

MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2008 AT 10 AM AT LISSUE HOUSE

Present:

Mr O Brennan (Chairperson)
Mr J McGaughey
Mr N McLaughlin
Mr C Tweedie (joined meeting at 11.25 am)
Mr R Watson

In attendance:

Mr D Rutledge
Miss S Blain
Mrs N Waite

2008/05/1 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance had been received from Mr G McCollum, Mr J Noble and Dr M Tempest.

2008/05/2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2008, taken as read, were approved by the commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr N McLaughlin
Seconded: Mr J McGaughey

2008/05/3 Matters Arising

(i) Meeting with NFU and BMPA

Action Point: Mr McLaughlin and Mr Tweedie will seek to assist in getting a date for a meeting agreed before the next Task Force meeting.

(ii) Free Range Research

The Marketing Director reported that research was commencing on 21 May 2008.

(iii) Good Food is in Our Nature

The Marketing Director circulated a schedule of export activity provided by Invest N.I.

(iv) Blue Tongue

The Technical Director has requested a copy of the blue tongue risk assessment from DARD and has been informed that the Department is “working at it”.

Action Point: The Board directed the Chief Executive to write to Mr B Houston (copied to the Permanent Secretary and the Board) requesting the risk assessment, as the Minister had implied it had been completed during her speech at the Balmoral DARD breakfast.

CORE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NOTING

2008/05/4 Marketing Report

The marketing report was noted.

2008/05/5 Technical Report

FSA Review

Action Point: The Board proposed that the FSA recommendations should be considered by the FQAS Board, and LMC would consider its opinion before submitting a response to FSA. The Chief Executive will arrange.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AND APPROVAL

Mr Edward Mason joined the meeting at 10.55 am

2008/05/6 Annual Report and Accounts

Action Point: The Board approved the draft Annual Report and Accounts prior to submission to the Audit Committee.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will write to NILGOSC seeking further clarity on the pension scheme valuation.

Mr Edward Mason left the meeting at 11.20 am.

2008/05/7 Internal Audit

The Board noted the draft Internal Audit Report and reiterated its decision to manage the environs of Lissue in keeping with its role of presenting the NI red meat industry positively .

Action Point: The Board asked the Chief Executive to work to improve the appearance of the entrance to Lissue House.

2008/05/8 IPSOS Mori Research

The Board noted the very positive shift in attitudes to LMC shown in the research, and was keen that this evidence should be communicated to the red meat industry.

Action Point: The Board asked the Marketing Director to consider how to make the best use of the research and to bring a proposal to the Board.

Action Point: The Board requested that the Marketing Director arrange a meeting with stakeholder representatives to discuss the results of the Mori research with regard to the bulletin and how LMC intended to proceed.

2008/05/9 Budget/Business Plan 2008/09

Action Point: The Board approved the revised business plan for 2008/09. The plan will be forwarded to DARD for approval.

2008/05/10 Government Announcement

Withheld – Commercially Sensitive

FURTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NOTING

2008/05/11 EID Draft Press Release

Noted.

2008/05/12 Notes from Executive Committee Meeting 8 May 2008

Noted.

2008/05/13 Reports

The following reports were noted:

Classification
Agency Services

2008/05/14 DARD request – Observations at Board Meetings

Action Point: The Board was delighted to facilitate DARD's request. The Chief Executive will convey this to DARD.

OTHER BUSINESS

2008/05/15 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the date of the next meeting would be 18 June 2008 at 10 am.

The Chairman advised that it was expected that the Minister would attend the next meeting.

Action Point: The Board agreed to send a letter to the Minister in advance of the meeting setting out issues that the Board would like to discuss. The Chief Executive will circulate proposed issues to Board members prior to finalising the letter to the Minister.

2008/06/1 Any Other Business

State Aid Rules

Action Point: The Board requested that the Executive produce a summary of the State Aid Rules and circulate to Board Members.

Meeting ended at 1.35 pm

