



## GN 104 Guidance note for Sponsors Supporting a CARAS Associateship Application

### Purpose of the Sponsor's Statement

The Sponsor's statement provides your National Panel, UK Moderators Panel with an initial assessment of the candidate's suitability for Associateship. It is an important part of the assessment process and helps determine whether the applicant's achievements and contributions are sufficiently outstanding to merit recognition.

We are seeking evidence of achievement that is clearly above the general level of others working in the same field. Sponsors should therefore focus on the significance, impact and distinctiveness of the candidate's contribution rather than simply describing their career history or professional competence.

### Understanding the Applicant's Chosen Option

Before preparing your statement, carefully review the applicant's application, submission title, supporting statement and chosen Option. Your comments should relate directly to the area on which the application is being assessed.

**Option 1a** - A high level of competence in a particular farming system.

Consider:

- What makes the applicant's performance exceptional compared with similar businesses or practitioners?
- Have they consistently achieved outstanding technical, financial, environmental or livestock/crop performance?
- Are there measurable results that demonstrate excellence?

**Option 1b** - A new farming practice or agricultural technique developed by, or actively advanced by, the applicant.

Consider:

- What innovation has the applicant introduced or developed?
- What problem did it address?
- What evidence is there of adoption, improvement or wider industry benefit?
- Has the innovation influenced others beyond the applicant's own business?

**Option 1c** - A personal contribution to agriculture or land-based industries through research, technology, economics, education, administration, welfare or related activities.

Consider:

- What specific contribution has the applicant made?
- What impact has it had on individuals, businesses, organisations or the wider sector?
- Has the contribution influenced policy, practice, education, research or industry development?

**Option 2** - A significant contribution arising from work based on a report prepared for another organisation.

Consider:

- What actions did the applicant take following completion of the report?
- What practical outcomes resulted from their work?
- How has agriculture or the land-based sector benefited from the subsequent activity?



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## The 5 Areas the Moderators panel would like you to cover within your sponsor's statement

### 1. Current Position and Industry Contribution

Details covering:

- The applicant's current role and responsibilities.
- Their influence within their organisation, business or sector.
- Any technical, practical or organisational innovations for which they have been personally responsible.
- The significance of their contribution to agriculture or the land-based industry.

### 2. Leadership and Personal Qualities

Provide your assessment of:

- Leadership ability.
- Initiative and drive.
- Professional integrity.
- Ability to influence and inspire others.
- Capacity for future development and continued contribution to the industry.

### 3. Professional Standing and Reputation

Comment on:

- How the applicant is regarded by peers and industry colleagues.
- Their reputation within the relevant sector.
- Any recognition, appointments or responsibilities that demonstrate professional esteem.
- Their likely ability to support and enhance the aims and reputation of the Associateship Scheme.

### 4. Wider Activities

Outline involvement in:

- Industry organisations.
- Professional bodies.
- Community initiatives.
- Education, training or knowledge exchange.
- Public service or national activities relevant to agriculture or the rural sector.

### 5. Final Recommendation

Conclude with a clear statement indicating whether, in your opinion, the applicant's achievements, leadership, professional standing and future potential justify the award of CARAS Associateship.



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### Tips on writing a good Sponsor's Statement

#### Do

- Focus on achievements and impact.
- Provide specific examples wherever possible.
- Explain why the applicant's contribution is exceptional.
- Use evidence, outcomes and measurable results.
- Relate your comments directly to the chosen Option.
- Offer a clear recommendation based on your professional knowledge of the applicant.

#### Avoid

- Simply repeating information from the applicant's submission.
- General statements without supporting evidence.
- Describing competence without demonstrating distinction.
- Excessive biographical detail unrelated to the application.
- Commentary that does not relate to the chosen Option.