

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY  
27 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 11.00AM AT LISSUE WALK, LISBURN AND VIA ZOOM**

**Present:**

Mr G McGivern (Chairman) via Zoom  
Mr H Sinclair  
Mr J Stewart  
Mr J Lennon (via Zoom)  
Mr G Maguire (via Zoom)

**In attendance:**

Mr I Stevenson  
Miss S Blain

**2023/2/1 Apologies**

None.

**2023/2/2 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.

**2023/2/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 23 January 2023**

The minutes of a meeting, held on 23 January 2023, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Stewart  
Seconded: Mr H Sinclair

**2023/2/4 Matters Arising**

- **VAT Compliance Review**

The Chief Executive was pleased to report that LMC had received a clean VAT compliance review. LMC had also been advised that the change in HMRC

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

policy regarding VAT treatment of levies will commence on 1 April 2024. LMC will make a submission regarding business/ non business element.

**Action Point:** The Chief Executive will contact other devolved bodies to discuss the HMRC policy change.

- **Meeting with DAERA Permanent Secretary**

**Action Point:** The Chairman will seek to arrange a meeting with the Permanent Secretary before the end of the terms of office of most of the Board.

- **Quarterly Section Reports**

All quarterly reports will be place for the final quarter of the year.

## 2023/2/5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman updated the Board on a number of areas and issues.

- Salon International de l'Agriculture in Paris – A lot of coverage in the French press, a visit by President Macron and tension between producers and environmentalists.
- Carbon Steering Group - Attended a recent meeting, *Withheld – commercially sensitive.*
- Board Membership – Competition for new members closed on 23 February 2023. DAERA has indicated that there has been a good response. The Chairman advised that Board appointments can be approved by the Secretary of State if no NI Executive in place.

## 2023/2/6 Chief Executive's Report

In advance of the meeting the Chief Executive had circulated several papers relating to this section of the meeting.

- **Sheep Taskforce** – The Chief Executive updated the Board on current progress. DAERA is considering the Taskforce reports and there has been very positive engagement with stakeholders.
- **Carbon Project** – An independent project manager has been appointed. A pre-pilot programme of 100 farms is to be funded by industry until DAERA funding has been approved.

**Action Point:** The Board requested the project manager prepare a project summary to highlight dates for decisions and key risks.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

- **Financial Matters-** The Board had been circulated with management accounts to December 2022. The Chief Executive highlighted the key figures and indicated there is likely to be an underspend mainly due to FQAS inspection rate being behind target. This is being closely monitored.

- **Declaration of Interests**

**Action Point:** Board members were requested to return Conflicts of Interest declaration forms to the Chief Executive.

- **Board Self – Assessment**

**Action Point:** The Chief Executive will amalgamate individual Board members returns to present an agreed version for approval at next Board meeting.

**2023/2/7 Risk Management / Health & Safety**

- **ARAC Meeting 27 February 2023**

The ARAC Chairman gave a verbal report of ARAC meeting held on 27 February 2023.

A new risk will be added to reflect future change in VAT treatment of levies. Most of the high risks are DAERA's responsibility.

Draft Internal Audit report is due shortly and ARAC Chairman will be meeting DAERA Internal Audit on 22 March 2023

**2023/2/8 Any Other Business**

None.

**2023/2/9 Date of Next Meeting**

The next LMC Board meeting will be held on Monday 20 March 2023 at 10.00am in Lissue Walk.

*The Board meeting ended at 12.10pm.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman