

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2014 AT 10.00AM  
AT LISSUE HOUSE**

**Present:**

Mr P O'Rourke (Chairman)  
Mr P McElroy  
Mr K Sharkey  
Mr I Mark  
Mr P O'Neill  
Mrs M McCormack

**In attendance:**

Mr I Stevenson  
Miss S Blain

**2014/8/1      Apologies**

No apologies had been received.

**2014/8/2      Minutes**

The minutes of a Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr P McElroy  
Seconded: Mr P O'Neill

**2014/8/3      Matters arising**

**(i)      Beef Cattle Specification/LMC Protocol**

The Chairman advised that while none of the parties had objected to the LMC Protocol, they had not formally signed off the document.

**Action Point:** The Board agreed that LMC will aim to have the main interested parties signed up to the protocol by the end of December 2014.

**(ii)      Meeting between the Departmental DARD Board and LMC Board**

The Chief Executive advised that LMC had received confirmation from DARD regarding a meeting to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**Action Point:** The Board agreed to hold its Board and Staff Meeting on the same date.

**(iii) Succession of LMC Board Members**

The Chairman has sent a letter to DARD Sponsor Branch, proposing that existing Board Members terms be extended. No formal response has been received yet.

**(iv) Request for a Meeting with the Minister regarding NILGOSC Pension Scheme**

The Chairman advised that the Minister was unable to meet the Board due to ongoing executive commitments. However, she has asked her senior officials to meet with the Board to discuss the issue.

**(v) Joint Initiative with other UK Levy Bodies on Changes to Retailers Cow Specification**

The Chief Executive reported that other UK levy bodies did not see the changes as an issue on GB, and also felt that it was outside their remits.

**Action Point:** The Board agreed that it would be difficult for LMC to change the UK Cow specification alone – no follow up action was proposed.

**(vi) Effective Stakeholder Engagement Workshop**

The Chairman was now unable to attend the workshop.

**Action Point:** The Chief Executive will seek to find a substitute to attend, as the registration fee is non-refundable.

**(vii) Agri-Search Workshop Consultation**

The Chief Executive advised that the consultation date had been extended to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

**Action Point:** The Board will forward any feedback to the Chief Executive as soon as possible.

**2014/8/4 Correspondence from DARD**

**(i) Request for LMC Audit Committee Annual Report**

**Action Point:** The Audit Committee Chairman will deal with this request after the next Audit Committee Meeting.

**(ii) Letter from DARD Permanent Secretary**

The Board had been circulated with a letter from the DARD Permanent Secretary which addressed actions to be taken to reduce costs by DARD and its other arms-length bodies.

The Board recognised the financial pressures being placed on DARD, and that it would be extremely challenging to get cover for additional expenditure over and above income.

**2014/8/5 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on meetings he had attended since the last Board Meeting.

**(i) SIAL 2014**

The Chairman reported on the recent SIAL event. He and LMC personnel met with processors, UK levy bodies, and Bord Bia.

There was a general opinion that the industry will improve if markets continue to open.

Exhibitors were not overpowering in their praise for Invest NI, and hope to apply pressure for change through the Agri-Food Strategy.

**2014/8/6 Chief Executive's Report**

*Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

**SAI Platform**

The Chief Executive reported that SAI Platform is organising an event in Brussels on 4 December 2014. LMC is facilitating a speaker through AFBI, and Mr J Gilliland will Chair the event. The Board commented on the strong Northern Ireland presence at the event.

**2014/8/7 *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive***

**2014/8/8 Northern Ireland Executive Response to Going for Growth**

The Board discussed the response document. The first recommendation of the Going for Growth Report has a completion date of December 2014. The Board will be interested in the outcome of the DETI led review.

**2014/8/9 Quarterly Business Monitor (July-Sept 2014)**

The Monitor was discussed by the Board.

**Action Point:** The Board agreed to reword the KPI for Business Objective No.10 to extend support to export initiatives to further than just Europe.

**2014/8/10 Quarterly Reports from Business Sections**

The quarterly reports were discussed and noted.

**Action Point:** The Board agreed to invite the Senior Managers to present their quarterly reports at Board Meetings. The Chief Executive will agree the format with the Senior Managers

**2014/8/11 Senior Management Team Meeting Minutes 2 October 2014**

Noted.

**2014/8/12 Any Other Business**

No items were notified in advance by Board Members.

**2014/8/13 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next Board Meeting will be held at 11.30am at Lissue House on Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2014.