

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 10.30AM
AT LISSUE HOUSE**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2014/7/1 Apologies

An apology had been received from Mrs M McCormack.

2014/7/2 Minutes

The minutes of a Meeting held on 3rd July 2014 were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr I Mark

Seconded: Mr P O'Neill

2014/7/3 Matters arising

(i) Meeting with the Minister

The Chairman advised that the Minister's office had not yet contacted LMC to rearrange a meeting with the Board.

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

The Chief Executive advised that he has confirmed a meeting on 11 December 2014 with the DARD Board. He has not received any further communication from DARD.

(iii) Review of Agri-Food Marketing and Promotion

The Chief Executive reported that LMC had submitted a response by the closing date, which was also copied to Board Members. LMC has not received any formal feedback from DARD.

2014/7/4 *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

2014/7/5 Chairman's Report

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

(i) Beef Cattle Specification Meeting/LMC Protocol

The Chairman detailed further meetings that had been held with all interested parties.

A protocol developed by LMC for the management of communication, and decision making around issues of specification, and related price signals has now been published. It has been publically supported by UFU and Minister O'Neill.

The Chairman also reported on individual meetings held with the Minister and the Chairman of the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will seek feedback from other UK levy bodies on their potential support for a joint initiative to challenge recent changes to retailers' cow specifications, which have potential to adversely impact on the industry.

2014/7/6 Chief Executive's Report

(i) Meeting with DARD Permanent Secretary 4 July 2014

The Chief Executive reported on a meeting held at Lissue House.

(ii) LMC/AFBI Beef Conference on 13 November 2014

The Chief Executive advised that LMC and AFBI will host a joint conference in November. The LMC Economist will be a representative on the working committee.

(iii) UK Red Meat Levy Group Meeting 29 September 2014

The Chief Executive will attend this meeting, at which changes to retailers' cow specification will be discussed.

(iv) Annual Pay Remit Process

Action Point: The Board agreed to progress and submit the pay remit 2014/15 applying a maximum of 1% to current salaries.

(ii) Global Round Table on Sustainable Beef

Action Point: The Board agreed that two members of LMC staff should attend this useful event.

(iii) Pilot Project on Information gathered on Sheep

The Chief Executive reported that the pilot project had worked well. A meeting has been arranged with key stakeholders to discuss the future of the project.

(iv) Effective Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

Three Board Members have been registered to attend on 11 November 2014.

Action Point: The Board agreed that attendees will provide feedback to the rest of the Board Members.

(v) Agri-Search Workshop

The Chief Executive advised that a consultation had been issued into the future direction of Agri-Search.

Action Point: The consultation document will be circulated to Board Members who will give feedback to the Chief Executive by 3 October 2014. A formal response will be submitted by LMC.

2014/7/7 LMC Business Monitor for Quarter 1 2014/14

Action Point: The monitor was noted and approved by the Board.

2014/7/8 LMC Policy Updates

(i) Code of Practice for Board Members

Action Point: The Code of Practice for Board Members was approved by the Board.

(ii) LMC Travel Policy

Action Point: The Board approved the LMC Travel Policy.

2014/7/9 Quarterly Reports from LMC Business Sections (April- June 2014)

Noted.

2014/7/10 Minutes of Senior Management Team Meeting 26/8/14

Action Point: The Board asked the Remuneration Committee to meet and report back at the next meeting on its consideration of issues raised in the minutes.

2014/7/11 Any Other Business

No items were notified in advance by Board Members.

2014/7/12 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Board Meeting will be held at 10.00am in Lissue House on Wednesday 22nd October 2014.

The meeting ended at 1.15pm.