

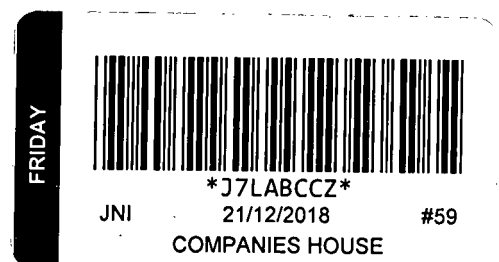
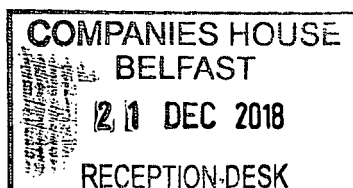
Charity Registration No. 102341

Company Registration No. NI035855 (Northern Ireland)

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

AGRISEARCH

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2018**



**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Trustees

Mr F Allen
Mr M Bell
Mr C Donnelly
Mr J Henning
Mr I Marshall
Mr J Martin
Mr W Mayne
Mr S McCaffrey
Mr P Morrow
Mr O Murnion
Mr A Wilson

Secretary

Mr J Rankin

Charity number

102341

Company number

NI035855

Registered office

Innovation Centre
Large Centre
Hillsborough
Down
BT26 6DR

Auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants
Number One
Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LG

Bankers

Danske Bank Limited
471 - 473 Antrim Road Plaza
Belfast
BT15 2BP

Ulster Bank Limited
22 Francis Street
Newtownards
Down

Solicitors

J McKee & Sons
The Linenhall
32-38 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BG

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
CONTENTS**

	Page
Trustees' report	1 - 10
Statement of Trustees' responsibilities	11
Independent auditor's report	12 - 13
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of cash flows	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 - 27

THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AGRISEARCH TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Objectives and activities

Charitable objective

The principal activity of the Council is to commission research and development in the agricultural industry. The Charity's objectives are to advance education, for the public benefit, in particular, by conducting and commissioning research into the improvement and development of sheep, beef and dairy farming and to disseminate and publish the useful results of such research and also to promote the improvement of animal health and welfare in sheep, beef and dairy farming in Northern Ireland.

Aims of the charity

Like all industries the Northern Ireland ruminant livestock sector needs to constantly advance to meet the challenges it faces. These include competitiveness in an increasingly globalised market, meeting government and consumer expectations in the fields of animal health and welfare, reducing the environmental impact of farming, delivery of ecosystem services and improving food quality and safety.

Research and innovation have a major role to play in helping farmers to increase their socio-economic resilience, improve their environmental sustainability and enhance the health status of their herds and flocks.

During 2014-15 the Trustees commissioned a complete review of AgriSearch's strategy and future direction. This included engaging with all those involved in AgriSearch's committees as well as external stakeholders. The key elements of the strategy are:

Purpose: To make the Northern Ireland Ruminant Livestock Sector more competitive profitable and sustainable

Vision: AgriSearch is committed to being an important driver of excellence and innovation in the Northern Ireland ruminant livestock sector, and being recognised as such by government and industry.

Mission: To realise this vision, our mission is to drive profitability and sustainability, as a trusted, valued conduit of knowledge and innovation based on sound science and widely applied research.

Values and Principles: Our values and principles below will be prevalent in all of our activities and reflected in all of our work.

- Honesty and integrity
- Ethical leadership and good governance
- Accountability to farmers - levy payer led
- Consultation, engagement, and effective communication at all levels of government and the industry
- Collaboration and partnership across all our sectors
- Seeking value for money in all of our research and innovation projects and programmes
- Advocating excellence in all research, science, and innovation activities

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

How achievement of aims furthers objectives

The charity is dependent on the goodwill of its levy funders. Given this, the Trustees have put in place a range of systems to try to ensure appropriate research projects are commissioned, that research findings are innovatively disseminated and that feedback and engagement are sought. Innovative research and development is a key strategy within Government targets. AgriSearch is also committed to innovative research and development and aims to maximise its influence and impact. AgriSearch also seeks to collaborate with government and industry bodies within Northern Ireland and further afield. By doing so we can gain leverage of our limited levy funds to achieve much greater impact than working alone.

It is also the policy of the Trustees that the return on investment of the funds directed to research is analysed and measured to ensure optimum value for money on behalf of the charity's funders. Increasingly, as research projects reach conclusion, greater emphasis is being placed on the dissemination of findings and the adoption by industry of the key recommendations into every day working practice. Environmental and animal welfare considerations continue to be more significant factors in the sustainability of farming and AgriSearch takes increasing notice of these factors.

