



Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy Engaged Communities. Climate change and our Environments
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure and Development

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.

2.0 The following are listed:

2.1 Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (Dated 19 August 2022)

Correspondence has been received from the NIFDA Regarding Council becoming associate members of the Association.

Correspondence attached.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider the correspondence.

Northern Ireland Food
& Drink Association Ltd
Belfast Mills
71-75 Percy Street
Belfast BT13 2HW

075 8652 0200
028 9024 1010
jill@nifda.co.uk
www.nifda.co.uk

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Civic Headquarters, Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

19 August 2022

Dear Mr Jackson

Please find enclosed a letter and some supporting information from the newly appointed NIFDA Chairman, George Mullan, inviting you to consider NIFDA Associate Membership.

Whilst NIFDA Associate Membership for 2022 is £784 plus VAT, as stated in George's letter, I am pleased to confirm that we would be happy to pro rata this to half that amount, with it being the month of August.

I would appreciate it if you would review George's letter and the information pack and let me know if you would be interested in becoming a NIFDA Associate Member.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, should you have any queries or wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely



Jill Devenney
Executive Assistant
Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA)

Enc Letter from George Mullan, NIFDA Chairman, and supporting documentation

Northern Ireland Food
& Drink Association Ltd.
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Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
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Civic Headquarters
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Coleraine
BT52 1EY

19 August 2022

Dear David

As recently appointed Chairman of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA), I would like to re-emphasise the importance of NIFDA and warmly invite you to become a NIFDA member.

Collaborating and working together has never been more important; together we can achieve infinitely more than we could do working separately in silos and in isolation one from another. It is in this vein and in this spirit that I am reaching out to you today.

For transparency, we are actively encouraging councils to join our network at the moment.

The following councils have already joined us and tell us they are finding it beneficial:

- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
- Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

I believe that joining NIFDA could substantially help Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council add more value to the food and drink businesses in the Causeway Coast and Glens area. In return Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council joining NIFDA could help NIFDA progress its initiatives and agendas in support of the industry and its membership. I can certainly see positive benefits for both parties in working more closely together. I hope you can too.

Testimonial from another Borough Council

By way of illustration, it might be interesting for you to hear about the experience of another Borough Council who became NIFDA Associate Members in March 2020, ie Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

Please find below a testimonial from Roger Wilson, Chief Executive:

“Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough is home to over 870 agri food and drink producers employing over 15,000 people. As a key player in the NI agri-food sector we are very proud of our reputation as the Food Heartland of Northern Ireland. ABC Council is committed to working alongside a wide range of partners, including NIFDA to drive support for the sector and champion the outstanding world-class food and drink which is created here. We have been Associate members of NIFDA since March 2020 and over that period we have greatly appreciated the updates and advice NIFDA has provided on Covid-19 and Brexit. Not only has NIFDA been a shining light for the sector but Michael Bell and the team are always on hand to support Council with a wide range of initiatives including the development of a new Labour Market Partnership for the Borough. It is this strong sectoral engagement and genuine collaboration that will drive inclusive and sustainable local economic recovery and growth. Thank you Michael and we look forward to building on our strong association with NIFDA.” Roger Wilson, Chief Executive, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

Prospective Borough Council information pack

Please also find attached:

1. A letter from the NIFDA Chairman to prospective NIFDA members
2. NIFDA Activity Report 2021 and Key Priorities for 2022
3. A NIFDA Membership Benefits Brochure
4. NIFDA media coverage highlights
5. An Associate Membership Application Form

Please note that as Associate Members Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council would be able to avail of all of the membership benefits outlined in the NIFDA Membership Benefits Brochure. The only difference between Associate Members and Full NIFDA Members is that Associate Members do not have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting. They are entitled and very welcome to attend the AGM, but they do not have voting rights. Apart from that slight caveat, all of the other benefits apply.

Subscription

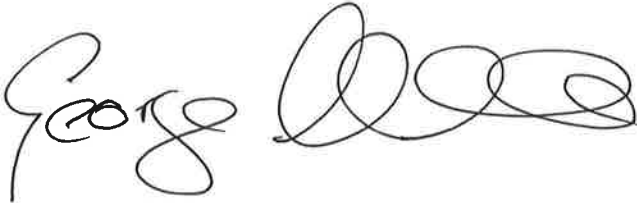
The cost for Associate Membership in 2022 is **£784 plus VAT**. I think this represents a sound investment and very good value for money. I hope you agree.

I would really appreciate it if you would consider joining us as Associate Members. 2022/2023 promises to be a very exciting and defining year for us at NIFDA. We would be absolutely delighted to have Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on board with us for the journey.

Please don't hesitate to contact Michael Bell on 079 6800 3281 or Jill Devenney on 075 8652 0200, should you have any queries or wish to discuss further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Mullan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'George' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Mullan'.

George Mullan
NIFDA Chairman
Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA)

Northern Ireland Food
& Drink Association Ltd
Belfast Mills
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August 2022

Dear Prospective NIFDA Member

I have recently been appointed Chairman of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) and would like to take this opportunity to warmly invite you to consider becoming a member of NIFDA.

I think many of us considered that 2020 had been a year like no other, only to discover (somewhat ironically) that it would be quickly followed by 2021, another year in which our industry continued to contend with the unique and unprecedented challenges of both Covid-19 and Brexit. In 2022 we find ourselves reeling with shock at the brutality of war waged against Ukraine; the human tragedy unfolding before our eyes and the blatant attack on freedom and democracy.

“No man is an island”

In the uncertain times we are living in, it can seem daunting for individual food and drink companies: attempting to navigate a way through the various developments and absorb the aftershocks brought on by the turbulence in the world and in the global market, whilst also grappling with the veritable tsunami of guidance and advice being issued by government departments.

It has never been more important for food and drink companies to come out in support of the food and drink industry and of each other: to work together, shoulder to shoulder, and galvanise efforts.

Whilst many of us share common concerns and are experiencing a range of competing pressures, impacted by labour shortages and strain on supply chains and grappling with Brexit and other global factors, we will achieve nothing working in silos, disparate and in isolation.

Together we are stronger

The NIFDA Board recognises that it is only together that we will be stronger and more impactfully be able to represent the voice of the sector.

Rather than adding fuel to panicked cries of “the sky is falling down”, we choose to interpret the various signs collectively and to read them as “a call to arms”, a “call to act” on our members’ behalf and on behalf of our beloved industry.

