



Finance Working Group – Meeting 6
8th September 2021
10:00-11:30
Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Chairs:

Gerry Kiely, Chair TB Finance Working Group, Michael Cronin, Chair TB Stakeholder Forum;

Farming Organisations:

Lorcan McCabe, ICMSA; Paul Smyth, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, ICSA; Eddie Punch, ICSA; Pat Farrell, IFA; Tomás Bourke, IFA, Gillian Richardson, MACRA

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine:

Colm Forde, Frances MacAodhain,

Minutes

Item	Minutes
Financing of the TB Programme	<p>Members of the Finance Group were circulated with a discussion document ahead of the meeting which presented proposed funding models for the TB programme. DAFM introduced the document emphasising its objective to assist the group in achieving one of its key goals under the terms of reference; to develop a sustainable funding model. DAFM stressed that the document is a first draft and the models proposed are presented as a starting point for discussions.</p> <p>Farming body comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The document is welcome as a catalyst to more focussed debate.• Welcomed the flexibility presented in the discussion document by including a variety of models.• A future financial model is closely linked to other issues under discussions such as the value on farm labour, what impact any increased testing might have and whether testing costs are as accurate as possible.• Discussions on financing should be aligned with discussions from the IG.• Would like to examine the breakdown of compensation by production type as well as the breakdown of levy receipts by production type.• Will submit detailed comments. <p>DAFM comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questioned the value of further examining issues such as farm labour and time spent testing if such work would not impact on the funding model.• Stressed the need for policy to be simple where possible, including in relation to funding the programme. <p>Chair comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggested the discussion document be amended to include a funding model based on compensation only, excluding wildlife and research.• Urged farming organisations not to miss what might be the last opportunity to have an input into TB policy and how it's funded. In this context a clear position on contributing additional funding towards the programme is needed.