Strategies for achieving aims and objectives

- To build understanding of global advances in production systems, practices and techniques, through the funding of new research, the sharing of knowledge, and widespread innovation and development.
- To lever funding and deliver programmes through collaborative research partnerships, actively seeking partners locally, nationally and internationally, and developing mutually beneficial relationships.
- To establish expertise in fund raising and the organisational capabilities to be proactive and responsive in rising to emerging opportunities and industry challenges.
- To communicate more effectively and directly with farmers, increase the number of farmers we reach and increase their active participation.
- To facilitate bottom up, industry led priorities for research and innovation, based on need.
- To support the NI science community, working to ensure the future capacity and capability of NI scientists and agriculturalists.

Criteria used to assess success

- Funding applied for and awarded, including partnerships
- Improvements in productivity and efficiency at farm level
- Improvements in systems, processes, and practices
- Increased profitability from farming ruminant livestock
- Reduced input, overhead, and energy costs per unit of output
- Increased or more productive use of land
- Strength of AgriSearch profile locally and internationally
- Level of industry/farmer confidence in AgriSearch research models, methods, and outcomes
- Strong collaborative relationships in government, in the agri-food industry, and in the scientific and academic community
- Increase in effectiveness of communication
- Value for money and impact on farming (economic and environmental)

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Main objectives for the year and strategies for achieving them

- To manage in conjunction with our research partners a comprehensive suite of research projects to ensure they meet the needs of the Northern Ireland ruminant livestock sector.
- To maximize the leverage of funds from sources outside AgriSearch.
- To increase the knowledge transfer activities of AgriSearch in co-operation with AFBI and CAFRE to improve the dissemination of AgriSearch funded research.
- To engage with other levy bodies in Great Britain and further afield to pool resources, avoid the duplication of research.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Grant making policy

Investments in research programmes take into account value for money, affordability and the potential for the research to be adopted in practice on farms in Northern Ireland.

Any research proposal must address at least one of the following key pillars:

- Sustainability / profitability
- Environmental Impact
- Animal Welfare/Health
- Food quality / safety

The Trustees also look for additional external funding in any research projects they approve. This is mainly obtained through the Department of Agriculture's Evidence and Innovation Strategy and Research Challenge Fund programmes and more recently the InvestNI funded Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre. AgriSearch has also obtained funding from the European Union under the Horizon 2020 programme.

Use of volunteers

The charity makes significant use of volunteers in the course of its work. In addition to the Trustees, the members of the three sectoral advisory committees give freely of their time in attending and preparing for committee meetings as well as supporting AgriSearch in the events that it runs.

In addition, many of AgriSearch's research programmes are based on commercial Northern Ireland farms who only receive a small payment for the time they spend on these projects and who make their herds and flocks available for research as well as allowing access to farm records and hosting extension events on their farms.

Strategic report

The description under the headings "Achievements and performance" and "Financial review" meet the company law requirements for the Trustees to present a strategic report.

Achievements and performance

Summary of main achievements

- Commissioned 10 new research projects.
- Website continuously updated along with use of social media.
- Recruited 16 additional pilot farmers to participate in GrassCheck associated projects.
- Recruited 30 farmer co-researcher to participate in an AFQCC funded project on colostrum.
- 3 beef farm walks held during the year in conjunction with AFBI.
- Successfully applied for funding for 4 projects under DAERA's Research Challenge Fund
- Published "Making a Difference for Generations" to mark our 20th anniversary
- As part of the Super-G Horizon 2020 consortium submitted a successful second (and final) stage proposal on permanent grassland
- Became a founder member of the Centre of Innovation Excellence for Livestock (CIEL)
- Provided further evidence for a business case to DAERA on behalf of the Agri-Food Strategy Board for a Northern Ireland Livestock Industry Data Hub.
- Used trade stands at the NSA Sheep Expo, Pedigree Calf Fair, Royal Ulster Winter Fair and NBA Beef Expo to disseminate research results to farmers.

Balanced picture of charity's progress against objectives

AgriSearch continues to be successful at leveraging a significant amount of funding from government and other sources. Knowledge exchange is a key component of our work. Over the course of the year we have run three successful knowledge exchange events and have significantly increased traffic to the AgriSearch website and social media. Nevertheless, we recognise that more progress needs to be made in this area and going forward intend to commit more resources to knowledge exchange.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Key performance indicators explaining outputs achieved by objectives

Given the straightforward nature of the business, the company's directors are of the opinion that analysis using KPI's is not necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business.

Significant positive and negative factors that affected the achievement of objectives and how future plans affected

Given the relatively small amount of levy income the commissioning of research projects is dependent on the availability of leveraged funding. Funding competitions for such projects do not follow a regular cycle. During the 2017/18 financial year there were a considerable number of funding competitions open which is why the amount of funding committed has significantly increased. We expect this to fall in the current year.

Investment performance against objectives

Cash flow and reallocation of funds between accounts has been managed to maximize the limited returns available on deposit accounts. The Danske Bank (Davy) managed portfolio has returned satisfactory performance with an average return of 7.17% since its launch and a return of (-3.65)% this year. The St. James's Place managed portfolio has also returned satisfactory performance with a return of 4.67% since launch and a return of 1.11% this year. The Trustees have reviewed the portfolio and returns and are satisfied with the management of risk and investment income.

Financial review

Review of financial position

The statement of financial activities for the year is set out on page 14 of this report. The net movement in funds for the financial year is net resources expended of £306,842 (2017: net resources received of £181,735). During the year AgriSearch agreed to fund 6 projects totalling £570,961 on the basis that complementary funding in the region of £2,792,330 would be sought from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, the Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre and other sources. When other sources of funding are added, the total expenditure on the related research and development since the formation of AgriSearch in 1997 is over £38m, with the input from AgriSearch amounting to £8M.

Reserves policy

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the company's 'Free' reserves, being funds not committed to third parties for research should represent at least 12 months management and administration costs. At this level, the Trustees are of the view that the company would be able to continue its activities in the event of a significant drop in funding. The level of reserves held at the year ended 31 March 2018 is £151,982. In addition, in order to ensure continuity of operations, further reserves are held for the ongoing commissioning of research. AgriSearch works with other stakeholders to ensure maximum leverage of funds. Reserves held can vary depending on the timing of decisions made by co-funders. The Trustees consider that the present level of reserves adequately meets these combined objectives.

Principal sources of income

Principal funding sources are terms-of-trade levies collected on a voluntary basis by Northern Ireland processors of dairy, beef and sheep.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Significant events that affected financial performance and financial position during the period

Events during the year did not give rise to any material financial impact.

The Trustees monitor financial performance on a regular basis and take a low risk stance on finance. It is the Trustees' policy to achieve the best financial return on longer term funds with a prudent investing attitude whilst ensuring that sufficient funds are available to meet the operational expenditure of the organisation. Funds invested can be accessed at short notice. Financial risk is considered as part of the Trustees' ongoing assessment of its operating environment and a risk register is maintained.

The organisation is largely dependent on a revenue stream from voluntary levies paid by farmers and agri-food processors. The risk to future financial performance based on this is regularly considered and assessed. Budgets are set for each financial year in light of this. At the end of the financial year, there are no events or circumstances which would significantly impact the organisation's future financial performance.

Investment policy

The investment policy is low risk. During the 2017-18 financial year the majority of funds were held in deposits across a number of institutions as agreed by the Trustees. A portion of funds which are not required in the short term continue to be invested within investment portfolios managed by Danske Bank (Davy) & St. James's Place. All funds are accessible at less than one week's notice.

Risk factors

The Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring effective risk management, and that internal controls are in place to appropriately manage the risk exposure of AgriSearch. In September 2015, the Trustees completed a comprehensive review of AgriSearch's risk management strategy. In the course of this review the Board considered:

- the major risks to which AgriSearch is exposed;
- the potential impact and probability associated with each risk;
- existing internal controls and accountability for them;
- mitigating actions needed to reduce each risk to a level that the Trustees considered to be acceptable.

In light of the considerable changes that have occurred within the last number of years, a completely new and more detailed risk register was drawn up. This will continue to be formally reviewed by the Trustees every year and is regularly monitored by the Office Bearers' Committee.

The major financial risks are each subject to ongoing monitoring and management. AgriSearch investments are regularly reviewed by the Office Bearers. Income and cost control are subject to detailed review and challenge on at least a bimonthly basis. An annual budget for non-project related expenditure for the forthcoming year is placed before the Trustees for approval before the start of each financial year. During the year a Financial Control Document was drawn up and adopted by the Trustees and is kept under regular review.