NIFDA has responded, and is responding, by redoubling efforts to help navigate a way through the various developments, to meaningfully support and add value. We sought, and seek, to do this by consciously upping the level of our collaboration internally, drawing from our in-house resource pool of expertise, and also by increasing our collaborative engagement *like never before* and across the pitch, both locally and nationally.

Our vision is *promoting the sustainable growth of the Northern Ireland food and drink industry*, and our missions are set out in the foot of this letter.

Such “ideals” can seem somewhat lofty and aspirational without evidence of tangible outputs. As a Prospective Member, I think it might be helpful for me to provide you with an update on NIFDA activity last year, before outlining our key priorities for the coming year. I hope this will give you an insight into the level and types of support you might expect to receive as a new member. [Please refer to attached document, *NIFDA Activity Report 2021 with key priorities for 2022*.]

Joining NIFDA, a sound investment

We can only do what we have set out to achieve in the attached report with continued and, in fact, with the additional support we are hoping to generate by welcoming new members. NIFDA is essentially a non-profit organisation and, as such, all resources are invested back into the business and used to benefit members. Subscribing to NIFDA and becoming a paying NIFDA member will enable us to continue to push for the delivery of the grant scheme we have been lobbying for. Yes, Sir Peter Kendall has recommended a grant scheme in his report; but, sadly, past experience tells us that we can't afford to be complacent and risk the Kendall report becoming just another unrealised and shelved document. We need to continue to lobby for the fulfilment of this recommendation. If we are successful, this has the potential of delivering millions of pounds of financial support into our sector. We hope that, seen in this light, the membership subscription represents a sound investment and good value for money. This is just to maintain a level playing field with our competitors, of course. Having secured grant scheme support and created a level playing field in line with other parts of the UK, the next key objective will be to secure real competitive advantage for our sector and members. As a new member, you would stand to benefit from all NIFDA's endeavours on behalf of the industry.

And finally, on a personal note

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association and for taking the time to read my letter and the attached report. We hope you will give serious consideration to becoming a NIFDA member. We would certainly be delighted to have you on board with us and would value your support. In return, we would wholly commit to supporting and representing you through these challenges and opportunities.

I am writing this letter on behalf of my fellow NIFDA directors who are extremely committed and supportive and who give generously of their time and input. They are all volunteers, so their dedication is very much appreciated. As a new NIFDA member, you would stand to benefit from the commitment and collective expertise of the NIFDA Board of Directors.

I would also look forward to the prospect of being able to invite you to our 26th Annual Dinner on 20 October 2022. I would certainly welcome the opportunity to be able to engage and celebrate with you and your colleagues then.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact Michael Bell on 079 6800 3281 or Jill Devenney on 075 8652 0200, should you have any queries or wish to discuss further. We have an open-door policy at NIFDA. "It's good to talk!"

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Mullan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

George Mullan
NIFDA Chairman

Enc NIFDA Activity Report 2021 with key priorities for 2022

Our vision is *promoting the sustainable growth of the Northern Ireland food and drink industry*, and these are our five missions:

1. *To be the 'Voice' of our members, respected and listened to by government and other key stakeholders*
2. *To develop industry strategies supporting our members' ambitions*
3. *To facilitate business network creation for members' benefit*
4. *To be a source of information which is valued by members*
5. *To collaborate with other key stakeholder bodies*



--2021 Activity Report--

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink

Here's how we demonstrated our commitment to delivering member support and our passion for promoting sustainable growth during 2021:

#WeCollaborate

The NIFDA Board of Directors met 12 times during 2021. Locally, NIFDA participated in 16 DAERA meetings with Agri-Food Industry Stakeholders and nationally in 12 Food and Drink Industry Roundtable sessions and engaged in a plethora of both local and national Covid and Brexit working groups. There has also been consistent NIFDA representation at each of the 50 meetings of the Northern Ireland Brexit Business Working Group (NIBBWG) in the past year.

#WeLobby

During our 25 years of championing this sector, we have engaged with numerous prime ministers, direct rule ministers, NI Executive ministers and politicians at all levels – giving the industry *a voice* and ensuring the voice is heard by lawmakers and policy makers *where it matters*. I am pleased to report that 2021 was no exception in the level of engagement we managed to achieve.

On Brexit, we have continued to lobby extensively both independently, writing to Cabinet Ministers and to local government, and also collaboratively with our fellow business representative organisations.

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink

We have amplified NIFDA's voice in Westminster with exclusive support from the Food and Drink Federation in London.

#WeConsult

Drawing much on the expertise of our new Environmental and Packaging Forums, and on the valuable input and support of our members, NIFDA collated and submitted responses to 10 consultations/calls for evidence in the past year, covering important subjects such as the DAERA Climate Change Bills (1 and 2), Plans, Principles and Governance, introducing a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, DfE Energy Strategy Policy Options, The UK Border Update (National Audit Office), Circular Economy, HMRC Plastic Packaging Tax, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and NI Food Strategy Framework.

#WeEngage

In collaboration with HMRC, Defra, DAERA Trade and Agriculture Committee (TAC), the Border and Protocol Delivery Group (BPDG) and the Cabinet Office, NIFDA hosted a range of virtual seminars on diverse topics such as Rules of Origin and At Risk, Rules of Origin - Tea, Coffee, Spices and Ambient and Prepared Food, Movement of Goods Through Non-Short Straits RoRo locations in N Europe and follow ups on the Trusted Trader Support Service.

#WeGetTechnical

NIFDA provided a significant amount of technical detail on unfettered access NI to GB and reducing the administrative burden of moving goods subject to SPS controls and on quotas and impacts of regulatory divergence.

Over the last few years, NIFDA has engaged heavily on shaping the negotiations around the NI Protocol, dealing with a myriad of technical issues that needed to be managed with a "light touch". In particular, whilst the UK Government talked about unfettered access for NI

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goods going to GB, there was no detailed discussion as to how this could be achieved. NIFDA led the work across the various Agri-industries in coming to an agreed position on how unfettered access would operate in both a no deal and deal scenario. The paper that was produced was endorsed by the Executive and was tabled to Cabinet, who accepted the principles proposed. Whilst the overarching Trade and Co-operation Agreement did away with many of the risks to be managed, the paper resulted in NIFDA's advice and opinions being sought on various Protocol topics directly by the Cabinet office, DEFRA and the NIO. Our voice was not only heard, but our opinions today still carry a lot of weight as a result.

