

Agri-Brexit Coalition Meeting
AIC Offices
East of England Showground
Peterborough PE2 6XE

8 November 2019

Attendees

Robert Sheasby	(AIC)	Ruth Bailey	(AEA)
Jeremy Moody	(CAAV)	Jill Hewitt	(NAAC)
Sarah Mukherjee	(CPA)	Adam Speed	(CPA)
Dawn Howard	(NOAH)	Penny Maplestone	(BSPB)

Apologies

Jaine Chisholm Caunt	(GAFTA)
Katie Docherty	(IMTA)

Guests

Paul Rooke	(AIC)
Geoff Dodgson	

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Jaine Chisholm Caunt and Katie Docherty.

2. Competition Law

RS reminded everyone that the meeting would comply with competition law

3. Update

Robert advised the group that George Eustice, nor any civil servant can attend our meeting scheduled for 4 December as government is now in 'pre-election period'. It was decided not to hold the meeting.

4. What are the challenges?

Treasury taking a firm line, demanding Defra provide evidence for certain Treasury funding in agriculture. It is understood a similar case is expected for Water and Energy. At the time of the meeting no political commitment to future budget for Agriculture. Discussion included that whole industry needs to make the case for the continued funding of agriculture. We need to make public perception that farming and agriculture is part of the solution to environmental challenges

- Pressure is also being applied to Wales, N Ireland and Scotland developing own policy
- Other areas where funding pressure is growing include:
 - Carbon
 - Environment
 - Sustainability
 - Public Money v Public Good

- Need to raise awareness of economic shock of major policy change would have on wider rural economy
- It was agreed to speak with NFU and if they were in agreement, to co-ordinate or support a letter on funding

ACTION: RS to speak with NFU to check their position

If required, a letter to Treasury, Cabinet Office and Defra, as well as the main political parties to be prepared

- Whole Supply Chain workshop
 - To assist with post Brexit readiness and to help stimulate a new way of working, it was proposed to explore hosting a Whole Supply Chain seminar to explore issues we are all facing

Initially this could be an internal workshop where Coalition members with an interest might invite 4-5 member businesses to provide different perspectives

If the findings require further work, we could bring other stakeholders into the discussion at a subsequent workshop, such as Nabim, FDF BRC – to establish key message can to take to Government

In addition, we can provide a questionnaire to members to see how others feel the outcome will be? 'What will the future look like'. If there is a low level of response are we jumping too far ahead. Some may not have given it any thought; but it may trigger some thought? Mood \ atmosphere questions may elicit more response.

ACTION: GD to draft some questions to circulate – put them all together over the next few weeks. Questions could include those on:

- market size,
- staffing,
- next 3-5 years,
- next 5-10 years,
- perception of ELMS,
- business investment,
- R&D,
- is the UK still a good place for business'es

Workshop to be held post-election (February?) – presentation topics can also include Climate Change, Sustainability – as well as Treasury \ Fiscal Understanding

ACTION: RS to contact Terry Jones to agree a consensus view and invite NFU to join our letter - **declined**

ACTION: PR to ask Brendan Bailey – Agri Leader at the Treasury, to attend a coalition meeting; would reach a wide audience in just one meeting.

ACTION: Issue the 'barometer' survey to members, in the new year, which will lead to more questions which will lead to relevant topics for the workshops. Needs to be quick turnaround to feed into February workshop

It was decided that the December Coalition meeting be cancelled as there would be nothing to be gained by having it.

ACTION: JC to collate doodle poll dates for meetings next year and issue – **done**

The meeting ended at 16.00