ISRAF CALL FOR EVIDENCE – deadline for responses 15 June 2021

This call for evidence will contribute to our short and sharp strategic review of the Northern Ireland agri-food industry commissioned by DfE and DAERA and announced on 23 April 2021.

The ISRAF team invites submissions from individual agri-food businesses in all sectors and their representative bodies and from environmental stakeholders, academic and educational institutions, civil society and political groups. These will help inform the review.

We would like to hear your views and ambition for the agri-food sector in relation to the areas set out below which are relevant to you and on which you feel qualified to comment, with supporting evidence where possible. Examples of innovation, good practice, collaborative projects and the challenges facing the sector would be particularly welcome.

Submissions should be sent to israf@daera-ni.gov.uk by 15 June 2021.

Areas of interest to the ISRAF review

- The unique story the Northern Ireland agri-food sector can tell.
- Productivity of the sector.
- Market opportunities at home and abroad.
- The case for “Northern Ireland” branding and a NI trade promotion/marketing body.
- Areas where you perceive there are market failures that are preventing the sustainable development of the sector and that may require direct government intervention.
- The use of joint ventures between farm businesses and barriers to their implementation.
- Processing capacity in Northern Ireland.
- Increasing levels of innovation and R&D.
- Climate change and the journey towards net zero.
- Game-changing improvements in biodiversity indicators in Northern Ireland.
- Opportunities for intra-sector trading of carbon.

- Reliance on short term land agreements and whether this impedes long-term environmental planning.

- Access to labour.

- The impacts of Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol on usual trading arrangements in the sector.

Sir Peter Kendall
Independent strategic review of NI Agrifood Sector Team