advised this software had been rolled out to all regular Board attendees. Attendees were encouraged to complete the registration process. The log in issues experience by attendees had been reported to IT Assist by AMcD. <u>Stakeholder Events</u> AMcD advised that it was anticipated that one key event for stakeholder engagement per year would be organised for NEBMs. Short stakeholder engagement activities will be added to scheduled meetings where appropriate.	NAP 6 NAP 7
Date of Next Meeting, and Approval of Items for Strategic Discussion at the next Board Meeting		
13	Agenda item suggestions for the next meeting - scheduled for 24 September 2026 1. Audit Report on Health & Safety, Landfill (<i>AB, Action from March NIEA Board Meeting</i>) 2. Framework Review (<i>AMcD</i>) 3. Priority Capital Projects (<i>VM, Action from January Board Meeting</i>) 4. Natural Resource Management Awareness Session (<i>AMcD to arrange</i>) 5. Cyber Security – Reaction and Recovery (<i>AMcD to arrange</i>) RC will decide topics at a later date.	
	Minutes written by: David Coulter (DC) NIEA Board Secretariat Date: 01 July 2026	