



Red Tractor's response to the Farm Assurance Review

Progress Report 19 March 2026

Introduction

This document provides an interim update on Red Tractor's work and progress in delivering the recommendations of the Farm Assurance Review against the commitments made in our [full response, published 25 March 2025](#).

Since our last report on 19 December 2025, Red Tractor has continued its work to deliver the recommendations of the Farm Assurance Review. Significant developments include:

- **Feedback on sector priorities:** Stakeholders were provided with the opportunity to feedback on [priorities and objectives for improvement](#) in each of the six agricultural sectors. This opportunity was widely promoted and welcomed across trade media. 131 responses were received and shared with to each Sector Board during their February meetings. Important feedback has been passed to Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) for their consideration as part of a full review of Red Tractor standards and assessment processes.
- **Reviewing standards:** In line with Red Tractor's new policy for Standards Development established by the Sector Boards, TACs are now in the process of reviewing all Red Tractor farm-facing standards line by line with the objective of removing duplication, reducing audit burden and ensuring standards remain fit for the future. Red Tractor will consult on the proposed changes to standards in autumn 2026.
- **Portal and data improvements:** On 19 February, Red Tractor [announced improvements](#) to its portal including live photos and geolocation, easy access to industry templates and a requirements shortlist. This announcement was accompanied by [new guides and help documents](#) to assist farmers in using the portal. Use of the portal remains optional to farmers, with assessors required to use the portal if the farmer wishes to do so. As part of our efforts to promote ongoing uptake of the Portal, in January 2026, we supported a side event at the [Oxford Farming Conference](#) discussing the role of technology in farm assurance. Additionally, we are working with third party data providers to integrate Red Tractor requirements into their farm management apps. As a first step, we've worked with MeritAgCheck to integrate a crops standards check list into their app.
- **Water quality:** During their meetings in February, Sector Boards discussed how Red Tractor could support the industry with the challenge of water quality. All Sector Boards agreed that this is an issue that should remain a watching brief for Red Tractor Board meetings but that any action should follow greater clarity on potential changes in regulation. Details of the discussions have been published in [Sector Board updates](#).
- **Collaboration across schemes:** Farm assurance schemes met on 15 January to update on their activities and identify areas of commonality. The meeting discussed relationships with Certification Bodies, audit consistency, the Farm Assurance Review monitoring report and farmer wellbeing.
- **Listening and understanding farmers:** Grounded Research has been [appointed to support Red Tractor with farmer and consumer-focused research](#). Work so far has included the review and refinement of Red Tractor's Post Assessment Survey, which is sent to members following an assessment (updated version live since 6 January 2026); and the launch of a new Farmer Sentiment Survey which will gather views and improve

understanding of perceptions towards Red Tractor (in the field until 27 February). Results from the Post Assessment Survey will be reviewed and fed back to the organisation regularly.

- **Reporting to the FAR commissioners:** On 2 March, Red Tractor submitted a full, comprehensive response to the commissioners of the FAR providing a detailed account of work to date to deliver on the Review's recommendations, and answering specific questions related to Red Tractor.

In the tables below we have provided an update on how we're delivering each of the commitments made towards each of the relevant detailed recommendations of the Farm Assurance Review. **Developments in bold have been added since the last update on 19 December 2025.**

* Please refer to the [Farm Assurance Review](#) for the detailed recommendations.

** The lead organisations are those identified by the Farm Assurance Review as taking a lead responsibility for the recommendation.

Note, actions for other organisations to lead have been removed from this document.

Red Tractor's progress in delivering the FAR recommendations

Strategic Recommendation 1: On-farm audits must be reduced, simplified and delivered more consistently

PRIORITY FOR RED TRACTOR: Red Tractor fully supports this recommendation. We want farmers to experience real change with smarter risk-based audits which reduce burden. We are committed to prioritising the relevant recommendations in partnership with our certification bodies, assessors and other schemes to ensure audits to Red Tractor's standards are consistent, simplified, meaningful and as efficient as possible.

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I.1	Clarity about purpose	NFU & AHDB	RT will help and support at the request of the lead bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would be pleased to help and support NFU, AHDB and other stakeholders to agree the purpose and scope of farm assurance if required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May RT representatives participated in a follow up NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 17th September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate with the lead bodies, FA schemes and other relevant stakeholders

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT wrote on 21 March to NFU and AHDB who lead this action offering our help and support at a time that they feel is appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT provided input into a paper being prepared by AHDB on the purpose of assurance. 	
1.2	Revising standards	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT recognises the importance of this and has started work in this area in consultation with Sector Boards and key stakeholders to develop and finalise a policy for standards. The policy will initiate a review of and justification for existing standards and identify future changes as specified. This new 'Red Tractor Policy for Standards' will be published on our website with a review plan by July 2025. Progress against the review plan will be monitored and published every 6 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has met with farming representatives from all our Sector Boards to listen to their views and help inform a draft policy RT Sector Boards have been briefed on the draft 'Red Tractor Policy for Standards' ahead of their meetings in June RT Sector Boards considered and discussed the draft 'Red Tractor Policy for Standards' at their meetings in June and provided views on the future sector strategy Sector Board feedback was incorporated into a revised draft which was considered and agreed by Standards Committee and the AFS Board at its meeting on 18th July The Policy was published in August , following a final opportunity for Sector Board review, and will shortly be published on the RT website. Red Tractor provided members with details of this work in its monthly newsletter, Member Matters, on 22 July 2025. Between June and November 2025, Sector Boards developed technical sector strategies setting out the priorities for standards and operational aspects within each sector setting out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will consult in full on proposed revised standards in Autumn 2026.

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					<p>next steps to deliver improvements. These technical strategies take a sector-specific approach to delivering improvements. They were approved by the AFS Board on the 28 November. The objectives and priorities for each sector were then published with opportunities for stakeholder feedback on 8 December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All strategies include a commitment to review all farm facing standards in 2026 with the objective of reducing audit burden and duplication for farmers. Stakeholders had the opportunity to feedback on the priorities by 1 February 2026. RT received 131 responses to this request for feedback. Overall, the feedback confirmed the priorities set out in the sector strategies, with some useful insights which were presented to Sector Boards at meetings in February. Technical Advisory Committees are now in the process of reviewing standards line by line with proposed changes being reviewed by Sector Boards. 	
I.3	A right of appeal	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appealing audit outcomes is within the responsibility of the Certification Body so we will ask all who work with RT to ensure their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT hosted a meeting of all Certification Bodies on 7 May. Appeals were included on the agenda. All RT members have access to their Certification Body's appeal procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will monitor feedback from members to ensure the Appeal process is understood and unless

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				<p>appeals procedure is accessible to RT members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While RT has a Complaints and Appeals process which specifies that the appeal panel must include at least one person independent of RT, we will nevertheless consider steps to strengthen this process in line with the recommendation. We will then publish the process in full by June 2025. RT will review the process every two years. RT's existing suspensions process includes a 28-day grace period for non-conformances to be resolved with the exception of major non-conformances against key standards. 	<p>directly and links can be found on RT website Appeals section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT Standards Committee met on 13 May and reviewed and updated the RT Appeals process to ensure the FAR recommendations were included. On 29 May RT published a summary of the appeals process and the detailed appeals process. Red Tractor provided members with details and links in its monthly newsletter, Member Matters, on 4 June 2025. 	<p>required before RT will review the appeals process in two years, by May 2027.</p>
I.4	Proportionate sanctions	FA Schemes	RT will collaborate and consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While RT already has a process to ensure that sanctions are proportionate, the review has demonstrated that these sanctions are not sufficiently transparent or publicly available. Therefore, we will communicate and publish RT's sanctions by May 2025. Following discussion with other FA schemes RT will review sanctions in consultation with Sector Boards, to ensure they are consistent. RT has started progress against this recommendation by writing on 19th March to other FA Schemes to suggest we all collaborate on this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT Standards Committee met on 13 May and reviewed and agreed sanctions ensuring they were fair and proportionate and in line with the FAR. On 29 May RT published the Red Tractor Sanctions to ensure they were transparent and publicly available to all members and stakeholders. Red Tractor provided members with details and links in its monthly newsletter, Member Matters, on 4 June. RT has shared the Red Tractor Sanctions with Certification Bodies and other Farm Assurance Schemes – no opportunities to improve consistency any further have been identified. 	

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				topic to ensure a consistent approach.		
1.5	Risk based, coordinated inspection	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT already operates a risk based approach to audits in pigs, poultry and dairy however, a risk-based approach acknowledging low risk farms has not yet been developed or implemented. • RT will work with UKAS, our certification bodies, regulators, other FA schemes to ensure all aspects are considered in developing an achievable roadmap by sector. • RT will publish progress updates on this topic in Sector Board reports. • We will publish details of the RT Assessor Protocol and Training programme to demonstrate the processes that all assessors have to follow when conducting an audit by July 2025. • RT will work with our certification bodies to ensure appropriate information is shared prior to assessment including any guidance that may aid the member. • RT Complaints and Appeals process will be reviewed as part of 1.3 to check the process meets this recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for risk based coordinated inspections was discussed at the RT hosted meeting of all Certification Bodies on 7 May with all recognising the longer-term opportunities and associated operational changes which will be needed in this area. • A draft RT Assessor Protocol and Training programme has been drafted. • RT Standards Committee met on 13 May and reviewed and agreed the RT Complaints process ensuring it met the FAR Recommendations. • On 29 May RT published the Complaints Procedure to ensure they were transparent and publicly available to all members and stakeholders. • Red Tractor provided members with details and links in its monthly newsletter, Member Matters, on 4 June. • Standards Committee on 8th July agreed the RT Assessor Protocol and Training programme which includes amendments to allow more joint assessments to be accommodated • In July Certification Bodies were issued with the updated Protocol and they will be monitored by RT Compliance team to ensure their recruitment, training and monitoring of assessors complies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT will use the pig sector initially to pilot potential risk-based solutions with input from the RT Pig sector board • Updates will be provided in Sector Board reports <p>Note: While RT agrees with the principle of longer time periods between visits based on previous audit outcomes, delivering this in reality will require consultation and agreement with UKAS, Certification Bodies and the entire food chain, including retailers and food service companies, in order to ensure risk based audits are practical, possible under ISO17025 and accepted by customers.</p>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August RT published information About Assessors including skills, training and monitoring and included a link to a more detailed Assessor Background & Training As per UKFAR 1.10 RT has appointed John Pain as the new Vice Chair with part of the role responsible for leading on farmer well being On 8 December, RT published priorities for improvements in farming sectors developed by Sector Boards. These include a commitment to further explore options for risk-based assessment. 	
I.6	Learning lessons: using experience to support members	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT agrees there is an opportunity improve the value provided by audit information, and will consult with farming representatives on Sector Boards, other external support organisations (e.g. AHDB) and auditors to review how such information, including best practice examples, can be shared widely across the RT membership and industry. RT will pilot this with the dairy sector by Sept 2025. RT publishes compliance advice based on the most common non-conformances for members across all sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT Dairy board on 17th June considered work already done in this area – e.g. Demonstrating Compliance and article on Chlorates in January Technical Briefing. An article on ‘Tips for upholding standards year-round’ was included in Member Matters newsletter published in December 2025 and sent by email and post to all members. Eight assessor meetings had RT input since September plus 2 RT hosted webinars around topic of compliance. In December 2025 Red Tractor published a briefing to Pig Members sharing updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will publish a technical article each quarter to highlight best practice examples Additional assessor training and guidance around standard expectations is ongoing. We have a constant feedback loop on how RT and CBs can engage with opportunities and how members can demonstrate compliance via different routes.

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					guidance on piglet euthanasia in relation to clarification on what is considered legally permitted methods.	
I.7	Working in tandem: collaboration and cooperation between schemes	FA schemes, led by AHDB	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a large proportion of farms where RT and other FA scheme audits are required by the member they are already conducted at the same time (e.g. RT + LEAF we estimate >95%). This is delivered through our work with our certification bodies who also assess for many other FA schemes. However, this can improve, and separate audits in some devolved regions and between RT and RSPCA audits are the exception. RT has started progress against this recommendation by writing on 19th March to all other FA schemes to suggest we all collaborate on this important area and seek ways to improve. In some sectors, considerable additional audit burden is created by separate processor and customer audits, which RT has identified as a significant area omitted from the Commissioners' Report. RT will write to all retailers to urge them to work with RT to address this together. Relevant RT Sector Boards will identify areas for improvement in this area and develop an action plan to consult with relevant processors and customers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint inspections were discussed at the RT hosted meeting of all Certification Bodies (CBs) on 7 May. All CBs agreed to share data with RT to show proportion already delivered and identify opportunities. Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29th May. RT has been liaising with retailers and relevant fresh produce processors to help inform an accurate picture of audit burden additional to RT and other FA schemes in the sector. RT Fresh Produce board on 24th June discussed work to date on customer and processor additional audits and agreed priorities. An update was provided in the Fresh Produce Sector Board report. Data on the proportion of joint inspections which are currently delivered was presented to Standards Committee on 8th July and areas for improvement identified. Our proposals to offer an Enhanced Welfare pigs module will help reduce audit burden for pig farmers currently unable to have a joint RT & RSPCA assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT is currently liaising with appropriate CBs and other FA schemes prioritised by the Standards Committee to identify steps to increase the number of joint inspections. Updates will be provided in Sector Board reports

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will publish progress updates on this topic in sector board reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has been liaising with retailers and relevant fresh produce processors to help inform an accurate picture of audit burden additional to RT and other FA schemes in the sector. RT hosted a meeting of FA schemes on 16 October, where opportunities for collaboration were discussed. In Fresh Produce RT has commissioned an external agency to survey members and work with Fresh Produce Consortium on audit mapping. New modules for outdoor pigs were published on 1 Dec. RT published details of existing joint assessment opportunities, including in fresh produce on its website, and communicated these to members via the Members Matters newsletter in January 2026. RT continues to work in collaboration with Tesco so those in specific milk pools can continue to benefit from joint assessments. 	
I.8	Joint training for inspectors	FA Schemes, working with TIAH	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT is committed to continuous CPD for auditors delivering RT audits, and we have a dedicated Assessor Training Academy and internal staff resource in our Compliance Team to focus and deliver this. RT will review the current training provision to ensure it delivers the required framework, and training around communications and interpersonal skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Committee on 8th July agreed the RT CB protocol for assessors and CB personnel. RT met with TIAH leadership on July 15th and agreed to progress the assessor profile for the TIAH website along with an interview video with a target publication date of Sept 2025. In July Certification Bodies were issued with the updated Protocol and they will be monitored by RT Compliance team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessor CPD events will continue to be attended by RT.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will publish details of the RT Assessor Protocol and Training programme to demonstrate this by July 2025. RT is already a member of the TIAH Consultation Group, and wrote to TIAH on 19th March reconfirming our commitment to the work TIAH are doing and asking for suggested appropriate training providers as recommended. Statistics on the RT assessor training programme will be published annually, starting in Sept 2025. 	<p>to ensure their recruitment, training and monitoring of assessors complies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August RT published information About Assessors including skills, training and monitoring and included a link to a more detailed Assessor Background & Training and statistics on the RT assessor training programme. RT has worked with TIAH to develop a farm assessor job profiles on the TIAH website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification manager Farm assessor RT offered other FA schemes more collaboration at the meeting on 16th October 2025 and 15 January 2026. # RT attended four NSF Assessor CPD events across February and March 2026 and will continue to attend others in future. In the Fresh Produce sector, GLOBALG.A.P training is delivered alongside RT training. 	
1.9	Transparency between schemes and regulators	FA Schemes and industry regulators	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT recognises that transparency with regulators could deliver benefits to all parties – members, FA schemes and regulators themselves. RT has started progress against this recommendation by writing on 19th March to all other FA schemes to ascertain the potential to collaborate on knowledge exchange initiatives with regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has produced a series of 8 videos showing key elements of a farm assessment. These were shared with FSA on 27 February 2025. RT hosted an on-farm awareness day for key FSA staff on 19 May 2025. RT together with FSA met the National Agriculture Panel (NAP) of Trading Standards regional representatives on 10th June to discuss earned recognition procedures. 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through its existing memorandum of understanding with the Food Standards Agency, RT has agreed to host an on-farm awareness day for key FSA staff and inspectors. RT will produce videos showing elements of a RT farm inspection for sharing with FSA and other regulators to improve transparency by May 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT participated in an FSA hosted online meeting for all relevant Trading Standards officers to explain how the scheme works and answer questions on 19th November 2025 with over 175 attendees. Collaboration between assurance schemes was discussed at a meeting of farm assurance schemes on 15 January. RT is in the process of recruiting a Senior Public Affairs Manager role who will have a responsibility for coordinating engagement with government and regulators. 	
I.10	Addressing the impact of audit on farmer wellbeing	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT recognises the huge challenges facing the farming community and the pressure placed on some farmers and is fully committed to ensuring RT staff and auditors working on our behalf are appropriately trained. In addition, we believe that work in streamlining audits and implementing a risk-based approach has the potential to improve the impact. To amplify existing efforts, by July 2025 the RT Board will identify a director to take responsibility for overseeing this work and identify where improvements can be made, for example in the prominence and frequency of published support, or in the training provided to auditors or the RT telephone helpdesk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the Board meeting on 18 July, Alistair Mackintosh, RT Chair, confirmed that the new Vice Chair would take on responsibility for overseeing support for farmer wellbeing. At the end of July John Pain was confirmed as the new Vice Chair. The Vice Chair's job description includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice Chair is the Board Director nominated to oversee the impact of audits and assurance on farmer wellbeing. The Vice Chair should identify where improvements can be made, for example in the prominence and frequency of published support, in the training provided to auditors and through a revised approach to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will continue to work with farming charities, CBs and other organisations to identify tangible ways to support farmers wellbeing.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RT website carries more information and details are published in our Member Matters newsletter from time to time. RT staff who liaise with members on a regular basis have attended RABI Mental Health Training, and RT direct communication with individual members, particularly when sanctions are being applied, always highlights where further support can be found. Certification Bodies working with RT all provide regular training for their staff and auditors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> audits aimed at reducing the burden. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice Chair will report progress to the Main Board John is reaching out to relevant organisations, such as RABI and FCN, to seek their input and attended Red Tractor's member events in October to start to understand their views on assurance. In December RT sent all members a printed newsletter which included an article on organisations offering support to farmers. John Pain received a briefing from four RT contracted CBs on work and training already in place in area – as they work across different assurance schemes in addition to RT the training is linked to the outcomes rather than the specific schemes. John is now identifying potential next steps, with the potential of involving other FA schemes and farming charities in this work. The final direction of this work will be determined following the full results to the RT Farmer Sentiment Survey by Grounded Research, as this work is likely to inform the approach. Additionally, RT has supported the Yellow Wellies campaign, sharing messages of support to farmers 	

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					and has updated its support page on the RT website . More bespoke support information will be shared with livestock farmers facing potential exposes.	
1.11	Promoting consistency in inspections	FA Schemes	RT will consult with UKAS and Certification Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will consult with UKAS and certification bodies by July 2025 to identify what is possible whilst maintaining balance between consistency and objectivity and as such RT wrote to all RT certification bodies on 19th March. RT will also investigate whether capturing key information on IT systems and portals could assist with better knowledge retention in the future if the individual auditor has to change, for whatever reason. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed at the RT hosted meeting of all Certification Bodies on 7 May. RT hosted Red Tractor hosted contracted certification body meeting 9th Dec which included discussions of methods of assessment. Improvements being delivered to the RT portal, including the need for all assessors to use the portal if the farmer wishes to do so, are helping to improve consistency in approach and improve knowledge retention between assessors. Assessment consistency was also identified as a topic for potential cross-scheme focus at the Assurance Forum meeting in January (see 6.3). 	
1.12	Inspection as a career path	FA Schemes	RT will consult with Certification Bodies and FA Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will consult with Certification Bodies who contract / employ auditors as they are a key partner in addressing this area, together with universities and colleges. RT has started progress against this recommendation by writing on 19th March RT to certification bodies and FA Schemes offering to discuss how 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT met with TIAH and BASIS to discuss training opportunities for assessors. RT discussed the need for developing inspection as a career path with Certification Bodies in a meeting hosted on 7 May. RT is working with TIAH to develop a farm assessment job profile along with an interview video (filmed 18th August) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See further details in 1.8.

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				we can all collaborate to address this important topic.	<p>for the TIAH website due to be published by September (See 1.8).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August RT published information About Assessors including skills, training and monitoring and included a link to a more detailed Assessor Background & Training RT has worked with TIAH to develop a farm assessor job profiles on the TIAH website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification manager Farm assessor The job of a farm assurance and welfare auditor was featured in Farmers Guardian Careers Assessor CPD was also identified as a topic for potential cross-scheme focus at the Assurance Forum meeting in January (see 6.3). RT worked on a Day in the Life of an Assessor article, which was published in the March issue of British Dairying Magazine. 	
I.13	Risk-based inspection	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This directly links to Recommendation 1.5, in which all RT sectors fully agree this approach is an important ambition, whilst also recognising the risk assessment method and ways to deliver it will need to incorporate sector differences. RT will work with UKAS, our certification bodies, regulators, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential for risk-based coordinated inspections was discussed at the RT hosted meeting of all Certification Bodies on 7 May with all recognising the longer-term opportunities and associated operational changes which will be needed in this area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will use the pig sector initially to pilot potential risk-based solutions with input from the RT Pig sector board. Updates will be provided in sector board reports.

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				<p>other FA schemes to ensure all aspects around audit efficiency and best use of time are considered in developing an achievable roadmap by sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will publish progress updates on this topic in sector board reports on an ongoing basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of sectors discussed risk-based approaches as part of the future sector strategies at their June meetings. On 8 December, Red Tractor published priorities developed by Sector Boards for delivering sector-specific improvements. Many of these include consideration and options for risk-based assessment as a potential option for reducing audit burden and recognising good performance. Technical Advisory Committees are now following these priorities in their review of standards and auditing cycles. Proposals will be published for consultation in autumn 2026. 	

Strategic Recommendation 2: There must be a transformational step forward in embracing technology and managing data to deliver more effective farm assurance with greater added value for all

PRIORITY FOR RED TRACTOR: Red Tractor fully supports this recommendation and is committed to investing in and embracing technology and improving data management. This will start with the roll out of initial developments to the Red Tractor Portal to improve the functionality for members and assessors. We have started to seek views from stakeholders on which data integration options should be prioritised and piloted.

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2.1	'Tell Us Once': making good use of data	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT and our Sector Boards unanimously agree with this recommendation on the proviso farmers – given their wide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to assessor feedback improvements to RT portal tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor assessor use of the portal and continue to provide

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				<p>variation in levels of technology adoption – can still choose whether to use the portal or not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority work is already well underway to improve the portal experience for assessors. We will deliver training and issue a survey for further feedback on ideas for improvement by April 2025. • RT wrote to all certification bodies on 19th March stressing the importance of all assessors using the portal where farmers indicate they want to. • RT recognised this issue a number of years ago and developed its portal in late 2019 and launched it in 2020 partly to address this and partly to address the challenge of Covid. 	<p>were launched with user guides issued to all assessors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessor training sessions held in April both online and with assessors in Northern Ireland. • Focus on how RT can support assessors more with the RT portal was discussed at the RT hosted meeting of all Certification Bodies on 7 May. • Significant progress is being made in developing and exploring Improvements including discussion with farm software providers to ensure they provide information needed and compliant for Red Tractor audits, and that assessors know how to access this information easily. • RT staff attended a number of assessor meetings in the Autumn to discuss the portal gathering their views on potential improvements. • On 19 February, Red Tractor announced improvements to its portal including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live photos and geolocation: Time and date stamped to demonstrate compliance. • Quick links: Easy access to industry templates. • Requirements shortlist: Essential 	<p>training where needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider further improvements in light of assessor feedback.

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					<p>documents and records for the assessor at a glance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This announcement was accompanied by new guides and help documents to assist farmers in using the portal. • Use of the portal remains optional to farmers, with assessors required to use the portal if the farmer wishes to do so. • Of members who completed the RT post assessment survey in 2025 (n=2,109), 46% said that they used the Portal. Of these 77% said that their experience using the portal was excellent or good. • As part of our efforts to promote ongoing uptake of the Portal, in January 2026, RT supported a side event at the Oxford Farming Conference discussing the role of technology in farm assurance. • Additionally, RT is working with third party data providers to integrate RT requirements into their farm management apps. As a first step, we've worked with MeritAgCheck to integrate a crops standards check list into their app. 	

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2.2	Data ownership: the need for resolution	Farm assurance schemes, NFUs and AHDB	RT will collaborate at the request of the lead bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT recognises that the issue of data ownership is extremely important to our members, so we support this recommendation. RT wrote on 21st March to those identified to lead this action offering to collaborate at a time they feel is appropriate. In February 2024 Red Tractor was awarded a full Farm Data Principles Certificate, independently verifying that we operate to the highest standards of data security, privacy, and integrity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May. RT attended a further meeting hosted by AHDB on 17 September 2025 where AHDB updated on their Farm Data Exchange Proof of Concept project. As part of an organisational restructure, the role of Data Manager has been created within Red Tractor. A key responsibility of this role is to ensure data sharing principles are followed. 	
2.3	Creating a data co-op	FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will discuss this further with Commissioners to ensure a full understanding of the recommendation and is committed to consulting with necessary stakeholders to establish their views prior to agreeing a way to progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will consider the results of the AHDB proof of concept and consult with farming stakeholders on most appropriate next steps for RT handling of member data.
2.4	Supporting farmers in a digital world	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April 2025 RT will publish the first in a regular update in Member Matters and on the website about the RT portal, how it works and the benefits to members of using it, together with a survey for farmers to feedback ideas that RT can use to improve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT published details of improvement to the Portal in its special edition of Member Matters, on its website, and social channels. RT collaborated with Map of Ag to publish an article on how the organisations are collaborating on developing the RT Portal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT continues to make improvements to its Portal.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT currently provides user guides and a video on our website to help farmers use the RT Portal. RT does not charge members to use the RT portal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New developments to the RT Member Portal on 19 February were accompanied by new guides and help documents to assist farmers in using the portal. See 2.1 for further details. 	
2.5	Future possibilities: harnessing collective expertise	NFUs, AHDB and Defra Data Group, with Agri-Tech E &/or UK Agri-Tech Centre & FA Schemes	RT will collaborate with others as requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT is committed to playing its part with the wider industry in this area and awaits further clarification on how this will be coordinated across the wide number of industry stakeholders identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May Red Tractor representatives participated in a follow up NFUs /AHDB hosted meeting on 17th September 	
2.6	'Tell Us Once': collecting and storing data	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT and our Sector Boards unanimously agree with this recommendation, although feel that mandating it at this time would not be appropriate as use should be a farmer choice, with efficiency and visit frequency driving that decision. As outlined in 2.4, in April 2025, RT will publish its first of a regular update in Member Matters and on the website about the RT portal, how it works and the benefits to members of using it, together with a survey for farmers to feedback ideas that RT can use to improve. As described in 2.1, RT previously recognised this challenge and launched our portal in 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to farmer feedback improvements to the RT portal were launched in April Red Tractor published a special printed edition of its monthly newsletter, Member Matters, on 24 April with a feature on the RT portal and improvements which have been launched RT team have met with farming stakeholders to identify further portal improvements for development. RT is progressing developments on portal functionality. Significant progress is being made in developing and exploring improvements. These include 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT continues to make improvements to its Portal.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at March 2025 the RT portal has been used for documents relating to 10,482 member sites. RT commits to publishing an update on usage figures annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a mechanism for geo-tagged photographs to be uploaded to the RT Members Portal as a way of logging compliance. On 19 February, Red Tractor announced improvements to its portal. RT is also working with third party data providers to integrate RT requirements into their farm management apps. As a first step, we've worked with MeritAgCheck to integrate a crops standards check list into their ap See 2.1 for further details. 	
2.8	Keep it live: reviewing standards	FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the standards review (see 1.2) RT will consult with Sector Boards and government agencies to identify other similar opportunities. In February 2025 RT changed the beef and lamb standard to recognise the DEFRA Pathway visit as a way to demonstrate compliance with the standard requiring a health performance review. Details published in Technical Briefing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 1.2 RT initiated the process for reviewing farm-facing standards in 2026 by publishing priorities identified by each Sector Board. All strategies include a commitment to review all farm facing standards and auditing processes in 2026. Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) are now in the process of reviewing standards line by line with proposed changes being reviewed by Sector Boards. The review by TACs will review emerging legislation and other regulatory requirements with a view to removing duplication wherever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 1.2

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT will consult on proposed revised standards and any proposed changes in audit cycles in Autumn 2026. • In January 2026, RT announced a move to require all Safe Haven members, assured for seed potato production, to use the RT portal for recording and sharing documents. This is expected to significantly reduce the amount of time assessors spend on farm, creating efficiencies for both growers and auditors. 	
2.9	Investing in technology	AHDB to coordinate with FA Schemes	RT will support and collaborate at the request of the lead body AHDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT awaits further clarification from AHDB on how this will be coordinated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May • Red Tractor representatives participated in a follow up NFUs /AHDB hosted meeting on 17th September • Red Tractor continues to invest in its technology and data systems to support farmers (see 2.1) 	

Strategic Recommendation 3: Farm assurance schemes need to reset and/or restate their decision-making structures to establish farmers as the driving voice in standards development

PRIORITY FOR RED TRACTOR: The input and contribution that farmers make to the development of our standards, governance structures and on our Board is of vital importance to Red Tractor. We acknowledge that more can be done to ensure farmers feel consulted, listened to and able to influence decision-making. However, our Board and Sector Boards agree that as a whole supply chain assurance scheme, it's important that decision making is a collaborative process balanced between all stakeholders - this was also recognised by the Campbell Tickell Review.