NIFDA has also participated in many conference calls with Defra on SPS and with HMRC/Cabinet Office on managing the impact of duty arising from Rules of Origin, access to quota and the risks of divergence that need to be managed. At NIFDA, we believe that it is better to avoid the problems through good negotiation than to try and deal with the fall-out in years to come.

#WeReport

EY Report

NIFDA, in collaboration with sister Northern Ireland Food and Drink trade bodies, commissioned and produced the [Food for thought: The Food and Drink industry, an inclusive sector at the heart of Northern Ireland](#) EY report which quantifies the industry's contribution to the economy as a resilient, innovative and export-driven sector.

The report revealed that not only is Northern Ireland food and drink a £4.9 billion industry, but it also plays a vital role in our regional development. With 86% of our firms based outside Belfast, food manufacturing is providing good jobs and supporting communities right across Northern Ireland.

Advanced Food Manufacturing Network Report (AFM)

[The Advanced Food Manufacturing Network Report \(AFM\)](#) was commissioned by NIFDA, funded by the Invest NI Collaborative Growth Programme and conducted by Agri-Food

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink

specialists Birnie Consultancy which includes Dr Jonathan Birnie, who recently collaborated with Sir Peter Kendall on the Independent Strategic Review of NI Agri-Food Sector (ISRAF) report.

Its goal was to establish the current situation in terms of automation and use of data from a range of NI food companies as well as identifying support and gaps. (For further information, please click on website link above.)

The AFM report identified five areas of need and concluded that in order to truly thrive, and to help government deliver on targets, including those outlined in the 10X report, a clear need for targeted information and support for food companies in Northern Ireland is needed.

#WeEvent

2021 NIFDA Business Conference

The 'Appetite for Growth' conference returned at a pivotal time for Northern Ireland food and drink. Organised by the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) and supported by Invest NI and HSBC, the [2021 Northern Ireland Business Conference](#) took place virtually on Friday 3rd September to an online audience of over 100 agri-food and drink businesses.

The Conference theme was "***Fresh Thinking for Future Growth***", and this was explored by leading industry experts through identifying the key market megatrends of the coming decades and discussing how the industry can grow for the future through improved productivity and innovation.

For information about the high calibre industry speakers who addressed the conference, please click on website link above.

25th NIFDA Annual Dinner

Tesco UK & ROI CEO Jason Tarry was keynote speaker at the [25th NIFDA Annual Dinner](#) , the largest annual gathering of the local food and drink manufacturing industry.

[#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink](#)

Held in partnership with HSBC UK, the event took place at Belfast's Hilton Hotel on Thursday 21st October and was attended by over 200 industry leaders and political representatives.

2022 Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards

The 16th Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards took place on Friday 11 March 2022 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel Shaw's Bridge Belfast. Sponsored this year by Firmus Energy, the awards are recognised by the industry as a key indicator of quality and success for food manufacturers and processors, offering local companies an invaluable opportunity to showcase innovative, quality products in front of key customers and stakeholders.

Other sponsors included Asda, Lidl, Marks and Spencer, Tesco, Food Standards Agency, DAERA, Invest Northern Ireland, **safe**food and Food & Drink Sector Skills.

#WeWelcome

Independent Strategic Review of the NI Agri-Food Sector (ISRAF)

NIFDA has welcomed the publication of the ISRAF report of the NI Agri-Food Sector which was finally published at the beginning of this year. We will study the recommendations of the 100-page report in full and engage with ministers to consider the way forward.

We are pleased to see the critical need of a capital support scheme being recognised which is something NIFDA has consistently been lobbying for. Our competitors in other parts of the UK and the Republic of Ireland are benefiting from substantial capital support schemes. Coupled with the lack of a Northern Ireland food export marketing body, the industry has effectively had to operate with both hands tied behind its back.

We also welcome the review's support for a new Sustainability Body for the industry. With full collaboration across the supply chain, such a body would allow us to quantify the net impact on and contribution to the environment from Northern Ireland agri-food. As well as highlighting areas for improvement based on scientific evidence, it also would prove a powerful tool in sharing our sustainable credentials.

[#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink](#)

The review highlights that collaboration will be key to addressing the short and long term challenges our industry faces, from Brexit and pandemic recovery to inflationary pressures and contributing to Net Zero UK emissions. NIFDA is committed to new levels of partnership between farmers, processors and government departments, to encourage innovation, drive sustainability and grow our industry for the future.

Please find a copy of the report [\(here\)](#).

#WeEndorse

Urgent letter to MLAs [NI Climate Change Bill]

Along with our sister trade associations, we recently endorsed an urgent letter to MLAs about the NI Climate Change Bill, ahead of a vote on Climate Change Bill (No 2) that was scheduled to take place in the Assembly on 1 February. The letter supported an 82% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050 and encouraged MLAs to “follow the science” and support the Bill and create a legal framework for NI to reduce its carbon footprint on this basis.

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink



--Key Priorities for 2022--

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink

Here's how we will demonstrate our commitment to delivering member support and our passion for promoting sustainable growth during 2022:

#WePrioritise

The New Year offers the Board of Directors a welcome opportunity to take stock and re-evaluate NIFDA's key priorities for the year ahead, to sharpen our asks on behalf of the industry, to map out the direction of travel and crystallise core strategies.

This year we have outlined three priorities which NIFDA believes will be instrumental in promoting the sustainable growth of our industry and integral to supporting our members at this key juncture: 1) Addressing labour shortage issue, 2) Capex support, 3) Protocol.

#WeDeliver

Labour

NIFDA's first priority this year will be to address labour shortage issues being experienced across the industry. This work will focus on 1) trying to obtain a Northern Ireland only Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) list; 2) pushing back against the perception below, as identified in the ISRAF report*:

"In purely economic terms, agri-food is widely viewed as low-margin, low wage and low value-added by policy makers."

[*Page 3, Summary, Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector]

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink

Capex support

We will continue to lobby strenuously for fair capex support, equivalent to other jurisdictions in the UK, and note with alarm the lack of available funding to Invest Northern Ireland.

You may be aware that NIFDA has been highlighting the very pressing issue of the need for grant support in the press in recent months.

We are not asking for special treatment – this is just to maintain a level playing field with our competitors.

Delivering a capital support scheme for Northern Ireland processors would drive innovation, productivity and win value adding new business to our food and drink industry.

