



Finance Working Group – Meeting 8  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
11:00 – 13:00  
Virtual Meeting

### Attendees

**Chair:**

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; TJ Maher, IFA; Anna Daly, IFA, John Keane, MACRA

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine:**

Conor O'Mahony, Aishling Cronin, Gemma O'Malley

**Apologies:**

Tómas Bourke, IFA

### Minutes

Item	Minutes
Technical Working Group - Work Plan & Meeting dates	<p>The Department proposed an updated workplan for the Technical Working Group, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Farming body comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Concern was expressed over the proposed use of the word “implementation” of a book valuation system for meeting 4 and that more discussion is required before implementation.</li><li>Requested that sufficient time be allocated to discuss quality scoring and book valuation.</li></ul> <p><b>DAFM comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Asked that suggested amendments be forwarded to Aishling Cronin.</li><li>Welcomed the agreement to continue with the Technical Group for four more meetings and proposed starting as soon as possible, with meetings the first Thursday of every month for four months</li></ul>
TB Programme Funding	<p>The Department presented a recap on the figures for the TB Compensation Programme. It was explained the EU monies have decreased from €10 million in 2017 to just €3.6 million in 2021. There has been minor increases in staffing costs and there has been a jump in compensation paid of €6 million from 2020 to 2021, the same increase that had taken place between 2017 and 2020 on. It was further noted that these increases are not sustainable going forward. Discussion continued on from meeting 7 with regard to the options available in order to maintain the current funding programme.</p> <p><b>Farming body comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stated that test costings need to be taken into account</li><li>Need to understand what TB programme will look like in the future in terms of costing and testing before funding can be agreed</li></ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DAFM Staff costs should be looked at, unnecessary attendance of staff at marts</li><li>• Concern over financial aspect, that there is a different split paid for beef and dairy</li><li>• Raised the issue of front loading of compensation</li><li>• No costs and more compensation over the border in Fermanagh</li></ul> |
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**DAFM comments:**

- Can look at providing breakdown/costings at lower level
- A new Mart App has been developed and is in its final stages of testing at Marts and it is aimed to launch in the coming weeks. Data will continue to be captured by Department staff, but now electronically through a tablet and uploaded to its servers for analysis and calculation of market prices.