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3.1	Creating and amending standards	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT acknowledge that more can be done to ensure farmers feel consulted, listened to and able to influence decision-making on standards. We also recognise that farmers have concerns about representation. • We are committed to continuous improvement in this area and will review how we consult on creating and amending standards as part of the Standards Review plan set out in 1.2. • Feedback from members on standards or other areas will continue to be encouraged via direct communication or our post assessment surveys, and we will consider other methods. • The input and contribution that farmers make to the development of our standards, governance structures and on our Board is of vital importance to Red Tractor. • Farmers are involved in RT Governance at all stages from Ownership Body to Board, Sector Boards and Technical Advisory Committees • Details are available in our Governance Handbook. • In the past RT members have had a clear route to making their views known on proposed RT standards through an open and transparent consultation process which we will improve. E.g. Version 5 Consultation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See 1.2 for updates on how RT is reviewing its policy for standards, and 8.1 on communications. • In April-June, RT consulted on amendments to its Pigs Standards. The consultation received 122 responses from a broad range of stakeholders. Details of the consultation and responses have been published on our website. • With input from our sector boards RT has developed a Policy for the Development of Red Tractor Standards which has been published on the website detailing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ accountability, ○ the principles for standard setting, ○ horizon scanning and drivers for change, ○ timescales and windows for change, ○ interim changes, ○ full review and version changes and governance, • On 8 December, RT initiated the process for reviewing farm-facing standards in 2026 by publishing priorities identified by each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See 1.2 and 8.1

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					<p>Sector Board with the opportunity for feedback until 1 February 2026. This process will include further consultation in 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) are now in the process of reviewing standards line by line with proposed changes being reviewed by Sector Boards. The review by TACs will review emerging legislation and other regulatory requirements with a view to removing duplication wherever possible. 	
3.2	Appointments to Sector Boards	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT recognises that some farmers do not feel their voices are heard. To address this, we will review the Sector Board Terms of Reference covering the structure of each Sector Board, how members are recruited and appointed, and their duties outlined to both represent their sector and disseminate information back from RT. They will also particularly examine how RT and those on our Sector Boards can be more transparent and engage with the wider farming community more thoroughly. • Sector Board Terms of Reference will be reviewed by July 2025. • Farmers are involved in RT Governance at all stages from Ownership Body to Board, Sector Boards and Technical Advisory Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT has met with farming representatives from all our Sector Boards to listen to their views and help inform a revised Sector Board Terms of Reference • RT Sector Boards have been briefed on the draft document ahead of their meetings in June • RT Sector Boards considered and discussed the draft 'Sector Board Terms of Reference' at their meetings in June. • Sector Board feedback was incorporated into a revised version which was considered and agreed by Standards Committee on 8 July. 	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details are available in our Governance Handbook. • The appointment process is defined in the Nominations Committee Terms of Reference which is published in the Governance Handbook • RT publishes summaries of the Red Tractor Board and Sector Board meetings on our website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFS Board reviewed a final version of the ToR following final feedback from Sector Boards. • The new ToR was published in the RT Governance Handbook in July 2025. • RT provided members with details and links in its monthly newsletter, Member Matters, on 22 July 2025. • RT appointed two new Sector Board chairs, following the process set out in the Nomination Committee and Sector Board Terms of Reference • RT has also applied this process in the recruitment of a new CEO, which has been clarified on its website. 	
3.3	Board structures in farm assurance schemes	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT welcomed the Campbell Tickell report in March 2024 and has implemented its recommendations since then. A report will be published in May 2025 on how these recommendations have been completed. • RT and our Sector Boards unanimously agree that there must be balance across the food supply chain on RT Sector Boards. • Following a review of our Sector Board Terms of Reference in July 2025 (see 3.2) we will then review each Sector Board to ensure the skills mix is balanced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT published a report on how it's delivered the recommendations of the Campbell Tickell Report on 3 June 2025. • An RT Sector Board survey was carried out in August. Overall, the feedback shows a significant improvement in all areas in comparison to the survey commissioned for the Campbell Tickell Report in April 2024. The results were shared with Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See 3.2

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					<p>Boards in their November meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 3.2 	
3.4	Balancing scheme demands	FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT Board will consult with the Commissioners and Sector Boards to consider how best to meet this recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RT Governance process means that the scheme is continually consulting with all stakeholders across the food supply chain. The new Policy for Red Tractor Standards has a section outlining how Full Reviews and Version Changes will be carried out in future. 	
3.5	Using impact assessments	FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 1.2 - RT will consult Sector Boards on a new RT Policy for Standards and take this recommendation into account when finalising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 1.2 – The new <u>RT Policy for Standards</u> includes a section under Principles for Standard Setting on Impact assessments. Technical Advisory Committees are currently in the process of reviewing Red Tractor Standards following the approach set out in the RT Policy for Standard Setting. 	
3.6	A federation of farm assurance schemes	FA Schemes	RT is committed to collaborating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has started progress against this recommendation by writing on 19th March RT to other FA Schemes to suggest we all collaborate on this recommendation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May attended by other FA schemes Individual meetings with some FA schemes have taken place to discuss potential ways of working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will continue to liaise with those FA schemes agreeing to collaborate. The next meeting to be

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT hosted an initial meeting of FA schemes on 16 October. The attendees agreed it would be good to meet regularly under the title The Assurance Forum and discuss how the collective could add value to all aspects of <u>the supply chain</u>. • On 15 January a further meeting was hosted by SQC and QMS and facilitated by John Davidson from NFUS. All participants from the October meeting attended, with the welcome addition of OF&G. Everyone agreed that Leaf Marque and RSPCA would be welcome additions to future meetings. • Participants updated on their own scheme activities which highlighted several areas of commonality. • The meeting discussed relationships with Certification Bodies, audit consistency, the Farm Assurance Review monitoring report and farmer wellbeing. • Actions include: 	<p>hosted by BEIC.</p>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formation of a Communications Task & Finish group ○ UKAS Chair & CEO to be invited to attend the next meeting ○ Circulation of a farmer wellbeing research proposal ○ Future meeting with AHDB and SAOS to discuss data ○ A joint letter on the impact of Govt's proposed animal welfare policy 	

Strategic Recommendation 4: A new industry-led initiative must set out the future environmental ambitions for farm assurance, establishing this as an area of competitive advantage for UK farming

Red Tractor accepts this really important area is for others to lead and is ready to support the sectors to help meet the environmental ambitions of UK farming, but only if we are asked to do so by all stakeholders within the sector.