Protocol

Brexit and the Protocol have certainly been challenging, and, in response, we have been ardently engaging with policymakers to push for an approach that delivers affordability, certainty, simplicity and stability.

While preferable to a no-deal scenario, clarity is needed around bureaucracy and dispute resolution. The NIFDA Board has categorised recurring issues under six broad headlines: SPS/PRN, Customs, Tariff and TRQ, dispute resolution mechanism, costs and divergence.

While adapting to the more difficult elements of our new trading relationships, we also keep a watchful eye for opportunities to capitalise on the benefits of our unique position within both the UK and EU markets.

#WeFutureproof

Looking forward, alongside the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 recovery and Brexit, we also have the major challenge of hyperinflation and the revaluation of food, which is already happening.

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink

One of the key priorities for the industry is sustainability. For our customers and consumers, environmental sustainability is a necessity. At the same time, improving our environmental footprint will be a key pillar in future government food policy. We welcome the move by Minister Poots locally to focus agriculture policy on enhancing sustainability outcomes. In fact, this presents a great opportunity for innovative firms in Northern Ireland – we are already world leading when it comes to sustainability, animal welfare, quality and commercial success.

Those credentials, combined with the innovative spirit that defines Northern Ireland food and drink, will see the industry be part of the solution on climate change, while continuing our growth over the 25 years to come.

Addressing the climate crisis and the road to net zero is a huge issue for all industries and across society. NIFDA is looking forward to engaging in the ongoing conversation and being part of the solution.

#WeValueMembership

We recognise that without the support and loyalty of our membership, NIFDA simply would not exist and none of this work would be possible. We are a body and a community in which every joint supplies to the benefit of all. We are a self-help group, for industry by industry. Our members tell us it just makes sense to belong. We would like to warmly invite you to “taste and see” for yourselves.

Michael Bell
NIFDA Executive Director
March 2022

#WeareNorthernIrelandFoodandDrink

Award winning Shera gearing up for growth of her business in Portadown

Portadown businesswoman Shera McAloran describes winning two major titles in this month's influential Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards as "a highlight of my career to date".

By Sean Butler

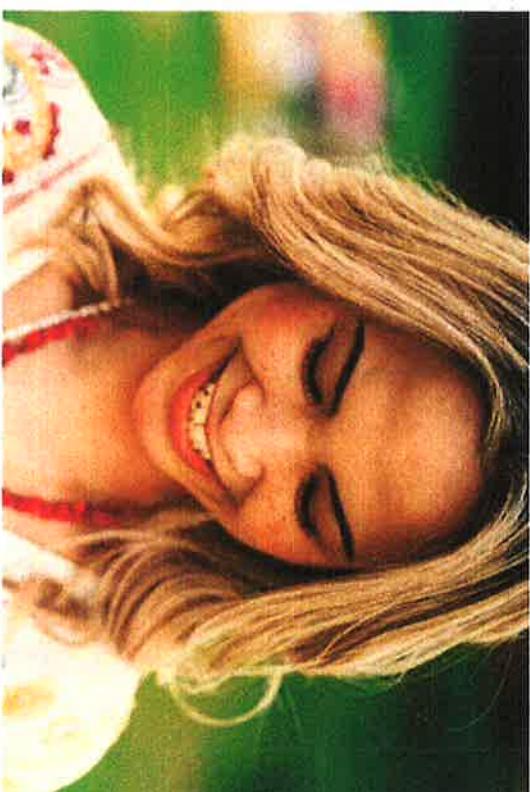
SEAN BUTLER



As managing director of Karri Kitchen, an innovation-led producer of Asian-style dishes for retailers including the 150 supermarkets of Aldi Ireland throughout the Republic, Shera runs the small food manufacturing enterprise outside Portadown with husband Richard.

She gained the Healthier Product Innovation Award for her mango chicken curry, her own recipe, and was Highly Commended in the Small Company Award at a gala event attended by around 400 Industry leaders.

Originally from Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, Shera continues: "When my home Indonesia was mentioned alongside Northern Ireland and all of the incredible local produce in the awards, it was one of the proudest moments in my business life. To bring the South Asian flavours I grew up with in Indonesian to Northern Ireland and for that to be celebrated at this special event was truly special."



Shera McAloran, managing director of the award winning Karri Kitchen in Portadown



17.03.2022 – [Neighbourhood Retailer](#)

Hinch Distillery marks St Patrick's Day with Boston takeover and international awards



Niall Martindale, Interim managing Director, firmus energy is pictured with Dr Terry Cross OBE, Chairman, Hinch Distillery. Hinch Distillery collected the Small Company Best New Product award for Hinch Whiskey.



NI FOOD AND DRINK AWARDS

FARMING LIFE



Local companies celebrated at awards

400 guests turned out to enjoy the evening at the NI Food and Drink Awards 2022, held at the Grand Central Hotel in Belfast. The event was hosted by the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards Committee, chaired by Lord Mayor of Belfast, Dr. David Ervine. The awards celebrate excellence in the food and drink industry across Northern Ireland. The event was a success, with many local companies receiving recognition for their hard work and dedication to the industry. The awards were presented to a number of winners, including several local companies. The event was a celebration of the achievements of the food and drink industry in Northern Ireland. The awards were presented to a number of winners, including several local companies. The event was a celebration of the achievements of the food and drink industry in Northern Ireland.

LMC congratulate agri-food award winners

The LMC congratulated the winners of the NI Food and Drink Awards 2022. The winners were announced at the awards ceremony held at the Grand Central Hotel in Belfast. The LMC is pleased to support the winners and their hard work and dedication to the industry. The winners were a mix of local and national companies, and their success is a testament to the quality and excellence of the food and drink industry in Northern Ireland. The LMC will continue to support the winners and their ongoing success in the industry.



15.03.2021 – Ulster Grocer

ULSTER Grocer



Innovative local companies celebrated at NI food and drink awards

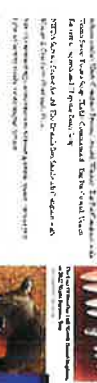
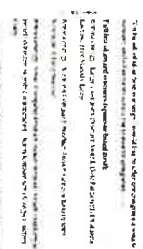


The Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards ceremony, which celebrated the achievements of innovative local food and drink companies, was held on 15th March at the Belfast Convention Centre. The awards were presented to a range of companies, including Ulster Grocer, for their contributions to the food and drink industry in Northern Ireland.

