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23 September 2011

Dear Richard,

Request for DARD Exemption to the Code of Practice – Protocol 2.4

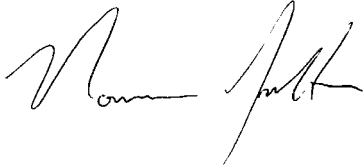
The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Northern Ireland produces a weekly National Statistics publication entitled the Agricultural Market Report. This report provides information on the most recent producer prices for a broad range of agricultural crops and livestock. Data for this report are collected from a variety of different sources.

The earliest the Agricultural Market Report can be made ready for publication each week is around midday on Thursday. Our longstanding convention has been that we publish the report on Thursday afternoon as soon as it is ready rather than delaying until 9.30am the following morning, thereby making the information available to the public and the press at the earliest opportunity. We have discussed this practice with key users and they have confirmed that their needs are better served if the report continues to be published as soon as it becomes available on a Thursday. The Agricultural Market Report is a non-controversial publication for which there is no pre-release access.



I am writing to request that DARD be granted an exemption to the Code of Practice – Protocol 2.4 and that we can publish the Agricultural Market Report on a Thursday afternoon as soon as the data are available. I am copying this letter to Dr Norman Caven, Chief Executive NISRA.

Yours sincerely,



Norman Fulton
Director of Policy and Economics, DARD



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If you have a hearing difficulty you can contact
the Department via the textphone on 028 9052 4420

An Roinn Talmhaíochta agus Forbartha Tuaithe
Máinnystríe o Fairms an Kintra Fordèrin