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4.1	Developing acceptable environmental standards	AHDB, NFUs, Gov Ministries and relevant agencies	RT will support at the request of the lead bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT strongly welcomes this recommendation and in particular urges the AHDB/NFUs to clearly articulate what is required to be legally compliance with current environmental legislation. RT will support in this area where required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May Red Tractor representatives participated in a follow up NFUs /AHDB hosted meeting on 17th September On 15 October, RT responded to an ASA ruling relating to an old RT advert first aired in 2021. The ASA upheld a complaint by River Action that the advert misled consumers about the environmental standards covered by Red Tractor. RT strongly disagreed with the ruling and explained that the complaint was based on a misinterpretation of EA data. CEO, Jim Mosely appeared on BBC News defending RT and the standards we uphold. Media reporting as a result was balanced and carried RT's messaging. However, this ruling demonstrates the scrutiny that UK farmers are under in relation to the environment, in particular water pollution. In its meeting on 28 November 2025, the Red Tractor Board requested that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate with the lead bodies

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					<p>Sector Boards to consider how they might address water pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These discussions took place as part of Sector Board meetings in February 2026. All Sector Boards agreed that this is an issue that should remain a watching brief for RT Board meetings but that any action by RT should follow greater clarity on potential changes in regulation. • Details of the discussions have been published in Sector Board updates. 	
4.4	Telling the wider world what farming delivers for the environment	FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT will consult with Sector Boards and stakeholders once requested to be involved in communicating enhanced environmental standards to the wider public by NFUs, AHDB and wider farming and food chain stakeholders. • RT will continue to highlight good practice in farm animal welfare to the general public through our consumer marketing campaigns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT has championed British farming standards, including on animal welfare, in its recent communications on trade negotiations with the US and EU. This has included a media statement shared with mainstream media and social media communications. • RT has developed a communications strategy which includes activities to promote British farming (see 8.1) • RT published results of new consumer research showing support for British food, with coverage across social and trade media. • RT is working with a consumer PR agency, WPR to work on the delivery of its 25-year consumer PR campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering communications strategy (see 8.1)

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT is working with ten social media content creators to promote British produce with the Red Tractor label through cooking home produce. Initial results have been positive. Red Tractor's consumer PR and marketing campaign went live on 22 October. The campaign is expected to reach 93% British shoppers an average of seven times. PR activity secured media coverage with an estimated reach of 3.35 million, including 9 national news articles and 12 broadcast features. Social media content had 454,000 views with an engagement rate of 2.4%. On 15 October, RT responded to an ASA ruling relating to an old RT advert first aired in 2021. The ASA upheld a complaint by River Action that the advert misled consumers about the environmental standards covered by Red Tractor. RT strongly disagreed with the ruling and explained that the complaint was based on a misinterpretation of EA data. CEO, Jim Mosely appeared on BBC News defending RT and the standards we uphold. Media reporting as a result was balanced and carried RT's messaging. However, this ruling demonstrates the scrutiny that UK farmers are under in relation to the environment, in particular water pollution and the need for greater 	

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					collaboration in this area, as highlighted by the FAR strategic recommendation 4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regards to animal welfare, Red Tractor has been working to prepare for potential action by animal welfare campaigns. This has included collaboration on communicating the standards upheld by assured producers. 	
4.5	A 'foresight' exercise on future environmental standards	FA Schemes with farming and food chain industry reps	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By necessity, this will be built upon 4.1, hence RT will await a steer from AHDB and the farming unions upon which we will consult with our Sector Boards and stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See 4.1 	

Strategic Recommendation 5: The inclusion of regulatory requirements within farm assurance standards and audits should be conditional on government and regulators agreeing a form of 'earned recognition'

Red Tractor welcomes the suggestion of inclusion of earned recognition in government policies and agrees this important area requires a cross-industry approach to open the door. We would welcome the opportunity to work with regulatory agencies to identify further opportunities for earned recognition that would reduce audit burden for Red Tractor assured farms. We do not agree with the broad statement that regulatory requirements should only be included in farm assurance standards in return for Government 'earned recognition' as many of these will also be vital to deliver core elements of assurance (e.g. food safety, animal welfare, traceability etc) and the right approach will differ depending on the sector.

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5.2	Consistency of regulatory use of farm assurance	Gov depts, regulatory agencies and NFUs	RT will collaborate at the request of the lead bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has experience of earned recognition arrangements with some government agencies (e.g. FSA) and is committed to working in collaboration with NFUs and Government departments as soon as is practically possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May In September, RT wrote to the new Minister and Secretary of State offering collaboration. RT participated in an FSA hosted online meeting for all relevant Trading Standards officers to explain how the scheme works and answer questions on 19th November 2025 with over 175 attendees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to collaborate with the lead bodies
5.3	Agreeing how regulatory sanctions and farm assurance work together	Regulatory agencies with FA schemes	RT will collaborate with the lead bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT welcomes this recommendation and urges Government agencies to act so we can engage as soon as is practically possible. RT recognises that there are significant sensitivities amongst farmers in this area and so any proposals must provide clear benefits to RT members and be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued on-going liaison with FSA to deliver earned recognition arrangements RT is in the process of recruiting a Senior Public Affairs Manager to coordinate discussion with government, including policy makers and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will progress with other government departments once clarity over the appropriate contacts available – see 5.1

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				fully consulted with sector boards and farming organisations before agreement.		
5.4	Extending 'earned recognition'	FA schemes in consultation with gov depts	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will consult with Government departments on the concept of 'earned recognition'. A letter will be sent to set this in motion once there is clarity over the appropriate contacts within Government (see 5.1). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT continues to work closely with the FSA with whom we have a close working relationship and earned recognition arrangements (see 1.9) RT participated in a NFUs/AHDB hosted meeting on 29th May and shared experience of working with Government on delivering earned recognition. RT has reached out to the Welsh Assembly to offer to demonstrate where farmers comply with the new SFS scheme as a result of being RT assured. RT is in the process of recruiting a Senior Public Affairs Manager to coordinate discussion with government, including policy makers and regulators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will continue to explore opportunities for earned recognition as part of the development of its sector strategies.
5.6	Improving government understanding of the role of farm assurance	DEFRA	RT will continue to liaise with DEFRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT liaises with DEFRA's Farming & Countryside Programme on a monthly basis to ensure an understanding of Red Tractor's programme and always uses the opportunity to reinforce the importance of the farmer within the supply chain. We will continue to do this proactively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT representatives have attended a DEFRA 25-year farming roadmap session for stakeholders and a DEFRA Food Strategy workshop. At both the importance of the farmer and assurance within the supply chain were emphasised. RT's CEO has met with the Minister for Food Security and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to participate in DEFRA led initiatives

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					<p>Rural Affairs to offer collaboration to understand how assurance can assist in delivery of the UK Food Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August, RT wrote to MPs commenting on animal welfare exposes to offer briefings. • In September, RT wrote to the new Minister and Secretary of State offering collaboration. • RT is in the process of recruiting a Senior Public Affairs Manager to coordinate discussion with government, including policy makers and regulators. 	

Strategic Recommendation 6: There must be greater coordination in the way in which farm assurance operates across the UK nations

Red Tractor is committed to ongoing collaboration with Welsh, Scottish, and Northern Irish farming bodies and assurance schemes to ensure we understand and reflect devolved regulatory requirements in our scheme, maximise efficiency across the different assurance operations and identify opportunities for earned recognition of common standards.

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6.1	Consider a new approach for combinable crops	Crops supply chain orgs, coordinated by AHDB	RT will help and support at the request of the lead bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT is committed to helping and supporting NFU, AHDB and all stakeholders in the crops supply chain to establish how best to address the import equivalence challenge for the sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has provided feedback to AHDB on a draft project scope. The RT Crops Sector Board has identified the need to review options to move beyond a one-size-fits-all model and to reflect the needs of different supply chains in the priorities published on 8 December. In February, the Crops Sector Board received an update from AHDB on work to map crops assurance schemes within the UK and internationally. Members of the Crops Sector Board – in their individual capacity – have expressed concern that AHDB's work to look at international standards won't be delivered until the summer at the earliest, after the planned work by our Technical Advisory Committee to review RT Standards. Therefore, to help inform this work, the members of the Crops board have asked RT to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to help and support AHDB. Support in coordinating an industry-led effort to gather information on standards in other countries.

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					support in coordinating an effort to gather the information on standards in other countries.	
6.2	Improving Red Tractor understanding of farming in Northern Ireland	Red Tractor	RT will consult with the UFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT recognises that there is a unique trading environment in NI with the land border to the EU. • RT is committed to further consultation with UFU to ensure that these issues are discussed transparently at all relevant levels within RT governance. The three schemes which RT operates in NI have UFU representatives on the Sector Boards and TACs. • The RT Chairman and CEO meet with the UFU every two months. • RT meets regularly with NIFCC the certification body certifying the RT Dairy and poultry scheme in NI. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised by UFU to discuss once details of the UK EU trade deal are better understood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to consult with UFU and progress accordingly.

6.3	Creating 'one voice' for UK farm assurance	All FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has started progress against this recommendation by writing 19 March to other FA Schemes to suggest we all collaborate on this recommendation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor representatives participated in a NFUs / AHDB hosted meeting on 29 May attended by other FA schemes Individual meetings with some FA schemes have taken place to discuss potential ways of working (SQC, QMS, FAWL, NIBL FQAS,) RT hosted an initial meeting of FA schemes which has been confirmed for 16th October which was attended by David Llewellynn. RT will continue to liaise with those FA schemes through The Assurance Forum A second meeting took place in Edinburgh on 15th January 2026, hosted by SQC and QMS and facilitated by John Davidson from NFUS. All participants from the October meeting attended, with the welcome addition of OF&G. See 3.6 	
6.4	The role of whole-life in farm assurance	Relevant FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering whole-life is a clear objective for the RT beef and lamb sector board at the right time and in consultation and agreement with all stakeholders. Other recommendations are considered a priority at this stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At its meeting on 12 November 2025, the RT Beef & Lamb Sector agreed to further explore the issue of life assurance in the long term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On hold as other priorities for beef and lamb are progressed

Strategic Recommendation 7: Farm assurance schemes must better position the UK farming industry in world food markets and in competition with imported food

Red Tractor agrees this is an important area for the UK farming industry and looks forward to working with AHDB, farming unions and organisations, farmers, processors and government to promote British food both overseas and in the UK. We welcome the recommendations for others to lead to provide more transparency about standards for imported food.

Notes

*For ease of reading, and to demonstrate transparency, the table below includes a summary of what we understand to be the key asks of each recommendation. Please refer to the [Farm Assurance Review](#) for the detailed recommendations. **The lead organisations are those identified by the Farm Assurance Review as taking a lead responsibility for the recommendation.

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7.1	Standards for imported food	AHDB	RT will collaborate at the request of the lead body AHDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT welcomes this recommendation to provide more transparency in this area and will continue to collaborate with AHDB on this work as we have done on the work prior to March 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT and AHDB have had regular meetings to share knowledge and support AHDB work in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support AHDB work in this area
7.2	Informing UK farming about food standards in other nations	AHDB & NFUs	RT will collaborate at the request of the lead bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT welcomes this recommendation to provide more transparency in this area and will collaborate as requested by AHDB and NFUs. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will collaborate as requested by AHDB and NFUs
7.3	Farm assurance for combinable crops	FA Schemes with Crops Sector reps & their customers	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT Board will consult with the Commissioners and the stakeholders represented on the crops sector board to consider how best to meet this recommendation. 	See 6.1	

Strategic Recommendation 8: All farm assurance schemes must review, and, where necessary, improve their methods of communication with the farming industry

PRIORITY FOR RED TRACTOR: Red Tractor is totally committed to ensuring that farmers see, hear and feel real change. We are also focusing on improving how we communicate, particularly with farmers and growers, and embedding this into our leadership culture. We will implement a new communications strategy focused on building trust and engagement with farmers.

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8.1	A 'farmer first' approach to communications	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor is totally committed to ensuring that farmers see, hear and feel real change. RT will review its communications with farmers before developing and starting to deliver a new farmer engagement strategy from June 2025. RT will consult with other farmer-focused organisations to understand and collaborate on best practice approaches to farmer engagement. This strategy will include working with farmer representatives on RT's Sector Boards to ensure they have the tools needed to communicate effectively to those that they represent. As in 8.5, RT has developed new organisational values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 25 March, Red Tractor's newly appointed director of communications and engagement has reviewed Red Tractor's communications, consulting with technical, communications and leadership staff, Board and farming stakeholders including the NFU, AHDB and specialist agencies to identify areas for improvement. This has informed a comprehensive communications strategy which seeks to strengthen communications with all stakeholders, with a particular focus on building farmer trust. Key elements of the communications strategy include face to face farmer meetings, appointing a communications agency to add value to farmer-facing communications, improvement to digital communications to farmers – including the RT website and newsletters, better cascade of information to farmers, training for farmer-facing spokespeople and a review of farmer-focused research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on proposed standards in Autumn 2026 New, more transparent, presentation of governance information on redtractor.org.uk Hero video conveying value of RT to farmers 2026 events schedule Farmer wellbeing partnerships

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				<p>which will support a change in culture.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This strategy was presented to, and agreed by, Red Tractor's Board of Directors on 23 May. • Sector Boards were briefed on RT's new comms strategy with the opportunity to input on recommendations. • Improvements to Red Tractor's assurance website went live on 3 July, including improved navigation, more accessible content and a new design. • Following the June Sector Board meetings RT trailed a new way of cascading updates, supporting representatives to talk about RT. • Weekly communications updates are now being sent to all RT staff and Directors. • Red Tractor sponsored the Mixed Farmer of the Year Award in the Farmers Weekly Awards, and the Cumbrian Farmers Awards, inviting members to join us on the Red Tractor table. • Red Tractor staff and directors attended more than 50 farmer facing events, directly speaking to more than 1,000 stakeholders and members since 1 April 2025. • In October RT hosted a series of four farmer events to share their feedback and hear about our work to deliver change. Answers to key questions asked have been shared with all members both digitally and in a printed newsletter. • Following a comprehensive tendering process, RT has appointed agricultural 	

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					<p>comms specialists, Pinstone to deliver farmer facing PR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT has also appointed Grounded Research to deliver research into farmer sentiment towards Red Tractor. • A digital communications manager joined the RT comms team in November. • On 8 December, RT published priorities for improvements in each RT Sector, briefing media and all stakeholders on the opportunity for feedback. • A printed Member Matters was sent to all members in December 2025, focusing on the opportunities to feedback. • On 6 January 2026, RT launched a new Post Assessment Survey, supported by Grounded Research. The survey includes new questions and improved analysis to better understand farmer's experiences of RT assessments. • On 12 January, RT launched of a new Farmer Sentiment Survey to gather views and improve understanding of perceptions towards RT. • Improvements have been made to RT's monthly member newsletter, with a new format and delivery system. 	