Ulster Grocer was awarded the 'Best of the Best' award for its commitment to local sourcing and its focus on providing high-quality products to its customers. The company's dedication to supporting local producers and its commitment to excellence in service were recognized by the judges of the awards.



Innovative local companies celebrated at NI food and drink awards



The Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards ceremony, which celebrated the achievements of innovative local food and drink companies, was held on 15th March at the Belfast Convention Centre. The awards were presented to a range of companies, including Ulster Grocer, for their contributions to the food and drink industry in Northern Ireland.

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15.03.2021 – [Ambition/NI Chamber](#)

Innovative local companies celebrated at NI food and drink awards



400 guests turned out in style to celebrate Northern Ireland's top food and drink companies at the 2022 Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards. A total of 13 awards were presented at the gala ceremony, hosted by the BBC's Mark Simpson in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast.

Hosted by the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) and supported by principal sponsor firmus energy, the awards are widely recognised as a key indicator of quality and success for food manufacturers and processors, offering local companies an invaluable opportunity to showcase innovative, quality products in front of key customers and stakeholders.

This year's awards were bigger than ever, with categories including new additions the Environmental Sustainability Award and Healthier Product Innovation Award.

The four firmus energy Best New product awards were picked up by Dale Farm in the large company category with Dromona Lactose Free Sliced Cheese, Genesis Bakery in the medium company category for its Merrigue A Tang Biscuits, while Hinch Distillery collected the small company category award for Hinch Whiskey, with Kari Kitchen Ltd named highly commended for Mango Chicken Curry. Cookstown-based Big Pot Co won the micro company award with Vegan Sweet Potato Soup, and received highly commended for its Vegan Buttermilk Squash and Cranberry Baked Soda in the same category.

Congratulating the winners on the night, Mairéad Berk, Executive Director, Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) said:

"Food and drink is one of Northern Ireland's key strategic sectors, supporting some 113,000 jobs across the supply chain and generating €4.8 billion value added here annually. That commercial success is built on the passion, ingenuity and hard work of food and drink companies of all sizes right across Northern Ireland. The awards are a celebration of those companies, and the people within them."

"On behalf of all of us at NIFDA I would like to thank everyone who entered our event sponsors and our expert judges – this event would not be possible without their hard work and support. Our congratulations go to all of tonight's winners, they should be proud of their achievements, and we look forward to their continued growth and further success in the future."

Niall Martindale, Interim Managing Director at firmus energy, principal sponsor for the event, said:

"It has been a privilege to support NIFDA as the 2022 principal Awards sponsor."

"Northern Ireland's food and drink sector continues to go from strength to strength and firmus energy has an important role to play to support it. By connecting companies to the gas network, and introducing sustainable gases such as Biomethane and Hydrogen into the gas network in the future, we can help the industry operate more sustainably and deliver the government's net zero carbon goals."

"On behalf of all at firmus energy I would like to offer our congratulations to all winners, and all entrants across the 13 awards categories."

Related Files

[firmus NI](#)





Invest NI recognition for Pimheungwe Aitison in NIRPA Awards

By: EIRCO

Invest NI has announced that Pimheungwe Aitison, a leading supplier of tinned mince, has been awarded the 2021 NIRPA Award for Export Excellence.

The award is a recognition of the company's commitment to international trade and its success in expanding its export market.

Pimheungwe Aitison is a leading supplier of tinned mince, with a long history of providing high-quality products to customers across the globe.

The company has achieved this success through its dedication to quality, innovation and customer service.

Invest NI is proud to support the company's growth and success in the international market.

The award is a testament to the company's hard work and dedication to excellence in its field.

For more information on the award, please visit the Invest NI website.

Invest NI is committed to supporting the growth and success of businesses in Northern Ireland.

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15.03.2022 - Newsletter

News Letter

15.03.2022 - Newsletter

Innovative local companies celebrated at NI food and drink awards

Dale Farm, Genesis Bakery, Hinch Distillery and Big Pot scoop top awards at gala event

By Claire Conroy

Over 400 guests gathered in the historic Highgate Hotel in Belfast for the annual NI Food and Drink Awards at the 2022 Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards. A total of 12 awards were presented at the gala event, hosted by the BBC's Paula Simpson for the Channel 4 and BBC2.

Headed by the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards 2022, the awards celebrated the best of the NI food and drink industry. The awards were presented to a range of innovative local companies, including Dale Farm, Genesis Bakery, Hinch Distillery and Big Pot.

The year's winners were: Best Small Business, Dale Farm; Best New Product, Genesis Bakery; Best Craft Beer, Hinch Distillery; and Best Craft Beer, Big Pot.



The Best Small Business award was won by Dale Farm, a family-run organic food producer. Genesis Bakery, a craft bakery, won Best New Product for its 'The Dough' bread. Hinch Distillery, a craft beer producer, won Best Craft Beer for its 'Hinch' beer. Big Pot, a craft beer producer, won Best Craft Beer for its 'Big Pot' beer.

The awards ceremony was held at the Highgate Hotel in Belfast. The event was attended by over 400 guests, including industry leaders and members of the public. The awards were presented by the BBC's Paula Simpson for the Channel 4 and BBC2.

The awards ceremony was a celebration of the achievements of the NI food and drink industry. The awards were presented to a range of innovative local companies, including Dale Farm, Genesis Bakery, Hinch Distillery and Big Pot.



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The awards ceremony was a celebration of the achievements of the NI food and drink industry. The awards were presented to a range of innovative local companies, including Dale Farm, Genesis Bakery, Hinch Distillery and Big Pot.

With the 2022 awards ceremony, we are proud to celebrate the achievements of the NI food and drink industry. The awards were presented to a range of innovative local companies, including Dale Farm, Genesis Bakery, Hinch Distillery and Big Pot.

For more information, please contact us at info@firmus.com or visit our website at www.firmus.com.



15.03.2022 – Neighbourhood Retailer

NEIGHBOURHOOD
RETAILER



Innovative local companies celebrated at NI food and drink awards



The winners of the 2022 NI Food & Drink Awards, presented by firmus Energy, were celebrated at a special ceremony at the Grand Central Hotel in Belfast. The awards recognise the achievements of innovative local food and drink producers across Northern Ireland. The ceremony was attended by a number of industry leaders and guests. The winners were announced during the evening, with the trophy being presented to the winners by the event's host. The awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the winners, who have produced exceptional products that have captured the hearts of consumers across Northern Ireland.

