

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
TUESDAY 3 MAY 2022 AT 10.00AM AT BELMONT HOUSE HOTEL, BANBRIDGE**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mr J Lennon
Mr H Sinclair
Mr J Stewart
Mrs O Chesney
Mr G Maguire

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2022/4/1 Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2022/4/2 Declaration of Interests Pertaining to Agenda Items for Discussion

The Board agreed that none of the agenda items required any Board members to abstain from discussions.

**Compliance with the Management Statement & Financial Memorandum,
Sponsor Manual and Managing Public Money NI**

Confirmed.

2022/4/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 29 March 2022

The minutes of a meeting, held on 29 March 2022, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Lennon
Seconded: Mr H Sinclair

Signed _____
Chairman

2022/4/4 Matters Arising

- **Risk Register**

Action Point: The Board approved the updated Risk Register.

2022/4/5 Chairman's Report

- **Board Membership** – The Chairman reported that no decision had yet been made by the Minister. Some discussion within DAERA to offer extensions to existing Board members' terms. The Chairman will be pushing DAERA for a decision before 7 May 2022.
- **Quarterly Assurance Meeting** – The Chairman reported on Quarterly Assurance meeting with DAERA on 1 April 2022.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will forward the Quarterly Assurance statement and minutes of the meeting to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

- **Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector**

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting with NIMEA and UFU to discuss the Review. It had been a good meeting with all participants broadly supportive of the Review findings and in agreement that LMC should be kept closely involved in any new body.

2022/4/6 Chief Executive's Report

In advance of the meeting the Chief Executive had circulated a report relating to this section of the meeting.

- **Rising Costs Industry Taskforce**

The Chief Executive advised that the task force is developing an action plan which will help inform the key advisory messages that need to be communicated out to the wider agriculture industry.

Signed _____
Chairman

- **PGI for Irish Grass Fed Beef**

The Chief Executive reported that the European Commission has officially advised that it considers as admissible a reasoned statement of opposition to have Northern Ireland included within the geographic area recognised within the proposed Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) application for Irish Grass Fed Beef. The European Commission has now given a three-month period consultation period. The Chief Executive is to meet with UFU and NIMEA to agree a NI industry position to be negotiated during the consultation period.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

- **Veterinary Medicines Availability**

The Chief Executive reported on a series of ongoing engagements with the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) regarding the implications of the Northern Ireland Protocol on the availability of the majority of veterinary medicines in Northern Ireland from 1st January 2023. The industry is keen for negotiators to find pragmatic solutions as soon as possible.

- **Cattle Traceability and Welfare**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on LMC's response to the recent press coverage of a recent employment tribunal involving a former DAERA vet.

- **LMC Annual Report and Accounts**

Action Point: Board Members are requested to review and update their individual register of interests for publication in the Annual Report and Accounts.

- **Balmoral Show**

Balmoral Show is to be held on 11th – 14th May 2022.

2022/4/7 Business Monitor to Year End 31 March 2022

The Business Monitor to the year end 31 March 2022 was reviewed and noted by the Board.

2022/4/8 Board Self-Assessment Exercise (collated results)

The Chief Executive had collated the Board members' individual returns to the Self-Assessment exercise. The Chairman was delighted to report that no scores had

Signed _____
Chairman

been lower than 3 (the highest possible = 4) and thanked the Board members for their responses.

2022/4/9 Draft Business Plan and Budget for 2022-23

The Chief Executive had circulated a draft business plan and balanced budget to the Board. He had also circulated an indication of the first monitoring round bid by LMC.

Action Point: The Board approved the draft business plan, budget and monitoring round bid.

Proposed: Mr J Stewart
 Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

2022/4/10 Updated LMC Policies for Approval

Action Point: The Board approved the following updated LMC policies

- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Social Media Policy
- IT Security Policy
- LMC Complaints Procedure – External
- LMC Complaint Handling Guide for Staff
- Email and Internet Use Policy
- Anti-Bribery Policy

2022/4/11 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The Chief Executive advised that External Audit starts on 3 May 2022.

2022/4/12 Any Other Business

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

2022/4/13 Date of Next Meeting

The next LMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 June 2022 on MS teams.

The Board meeting ended at 12.00 noon.

Signed _____
 Chairman