AgriSearch is reliant on the co-operation of dairy and red meat processors to collect producer levies on its behalf. There have been continuing difficulties around the collection of dairy levy which resulted in a significant fall in dairy levy income for the 2015-16 financial year. AgriSearch has been actively addressing these issues in conjunction with other industry stakeholders and as a result dairy income has improved in the 2017-18 year. We have continued to work with other levy bodies, industry stakeholders and the Agri-Food Strategy Board to find a longer-term solution which will be equitable for all involved.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Plans for future periods

- To continue our involvement in EuroDairy – a thematic network funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme.
- To participate in Super-G a new Horizon 2020 Project on Permanent Grassland.
- To participate in the building of further networks and consortia to pool resources, avoid the duplication of research and draw down external funding.
- To recruit a Finance officer to assist with the management of our expanding R&D project portfolio.
- To recruit a Project Officer to work exclusively on the aforementioned EU Super-G project.
- To continue our membership of and involvement in the Centre for Innovation Excellence in Livestock.
- To hold further on-farm events in collaboration with AFBI and CAFRE.
- To seek to collaborate (where appropriate) with local industry in projects co-funded through the Agri-Food Quest Competence Centre.
- To increase the reach of our knowledge transfer programme through further on-farm events, seminars and increasing traffic to the website and social media.
- To further develop our communications and knowledge transfer strategy.
- To engage with DAERA to ensure a high priority is given to research and knowledge transfer and ensure co-ordination of research and knowledge transfer activities and maximize synergies.

Structure, governance and management

AgriSearch' is the trading name for the Northern Ireland Agricultural Research & Development Council, a charitable company, limited by guarantee with no share capital. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mr F Allen

Mr M Bell

Mr J Campbell

(Resigned 31 March 2018)

Mr C Donnelly

Mr J Henning

Mr I Marshall

Mr J Martin

Mr W Mayne

Mr S McCaffrey

Mr A Mitchell

(Resigned 20 November 2017)

Mr P Morrow

Mr O Murnion

Mr A Wilson

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Methods to recruit and appoint new trustees

The Board of Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company, are appointed by the Council. The Trustees appoint three Advisory Committees to consider and monitor appropriate research projects.

Nominations are received from the Ulster Farmers' Union for three farmer Trustees. On behalf of processors (who are levy collectors) DairyUK and NI Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA) nominate one trustee each.

Three farmer Trustees are recruited independently with the aim of ensuring that relevant differing aspects of farm husbandry are represented as far as possible and that there is widespread representation across Northern Ireland.

Additional independent Trustees are recruited who are not active farmers but have standing within the agricultural community and have experience of a commercial environment.

For the recruitment of the 'independent' Trustees, the posts are advertised in the agricultural press and a local Board recruitment website and a selection process is carried out using pre-determined relevant criteria.

Members of the charity are approved at the AGM following nomination by the Trustees.

While nominations for Trustees are received from the Ulster Farmers' Union, DairyUK and NIMEA the final decision as to who to appoint is at the discretion of the members of the charity.

Indemnity provision for trustees

Every member of the Charity undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £1) to the Charity's assets if it should be wound up while he or she is a member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, for payment of the Charity's debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

Trustees are also covered by a management and corporate liability insurance policy.

Organisational structure and how charity makes decisions

The Board of Trustees meets five times per year and each of the Advisory Committees meets when required to review funding and expenditure proposals. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Senior Vice-Chairman and the General Manager and Management Accountant (engaged through Countryside Services) meet frequently to review the day to day operation and governance of the organisation.

The three advisory committees are made up of farmer members, independent scientific advisors and representatives of the processing sectors. The Beef and Sheep Advisory Committees also have a representative from the Livestock and Meat Commission for NI. Their role is to identify and evaluate research proposals and recommend projects to the Trustees. Each committee includes one representative of College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) in an advisory capacity.

The Trustees review all proposals from advisory committees, taking into account the finances of the organisation and the strategic direction before deciding to approve the recommendations or return them to the relevant committees for further consideration or rejection.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

The advisory committees are made up as follows (as of 31st March 2018):

Beef Advisory Committee

Jonathan Carson
Sam Chesney -Vice Chairman
Andrew Clarke
Ian Dickson
John Egerton
Ray Elkin
Andrew Gardiner
George McAuley
Liam McCarthy
Stuart McIvor
Nigel McLaughlin
John Payne
Emma Russell
William Sherrard
Dr Raymond Steen
Ian Stevenson
James Taylor -Chairman
Maurice Watson
Norman Weatherup (Non-voting CAFRE liaison)

Dairy Advisory Committee

David Dunlop
Hugh Harbinson
Adrian Houston
Andrew Magowan
Robert Martin
Cathal McAleer
Ian McCluggage (Non-voting CAFRE liaison)
Drew McConnell - Chairman
Dr Alan McIlmoyle
Stewart Watson
Thomas Steele - Vice Chairman
David Stewart
Stewart Watson

Sheep Advisory Committee

Edward Adamson - Vice Chairman
Kenneth Linton
James Brennan
Crosby Cleland - Chairman
Stuart Cromie
Thomas Gibson
John Harkin
Nigel McLaughlin
Colin Smith
Dr Raymond Steen
Campbell Tweed
David Wallace
Norman Weatherup (Non-voting CAFRE liaison)

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

How decisions are made

Decisions are taken by the Board of Trustees which meets at least four times a year. Meeting papers which include an agenda, minutes of the previous meeting, General Manager's report, financial statements and details of any project proposals being considered for funding are circulated in advance of the meeting.

Policies and procedures for induction and training of trustees

New Trustees are provided with information about the role and about the Council as part of an application 'pack'. Following selection, new Trustees have an induction briefing from the Chairman and General Manager which provides information and guidelines on their tasks and responsibilities together with an outline of the objectives of AgriSearch. They also receive copies of past Trustee minutes and other corporate documentation.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management

A remuneration committee is appointed by the Trustees and meets on annual basis to consider the remuneration of key management. Its recommendations are submitted to the Trustees for approval.

The remuneration committee is currently made up as follows:

John Henning (Chairman) (retired)
Wilbert Mayne
Allister Mitchell (resigned 20 November 2017)
Seamus McCaffrey (appointed 20 November 2017)

A Disciplinary and Grievance Committee has also been established to review the employee handbook and if necessary act as an appeal panel for disciplinary and grievance issues.

The Disciplinary and Grievance Committee is currently made up as follows:

Conall Donnelly (Chairman)
Allister Mitchell (resigned 20 November 2017)
Peter Morrow (appointed 20 November 2017)
John Martin (appointed 20 November 2017)

Relationship with related parties and other charities/organisations with which it co-ordinates in the pursuit of its charitable objectives

One member of the AgriSearch Dairy Advisory Committee and three members of the AgriSearch Beef Advisory Committee received payments during the financial year for activity undertaken as "farmer co-researchers", these are detailed on page 27 under Related Party Transactions. Farmer co-researchers are appointed on-merit in consultation with the relevant lead scientist and an independent expert.

AgriSearch has a conflict of interest policy and each Trustee and Advisory Committee member is asked to complete a declaration of interests. In addition, declaration of conflicts of interest is a standing item at the top of the agenda for every meeting of Trustees.

The Charity has a close relationship with Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland (AHWNI) a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. AHWNI seeks to benefit livestock producers and processors by providing the knowledge, education and coordination required to establish effective control programmes for non-notifiable diseases of livestock. On behalf of AHWNI, AgriSearch collects levy at the rate of 10 pence per bovine slaughtered in Northern Ireland and also provides contingency funding for AHWNI's BVD eradication programme.

AgriSearch also seeks to work with other levy organisations to share resources and avoid duplication of research and is currently involved in joint funding arrangements for five projects with the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board (AHDB) a statutory levy board.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND
STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Auditor

The auditor, RSM UK Audit LLP, is deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

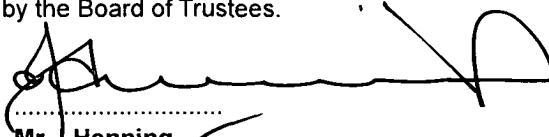
The Trustees' report, including the strategic report, was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Mr M Bell

Chairman

Dated: 26/11/18



Mr J Henning

Vice Chairman

Dated: 26/11/18

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AGRISEARCH

Opinion on financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CONTINUED)

AGRISEARCH

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees' (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees' determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



David Gray (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Number One
Lanyon Quay
Belfast

BT1 3LG

19 December 2018

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
<u>Income from:</u>			
Donations and legacies	3	546,716	554,749
Investments	4	18,706	22,259
Total income		<u>565,422</u>	<u>577,008</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Raising funds	5	-	8,334
Charitable activities	6	854,190	452,231
Total resources expended		<u>854,190</u>	<u>460,565</u>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	12	(18,074)	65,292
Net movement in funds		<u>(306,842)</u>	<u>181,735</u>
Total funds brought forward		<u>458,824</u>	<u>277,089</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>151,982</u></u>	<u><u>458,824</u></u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

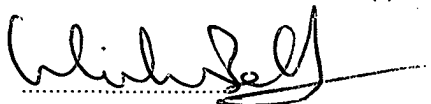
The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.


**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

	Notes	2018 £	£	2017 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		4,547		2,849
Investments	14		655,971		674,045
			<u>660,518</u>		<u>676,894</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	15	297,058		310,037	
Cash at bank and in hand		299,206		-138,601	
		<u>596,264</u>		<u>448,638</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(623,525)		(416,623)	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			<u>(27,261)</u>		<u>32,015</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			633,257		708,909
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(481,275)		(250,085)
Net assets			<u>151,982</u>		<u>458,824</u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds			151,982		458,824
			<u>151,982</u>		<u>458,824</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26/11/18


Mr M Bell
Chairman


Mr J Henning
Vice Chairman

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

	Notes	2018 £	£	2017 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	20		144,822		(128,803)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,923)		-	
Purchase of investments		-		(200,000)	
Interest received		18,706		22,259	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			15,783		(177,741)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			160,605		(306,544)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			138,601		445,145
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			299,206		138,601

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is Innovation Centre, Large Centre, Hillsborough, Down, BT26 6DR.

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives unless the funds have been designated for other purposes.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

The levy rates charged to producers are as follows:

Milk	0.02p per litre
Beef	40p per head
Sheep	5p per head

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the Charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Grants payable to third parties are within charitable objectives. Where unconditional grants are offered, this is accrued as soon as the recipient is notified of the grant, as this gives rise to a reasonable expectation that the recipient will receive grants.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, management charges and governance costs which support the Council's activities. These costs have been allocated to charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line
Computers	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/ expenditure for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	2018 £	2017 £
Donations and gifts	493,498	501,685
Grant income	53,218	53,064
	<u>546,716</u>	<u>554,749</u>
Donations and gifts		
Milk levy	286,887	294,934
Beef levy	122,386	132,648
Sheep levy	18,615	20,062
Sheep - Contribution from Livestock and Meat Commission	20,000	20,000
AHWNI	45,610	34,041
	<u>493,498</u>	<u>501,685</u>

AgriSearch collect funds for AHWNl which are then paid across to AHWNl. These funds have been included with income and expenditure in the financial statements.

Grants receivable for core activities

DAERA Research Challenge Fund	53,218	39,115
EU Horizon 2020	-	13,949
	<u>53,218</u>	<u>53,064</u>

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

4 Investments

	2018	2017
	£	£
Income from unlisted investments	18,658	20,799
Interest receivable	48	1,460
	<u>18,706</u>	<u>22,259</u>

5 Raising funds

	2018	2017
	£	£
Investment Management	-	8,334
	<u>-</u>	<u>8,334</u>

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

6 Charitable activities

	2018	2017
	£	£
Staff costs	31,578	60,748
Dissemination costs	31,573	21,491
AHWNI funding	54,899	33,436
	<u>118,050</u>	<u>115,675</u>
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	653,093	247,867
Share of support costs (see note 8)	71,580	79,787
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	11,467	8,902
	<u>854,190</u>	<u>452,231</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	<u>854,190</u>	
	<u>854,190</u>	
For the year ended 31 March 2017		
Unrestricted funds		<u>452,231</u>
		<u>452,231</u>

7 Grants payable

	2018	2017
	£	£
Grants to institutions:		
Opening commitments	646,178	774,351
Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute	631,896	257,395
(Decreased)/Increased project in year	(18,486)	45,366
Paid during the year	(185,092)	(430,934)
	<u>1,074,496</u>	<u>646,178</u>

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2018	2017	Basis of allocation
	£	£	£	£	
Staff costs	34,230	-	34,230	43,148	Charitable activities
Depreciation	1,225	-	1,225	765	Charitable activities
Rent	2,034	-	2,034	1,916	Charitable activities
Management charge	8,775	-	8,775	9,891	Charitable activities
VAT	9,835	-	9,835	6,475	Charitable activities
Insurance	3,627	-	3,627	2,694	Charitable activities
Printing & postage	5,894	-	5,894	2,004	Charitable activities
Computer costs	-	-	-	200	Charitable activities
Website costs	1,730	-	1,730	1,982	Charitable activities
Travel	334	-	334	56	Charitable activities
Other	3,896	-	3,896	10,656	Charitable activities
Audit fees	-	2,750	2,750	2,750	Governance
Accountancy	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	Governance
Legal and professional	-	2,441	2,441	-	Governance
Advisory support costs	-	5,276	5,276	5,152	Governance
	<u>71,580</u>	<u>11,467</u>	<u>83,047</u>	<u>88,689</u>	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	<u>71,580</u>	<u>11,467</u>	<u>83,047</u>	<u>88,689</u>	

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,750 (2017- £2,750) for audit fees.

9 Net movement in funds

	2018	2017
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	2,750	2,750
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>1,225</u>	<u>765</u>

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year (2017: £Nil). Trustees were reimbursed a total of £1,676 travelling expenses (2017- £2,911).

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

11 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number employees during the year was:

	2018 Number	2017 Number
Field Officer	1	1
Project Manager	-	1
General Manager	1	1
Project Officer	1	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Employment costs

	2018 £	2017 £
Wages and salaries	59,269	98,946
Social security costs	6,353	4,950
Other pension costs	186	-
	<u>65,808</u>	<u>103,896</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2018 £	2017 £
Revaluation of investments	<u>(18,074)</u>	<u>65,292</u>

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2017	335	16,201	16,536
Additions	1,179	1,744	2,923
Disposals	-	(12,713)	(12,713)
At 31 March 2018	1,514	5,232	6,746
Depreciation and impairment			
At 1 April 2017	83	13,604	13,687
Depreciation charged in the year	253	972	1,225
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	(12,713)	(12,713)
At 31 March 2018	336	1,863	2,199
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2018	1,178	3,369	4,547
At 31 March 2017	252	2,597	2,849

14 Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 31 March 2018	674,045
Valuation changes	(18,074)
At 31 March 2018	655,971
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2018	655,971
At 31 March 2017	674,045

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

15 Debtors	2018	2017
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	147,090	208,538
Other debtors	52,262	59,117
Prepayments and accrued income	97,706	42,382
	<u>297,058</u>	<u>310,037</u>
16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade creditors	6,086	2,178
Other taxation and social security	1,640	2,637
Other creditors	609,161	401,769
Accruals and deferred income	6,638	10,039
	<u>623,525</u>	<u>416,623</u>
17 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2018	2017
	£	£
Other creditors	481,275	250,085
	<u>481,275</u>	<u>250,085</u>
18 Financial instruments	2018	2017
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	199,352	267,655
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	655,971	674,045
	<u>855,323</u>	<u>941,700</u>
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		
Measured at amortised cost	1,103,160	664,071
	<u>1,103,160</u>	<u>664,071</u>

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
AGRISEARCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Total £
Fund balances at 31 March 2018 are represented by:	
Tangible assets	4,547
Investments	655,971
Current assets/(liabilities)	(27,261)
Long term liabilities	(481,275)
	<u>151,982</u>

20 Cash generated from operations

	2018 £	2017 £
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(306,842)	181,735
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(18,706)	(22,259)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	18,074	(65,292)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	1,225	765
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	12,979	(87,740)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	438,092	(136,012)
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	<u>144,822</u>	<u>(128,803)</u>

21 Related party transactions

During the year there were members of the AgriSearch advisory committees and Board of Trustees who were involved as farmer co-researchers in projects which AgriSearch co-funded. The advisory committees are in place to review funding and expenditure proposals.

A total amount of £2,625 was paid during the year to the following member of the Dairy Committees; Hugh Harbinson and the following members of the Beef Committee: James Taylor, Sam Chesney and John Egerton (2017: total amount of £5,052 was paid to the following members of the Sheep Advisory Committee; Samuel Wharry (deceased) and Crosby Cleland, along with the following member of the Board of Trustees; John Martin.)

John Henning, AgriSearch Trustee and Sam Chesney, AgriSearch Beef Committee Vice-Chair, both sit on the AHWNI Board. AgriSearch collected levies of £45,610 (2017: £34,041) on behalf of AHWNI and made payments to AHWNI of £54,899 (2017: £33,436) during the year. The balance owing to AHWNI at the year end was £4,233 (2017 - £5,678).