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Conflict in 'breadbasket of Europe' could see rise in food costs in our supermarkets, warn NI firms

By Ann Cochrane

THE war in Ukraine – known as the 'breadbasket of Europe' – will soon be felt in price rises on the supermarket shelves, it has been warned.

Ukraine and Russia are top exporters of wheat, collectively accounting for roughly 30% of global wheat exports.

Although the UK does not buy its wheat from there, the war has already had a massive impact on the global market which is causing prices to skyrocket. Last week, wheat prices hit a 14-year high.

That won't just affect bread, but also everything from beer, pasta, biscuits to even pet food. And inflation – already high at 5.4% – is expected to rise again to more than 7%.

Charan Harbin, managing director of Andrew's Flour based in Belfast, has said that the price of wheat in recent weeks has "seen unprecedented increases".

Between February 21 and today, wheat prices on the European futures market have increased 35%, and it is very difficult to pre-

dict where prices will go," he said. This sharp jump in market prices follows earlier increases as a result of relatively poor harvests in 2021.

"It is inevitable that in time they will feed through in increased consumer prices for a range of foodstuffs that depend on grain as a key input". Brian Irwin, chairman of Irwin's Bakery based in Portadown, said that a big part of the price of bread is actually the gas used for baking.

"Everyone is familiar with the enormous price increase of hydrocarbon gas so in time that will feed through to increase costs in products," he said.

"The diesel to move the grain from farm to mill and from mill to bakery is all going up and farmers will also have increased costs too because they require fertiliser from the crops."

"Fertiliser prices have gone up multiple times, obviously driven by gas prices as fertiliser and gas are closely linked," he added.

"In addition to this a lot of the raw materials for making fertiliser, a large percentage of them

is manufactured in Russia and Ukraine."

The bakery chairman said that this increase is "unprecedented" and the market is "extremely volatile" at the minute.

"What our industry is hoping for is policy changes from the Government that will mitigate these enormous hikes in costs," said Mr Irwin.

"While we don't use Russian and Ukrainian wheat in the UK, it is the impact of world prices which are in a 10-year high may be more."

"It is too early to say how much this increase will be as we are in a state of flux at the minute, it is certainly tricky for many industries."

Michael Bell, executive director of the NI Food and Drink Association (NIFDA), said that the rising inflation will soon be seen on our supermarket shelves.

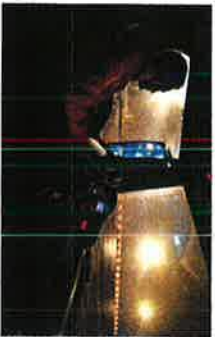
"Policymakers have decisions to make as to how to ease pressure on low income consumers in light of these global challenges, for example cutting fuel excise duty as the Irish government has done this week," he said.

'It is very tricky for many industries at the minute'

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Northern Ireland Brexit food checks to continue for now



The Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has announced that food safety checks will continue for now.

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No end in sight over debate as checks for food 'support' is Northern Ireland

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North's farmers feel caught in crosshairs of 'nonsense' protocol rules

More than 100 part-time farmers across 35 sectors condemn it as a "wasting waste of both worlds"

By [Gavin Hastings](#)

[Northern Farmers' Union](#)



Tracked out a farm off the A166 road, within spitting distance of a farm gate, pedigree Limousin cattle breeder has Davidson is taking his time with his own local cattle on a trip to take to shows in England again.

Since January last year, Brexit's Northern Ireland protocol had been an invisible barrier for local breeders looking to take animals to the more competitive English and Scottish markets.

The initial rules that came into force stated that cattle or sheep that went across the Irish sea to shows could not return within a month if they were used.

However, this was changed recently. Now, animals can come back but only if they do not mix with Scottish, Welsh or English livestock, an idea Mr Davidson feels was concocted by someone who never set foot in a livestock show or mart. Wednesday's bid by Stormont's Social's Minister for Agriculture Edwin Pons to halt British port checks has added another layer to the situation, but for now, Mr Davidson will stand and watch.

"The whole thing is nonsense," he told The Irish Times. "There were times when you'd have two-to-foot cattle herds going over to the bull sales in Striding in Scotland from Larne. Just now you'd only have a handful of bulls going over."

If all adds up to really nothing for farmers who depend on beef grow, who are their main source of income, show bulls that make £5000 in Great Britain and £1000 in Northern Ireland.

Northern farmers, says Ulster Farmers Union (UFU) president Victor Chestnut feel like they are "second class EU and UK citizens" with little chance of benefiting from UK Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Australia and New Zealand post-Brexit.

Overall, 30 per cent of Northern Ireland's fresh milk and 350,000 lambs are sold in the Republic of Ireland while most of the produce of Mr Chestnut's own family farm in Antrim, where he milks 400 cattle and fattens 350 ewes, is sold south of the border.

Chestnut is well aware of the balance that has to be maintained, but, nevertheless, he is still scratching his head over the operation of the protocol has left the region's farmers and the 113,000 agri-food jobs that depend on them.

'Frozen out'

"We were told this protocol that it would give us the best of both worlds, yet we have to produce products to EU rules and we're not allowed into the EU trade deal. Now we could be frozen out of UK trade as well," Mr Chestnut said.

Free trade deals with Australia and New Zealand could allow for a "flood" of cheap New Zealand lamb and Australian beef to come onto the UK market, a major cause of concern to Northern Irish farmers who export 80 per cent of what they produce.

"We've been asked to farm to higher and higher standards, especially around climate, and we want to do that, but it comes at a cost. How are we meant to compete with countries such as Australia who couldn't even be bothered to come to COP26?" he told The Irish Times.

Michael Bell, the executive director of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA), said that there still is enough recognition in the UK of the predicament facing Northern Ireland.

"The UK copied the entire EU rulebook into law so at the minute there is no point of difference between the legislation because it is identical, however this will diverge over time," he told The Irish Times.





27.01.2022 – [Agriland](#)

NIFDA welcomes review of NI agri-food sector



Sir Peter Kendall
Chair of the Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector (ISRAF)

The Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) has welcomed the publication of the Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector (ISRAF) report.

"We are grateful to the departments, Sir Peter and all involved in producing this report, which I hope will prove a significant blueprint for the way forward for Northern Ireland food and drink," said NIFDA chair Nick Whelan

"There is much within the 100 page report to consider, we will study its recommendations in full and engage with ministers over the coming weeks to consider the way forward."

The report, led by review team lead Sir Peter Kendall, explored the challenges and opportunities that the agri-food sector in Northern Ireland faces. The review team met with a wide range of stakeholders throughout 2021 and after considering a sizeable body of evidence, produced its findings and established a set of recommendations for both government and industry, under eleven themes.

"We have consistently argued that a capital support scheme for Northern Ireland processors is an urgent priority. We are pleased to see this critical need recognised by the review," Whelan continued.

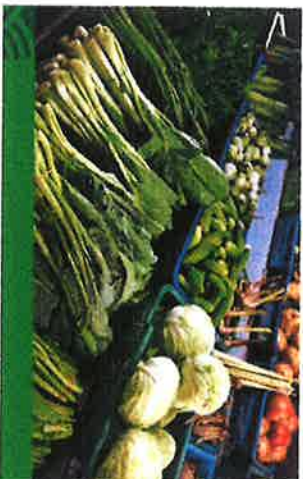
"Our competitors in other parts of the UK and the Republic of Ireland are benefiting from substantial capital support schemes. Coupled with the lack of a Northern Ireland food export marketing body, the industry has effectively had to operate with both hands tied behind its back.

"Similarly, we welcome the review's support for a new Sustainability Body for the industry. With full collaboration across the supply chain, such a body would allow us to quantify the net impact on and contribution to the environment from Northern Ireland agri-food."

"As well as highlighting areas for improvement based on scientific evidence, it also would prove a powerful tool in sharing our sustainable credentials.

"As the review highlights, collaboration will be key to addressing the short and long-term challenges our industry faces, from Brexit and pandemic recovery to inflationary pressures and contributing to Net Zero UK emissions.

"NIFDA is committed to new levels of partnership between farmers, processors and government departments, to encourage innovation, drive sustainability and grow our industry for the future."



20.01.2022 – Farm Week

NIFDA and UFU call on the Executive to publish Kendall report

NORTHERN IRELAND'S food industry leaders have called on the Executive to publish the Independent Strategic Review of the NI Agri-Food Sector at the earliest opportunity.

In April 2021, Ministers Diane Dodds and Edwin Poots launched the review, led by former National Farmers' Union President Sir Peter Kendall, to consider the challenges and opportunities facing the industry.

Mark Whelan, Chair, Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA), said:

"The past year saw multiple challenges for Northern Ireland food and drink, from the end of the Brexit transition period to the ongoing challenge of recovery from the pandemic and labour shortages.

"As we continue to navigate our way through these issues, while also addressing the long term challenges of UK Net Zero and inflation, we need to see a strategy from the Northern Ireland Executive on the way forward for food and drink – Northern Ireland's largest manufacturing sector. "We have been eagerly

anticipating the publication of Sir Peter Kendall's report, and look forward to seeing his recommendations for industry and government. We are committed to new levels of collaboration between farmers, processors and government to deliver on innovation, sustainability and increased growth."

LFU president Victor Chestnut also stressed the importance of having this report published now.

"The local farming industry is at a crossroads and while there are many challenges that we all have to face, there are currently very significant opportunities to shape the future of our industry for the benefit of not just our present and next generation of farmers, but also our wider NI environment and economy."

"A DAERA consultation on 'Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland' is currently underway and it would be extremely useful to have this related wider agri-food report issued at this time so that a collaborative approach across the industry for its future could be ensured."



18.01.2022 – Irish News

Business Diary

NI FOOD AND DRINK AWARDS

■ Agribusinesses are being invited to enter the 2022 Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards. Sponsored by Timus energy, the awards are recognised by the industry as a key indicator of quality and success for food manufacturers and processors, offering local companies an invaluable opportunity to showcase innovative, quality products in front of key customers and stakeholders. There are many opportunities for food and drink companies of all sizes to participate in the awards, free of charge, with 12 categories, including best new product for micro, small, medium and large businesses, best international/GB product launch and energy. The winners - which are being accepted up until January 31 - will be judged by a panel of industry experts, including representatives from major retailers. The winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony hosted by BBC Northern Ireland presenter Jo Scott on Friday, March 11 in Belfast's Crown Plaza Hotel.

Michael Bell, executive director at NI FDA, said: "Not only are these awards a celebration of our world class food and drink, but an important opportunity for firms of all sizes to showcase their products to an audience of industry leaders and key customers."

For more information on categories, and details on how to enter, visit: www.nifdaawards.com



CELEBRATION OF WORLD-CLASS FOOD AND DRINK: NI FDA executive director Michael Bell, left, and Niall MacIndriú, left, and Timus energy director at handling sponsor firmus energy, launch the 2022 Food and Drink Awards, which take place in Belfast on Friday March 11. PICTURE: Brian Morrison



Belfast Telegraph

News Opinion Business Sport Life Entertainment Travel Sunday Life ≡ Sections

Success on a plate: Food and drinks awards add a new category to the menu



Picture: Michael Bell, NIFDA and (right) Niall Martin, interim managing director of the NIFDA

Food and drink companies have been invited to enter the 2022 Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards.

The awards, sponsored by firmus energy, are regarded as a key indicator of quality and success for food manufacturers and processors.

There are 12 categories for food and drink firms of all sizes to enter, including best new product for micro, small, medium and large businesses, best international/Great Britain product launch and a new environmental sustainability category.

The entries will be judged by experts, including representatives from major retailers. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony hosted by BBC Northern Ireland presenter March 11, 2022 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast.

Michael Bell, executive director of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA) urged businesses to enter before the January 31 deadline.

"The NIFDA awards are back and they are bigger than ever with a host of categories that will highlight the very best food and drink products Northern Ireland has to offer.

He said NIFDA wished to reflect changing consumer trends and customer demands, and had added a new healthier product innovation award to recognise firms offering products lower in calories, sugar, saturated fat and/or salt.

A skills and apprenticeships category is championing firms who've shown commitment to nurturing a new generation of talent in the industry.

Niall Martin, interim managing director of firmus energy, said: "The NIFDA awards are a great opportunity for local food and drink companies to get recognition for producing world class products.

"We welcome the addition of the Environmental Sustainability category for the 2022 awards.

"We look forward to working closely with the sector in the future to progress opportunities to recycle unavoidable food waste which can be converted into renewable gas which could be used to decarbonise our local gas network and support Northern Ireland's journey to net zero."

Other category sponsors include Asda, Lidl, Marks and Spencer, Tesco, Food Standards Agency, Invest NI, Safefood and Food and Drink Sector Skills.

17. 11. 2021 – [Daily Telegraph](#)

The Telegraph

Threat of no-deal Brexit looms over Northern Ireland border disorder

Mere threat of triggering Article 16 has economic implications, but doing so may unleash a new Brexit saga

"Jam on both sides of the bread" is how Maros Sefcovic, the EU's most senior Brexit negotiator, dubbed Northern Ireland's new trading arrangements.

Only days ago global pharma firm Almac, one of the province's largest employers, favoured the north by creating more than 1,000 new jobs in the region. It claims being in Northern Ireland means it enjoys an "Almac advantage" from having one foot in both the EU and UK markets post-Brexit.

But Lord Frost, and many smaller Northern Irish firms, see the Protocol agreed under the Brexit deal very differently after disruption to supply chains and a sea border that has stoked sectarian tensions.

The Brexit minister is now considering the nuclear option - triggering Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol, the clause that allows parts of the deal to be overridden. Despite promising to get Brexit done, some fear the Government overriding the Protocol could escalate to the Brexit deal being ripped up and reawakening the threat of "no deal".

"There have been issues with the Protocol, particularly with frictions from goods travelling from Great Britain to Northern Ireland," says Michael Hall, executive director of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association.

"Many of these issues have been addressed by the 'grace periods' but these do not offer a permanent solution."

Article 16 gives no definition for its triggers. But even taking into account the reopening economies after the pandemic, the Protocol has caused a near 50pc rise in exports from Northern Ireland to the Republic so far, giving prima facie evidence that a "trade diversion" has taken place.





As a result of good grass growth and predominantly dry weather, Kevin and Paddy Barker are continuing to strip-graze their dairy herd outside Dungannon, Co Tyrone. *Michael Greer*

Agri-food industry keen on sustainability body

The NI agri-food industry has moved on from pushing government to create a marketing body to promote produce from NI, and instead wants to see a new sustainability body established.

DAERA CEO **KEVIN BARKER**, who is also the chair of the NI Food and Drink Association (NI FDA), told attendees at the annual NI Agri-Food Summit on Thursday that it would be a "knowledge hub owned and managed by industry".

"A new sustainability body would allow us to help quantify the net impact on and contribution to the environment from the industry, not only would this highlight areas for improvement based on scientific evidence, it would also be a powerful tool to share our successes to date in this area," he said.

It is understood that the concept will es-

entially involve widespread adoption of carbon benchmarking on farms across NI.

If that is achieved, local agri-food representatives believe it could give us a marketing advantage over competitors. According to Walsby, initial engagement with DAERA on the idea "has been encouraging".

Back in March 2015 the then Enterprise Minister Aislinn Foster announced that an NI food marketing body would be established, but funding was not secured, and the concept has gradually faded.

How NI can promote and market produce is a key area expected to be covered in the independent review commissioned by DAERA Minister Edwin Pons and his former Economy counterpart Diane Dodds. Led by ex-WFU president, Sir Peter Kendall, that report is due in the coming weeks.

— DAVID WRIGHT



25.10.2021 – [The Journal](#)

theyjournal.ie

Is the Protocol bad or good for firms in Northern Ireland? It's both, they say

The EU's suggested changes will fix some – but not all – problems with post-Brexit trade in Northern Ireland.

06:12:46 2021, 12:05 AM

17,248 Views

10 Comments

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3

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BUSINESSES IN NORTHERN

Ireland have indicated that the Protocol does work for some sectors, but not all – and that recent changes proposed by the EU to improve the Protocol won't fix all problems with post-Brexit trade in Northern Ireland.

Since the EU published proposals to alter the current Protocol last week, UK junior minister David Frost and European Commission Vice

President Maroš Šefčovič have been discussing the proposals in the hope of coming to an agreement.



'Devil is in the detail'

Michael Ball, Executive Director of the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association says that though the Protocol "was necessary" as it avoided a catastrophic no-deal Brexit, he adds that "it is not perfect".

"We have consistently called for practical solutions on the Protocol that meet four key tests – we want affordability, certainty, simplicity and stability. Signs of movement from both parties this month are very welcome, and indeed some of the solutions being proposed may go some way to meeting these tests.

"The devil is in the detail however, and the business community continues to work with London and Brussels to encourage lasting, practical solutions.

"The most important thing food and drink businesses in Northern Ireland need right now is certainty."



**NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD & DRINK
ASSOCIATION LTD**

**2022 Application for NIFDA
Associate Membership**

[Please type or use block letters]

Name of Company (1):

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Facsimile:

email:

website address:

Principal activities/products:

Brand Names:

No. of employees (2):

Turnover (3): £

Year ending (4):

Chief Executive/Managing Director (5):

Correspondence to be addressed to:

Service fee invoices to be addressed to:

Person responsible for:

Sales & Marketing -

Engineering -

Distribution -

Do you have a parent company?

Do you have any subsidiary companies?

VAT Registration No

Signed (6):

Dated:

Notes

- (1): Parent company, if part of a group, and the individual company.
- (2): Full Time equivalents (ie 2 part time = 1 full time)
- (3): Retail sales value turnover
- (4): Year for turnover, eg to 1/1/12
- (5): Most senior person in company, eg Partner
- (6): This signifies your agreement with the aims of the Association, (see over)

All information is held confidentially in line with NIFDA's Privacy Policy and will not be released to third parties without written permission.

AIMS

- To encourage the **highest appropriate standards** of operation.
- To work in **partnership** with the various **Government** bodies to achieve our goals.
- To work in **partnership** with **all organisations associated** with the Industry.
- To facilitate the **best environment** for trade and development.
- **To foster** co-operation and networking **within the Industry.**
- To support 'small and medium sized enterprises' (**SME**) companies in particular.
- To stimulate an **entrepreneurial** spirit in schools and industry.
- To **assist** in the **targeting** of Government support.
- To develop the Industry **Human Resources** through training to their fullest potential.
- To foster the use of **Benchmarking.**
- To encourage **Mentoring.**
- To improve **Marketing** awareness throughout Industry **by the development of appropriate skills.**
- To be involved in formulating Industry **Strategies** and sectoral strategies for NI as appropriate.
- To develop the relationship with the **R & D resources** to meet the needs of the Industry.

(Note in accordance with these aims one year's notice of your intention to resign is required)