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8.2	Implementing the Commission's recommendations	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are committed to providing regular updates on progress at www.redtractor.org.uk/FAR RT will work with David Llewellyn the independent Commissioner appointed to monitor progress to demonstrate transparently how the recommendations have been and will be addressed by us. RT will publish regular updates on its on our website to share our progress on delivering the Review recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of Red Tractor's leadership team met with David Llewellyn to confirm our commitment to implementing the Review's recommendations on 15 April Red Tractor published a special printed edition of its monthly newsletter, Member Matters, on 24 April. This newsletter was posted to all 42,000 members, detailing our response and highlighting projects already underway to deliver improvements. News shared in this newsletter have also been shared on Red Tractor's website and across our social media channels. Red Tractor ran a webinar to respond to member's questions on our response to the FAR on 28 April. An independent farmer member and journalist facilitated the session to ensure transparency and that member's questions were heard. A recording of the session, together with answers to questions asked during this webinar have been published. In August, RT submitted a full response to the Commissioner's interim survey on progress in delivering FAR recommendations. This progress report confirms our ongoing commitment to report regularly on progress. Similar reports will be published following future Board meetings. The 2026/27 objectives for RT, agreed by the Board of Directors, include a commitment to continue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor will continue to provide regular updates on our delivery of the FAR recommendations at www.redtractor.org.uk/FAR

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					to deliver the sentiment and aims of the FAR for farmers and growers.	
8.3	Using Features/Advantages/Benefits statement	FA Schemes	RT is committed to relevant consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will work with the Review Commissioners to understand the expectations and structure for FAB statements, before developing these or similar Value Propositions for farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing clear messaging and value propositions is a deliverable within Red Tractor's new communications strategy. Once these are in place Red Tractor will use these to develop FAB statements. FAB statements are in development. RT has developed Value Propositions for each of its key stakeholders. From this RT has developed and published content on its web page about the features and benefits of RT assurance for farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final messaging is being embedded into communications.
8.5	Implementing culture change	FA Schemes	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT is doubling down on our efforts to increase engagement with farmers as part of our leadership culture. RT will implement an annual survey with our Sector Boards to measure the effectiveness of the way our leadership act and communicate. RT will continue to seek feedback from farmers on a regular basis to understand how they feel about Red Tractor. Over the past six months, RT has crystallised its organisational values (Integrity, Trustworthy, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As detailed in 8.2 RT sought farmers views through a webinar on the FAR. RT has also met face to face with farmer groups, including at a local NFU event, Pigs Tomorrow and the Balmoral Show. Director appraisals involved feedback about behaviours. RT's values have been incorporated into staff development plans and objectives for 2025/26. RT's values are included in the recruitment process for new appointments. RT staff engaged in face-to-face farmer events, including Cereals 2025, The Three Counties Show, the Royal Highland Show and NFU Regional meetings as part of the role out of our communications strategy. RT Sector Board survey was carried out in August. Overall, the feedback shows a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT continues to invest in consultancy support to facilitate the development and build an inclusive and accountable culture.

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				<p>Community and Expertise) which include behaviours for its leaders and how we work with all our stakeholders particularly farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT will integrate these organisational values into its performance development, feedback and appraisal process for Directors, management and all staff. 	<p>significant improvement in all areas in comparison to the survey commissioned for the Campbell Tickell Report in April 2024. The results will be shared with Sector Boards in their November meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RT extended leadership team have completed training on 'Trust' and this will be extended to all staff on 26th November RT has developed and is delivering a farmer-first communications strategy, which puts building farmer trust at the heart of our communications (see 8.1) RT already gathers feedback from farmers in a post assessment survey which includes sentiment questions. We are now working with Grounded Research to improve this research and better understand farmers' views of RT. The RT team now has an appraisal process in place which includes performance against RT's core values. This has recently been used in mid-year appraisals. Personal Development Plans were introduced and used as the basis for developing a training programme. Based on identified individual development priorities, over 70% of employees have attended the arranged courses. Additionally, all employees have attended workshops covering trust and insights which 	

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					<p>help to build self-awareness. Team events have been arranged to discuss and develop ways of working both within and between teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual appraisal system was implemented for all Main Board Directors and staff in 2025. All employees and Board Directors have been asked to complete the online Nuffield Agdiversity training. An employee engagement survey conducted in October/November also showed positive results with all categories >80% positive and a net promoter score of 85%. This is significantly above UK benchmarks and was cascaded to all teams in December when actions plans were developed. In February 2026, RT conducted 360-degree feedback for its leadership team. This will be used to support their development and was based on the organisation values of integrity, trustworthy, community and expertise. 	
8.6	The ownership of Red Tractor	Red Tractor Board and Owners	RT Board will consult with its Ownership Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor welcomes the Review's recommendation that the RT Board is reaffirmed as the primary governing body for the organisation. The RT Board also welcomes the recommendation that the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT Ownership Body announced the appointment of Alistair Mackintosh as Red Tractor Chair on 23 May. It also accepted the recommendation that it should take a more active role and 'will support the Chair as the AFS Board considers the recommendations of both Reviews'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair will work with the Ownership Body to progress discussions in this area.

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				<p>owners of the scheme must show greater and more active leadership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RT Board is committed to consulting with the Ownership Body as to how to progress this recommendation. Discussions started at a meeting of the Ownership Body on 18th March 2025 and will continue at meetings over the coming months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Red Tractor's AGM in November 2025, the UFU and NFUS commended Red Tractor for the work they had done in relation to the FAR and for the Communications programme, which had been positively received amongst the farming community. The NFU, through their Main Board representation, have given similar feedback and have shown their support in working with Red Tractor to address specific challenges such as air and water quality. The Owners, through their Main Board representatives, have also given their support to the updating of Red Tractor's Vision and the 2026/27 draft Business Plan. 	

Strategic Recommendation 9: The RT scheme must complete the implementation of recommendations in the Campbell Tickell report

PRIORITY FOR RED TRACTOR: Since the publication of the Campbell Tickell report we've published a Governance Handbook, introduced a Board Member Code of Conduct, developed a process for Directors' appraisals and reviewed the Risk Register. We will publish a briefing on how we've delivered the governance recommendations from the report by the end of May 2025.

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9.1	Reviewing progress with the Campbell Tickell report	Red Tractor Board	RT Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT has implemented all the recommendations of the Campbell Tickell report. RT will publish a report detailing how the recommendations have been implemented by May 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 3 June Red Tractor published a report detailing how it has implemented the recommendations of the Campbell Tickell report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Tractor's governance now incorporates the recommendations made in the Campbell Tickell review.

Find out more about how Red Tractor is responding to the Farm Assurance Review

Visit: redtractor.org.uk/FAR

Email: memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk

