



ULSTER
FARMERS'
UNION

Ethics and Standards Committee Terms of Reference



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1. Introduction

This document sets out the Terms of Reference for the Ethics and Standards Committee of the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU). It establishes the committee's constitutional basis and membership.

2. Constitutional Basis and Authority

2.1 Primary Constitutional Authority

The Ethics and Standards Committee derives its authority from the following provisions of the UFU Constitution and Rules:

Rule 8 - Conditions of Membership

"A member who transgresses the rules of the Union shall be liable to suspension or expulsion by the organisation, as determined by the Ethics and Standards Committee. The member shall have the right of appeal to the Executive."

Rule 8.2 - Committee Responsibility

"The Ethics and Standards Committee shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Union's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders. All members are expected to adhere to these requirements, and failure to do so may result in sanctions as determined by the Committee."

2.2 Delegated Authority from Executive Committee

The Schedule of Delegated Authority confirms the Executive Committee's responsibility to:

"Oversees disciplinary matters and rule enforcement through the Ethics and Standards committee."

This establishes the Ethics and Standards Committee as a sub-committee of the Executive, operating under delegated authority to handle disciplinary and standards matters on behalf of the Executive Committee.



3. Membership and Composition

3.1 Committee Structure

The full Committee shall consist of:

- Chairperson (elected by the Committee from among the 12 County members)
- Vice-Chairperson (elected by the Committee from among the 12 County members)
- Twelve (12) County nominated members:
 - Two representatives from each of the six counties (Tyrone, Antrim, Down, Londonderry, Armagh and Fermanagh) nominated by their respective County Committees
 - County members should be currently serving on, or have previously served on, the Executive Committee
- Co-opted members (skills-based appointments) who, as a minimum, are required to be members of the UFU, appointed as and when required at the discretion of the Committee
- Secretary (provides administrative support from the UFU senior management team and attends in a non-voting capacity)
- Legal support (provided as and when required, attending in a non-voting and advisory capacity only)

3.2 Term Limits and Rotation

County Representatives:

- Maximum of two consecutive 3-year terms
- Staggered rotation: 4 members' terms expire each year
- Initial staggering arrangement to ensure continuity

Co-opted Members:

- The Committee reserves the right to co-opt additional members onto the Committee as and when required.

Note: The membership and composition of the Ethics and Standards Committee, as set out above, were agreed at Executive Committee meetings held on 23 June 2025 and 28 January 2026.

Approved by the Ethics and Standards Committee on 26th March 2026