

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY 21st
MARCH 2016 AT 10.00AM AT LISSUE HOUSE, LISBURN.**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mrs O Chesney
Mr J Lennon
Mr P McElroy
Mr H Sinclair

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2016/3/1 Apologies

An apology had been received from Mr G Maguire.

2016/3/2 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.

2016/3/3 Minutes

The minutes of a meeting, held on 22nd February 2016, were approved by the Commission, and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Lennon
Seconded: Mr H Sinclair

2016/3/4 Matters arising

(i) NI Year of Food and Drink 2016

The Chief Executive advised the Board that he will be in contact with Mr N Hardy (Invest NI) before the end of the month to discuss a potential event at Sial 2016. Aiken PR is also developing plans for a local event at St. George's Market, Belfast.

(ii) *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

(iii) *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

(iv) **EU referendum**

Following the LMC Board meeting in February, LMC was approached by an agri-journalist to provide a statement on the potential impact of a UK exit from the EU on the NI beef and lamb industry. A statement was provided by the Chief Executive in consultation with Board members and was published in Farmweek. The Board confirmed its support for this position.

2016/3/5 Chairman's Report

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

- Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB)
The Chairman and Chief Executive met with the Chair and four members of the AFSB. They felt it had been a positive engagement with AFSB, giving LMC an opportunity to state its position.
- Hilary Kinney (Kappa Consulting)
Engaged by AFSB to develop a marketing plan. Discussed LMC's submission to DETI, and potential opportunities/roles for the marketing body and what LMC could bring to the table.
- Judging Panel for Belfast Telegraph Cup
Winning entry will be announced on 1 April 2016.
- Interviewed by Richard Halleron for the first edition of LMC News.
- Meeting with representatives from Harper Adams University.

2016/3/6 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive had circulated a report prior to the meeting.

(i) **LMC Board Self-Assessment**

Action Point: The Chief Executive will circulate an electronic copy of the Board self-assessment document to Board members. Completed documents should be returned to the Chief Executive by 1 April 2016.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will consolidate all the responses for discussion at the next Board meeting.

(ii) BSE Negligible Risk Status

Action Point: The Board agreed that LMC will submit a response to the DARD consultation.

Action Point: The Board agreed to pay the fee for the application to the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will issue a press statement indicating LMC's support for the application to grant BSE Negligible Risk status for Northern Ireland.

(iii) Consultation on Review of CAP Coupled Support Options

Action Point: The Chief Executive will circulate a copy of the previous consultation response to Board members.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will develop a draft response for discussion at the April Board meeting.

(iv) Policy Reviews

The Board noted the reviewed policies.

(v) Balmoral Show 2016

Action Point: The Board members will be circulated with a provisional rota for their attendance on the LMC stand. The Chief Executive will ask the Education Services Manager to arrange.

2016/3/7

Risk Management/Health & Safety

(i) Draft Minutes of LMC ARAC meeting held on 22nd February 2016

The draft minutes had been circulated to the board.

Action Point: The ARAC Chairman will produce a draft ARAC annual report covering the period April 2015 to March 2016 for the next Board meeting.

2016/3/8

Any Other Business

None

2016/3/9 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be held at 10.00am on Monday 25th April 2016 at Lissue House.

Mr Uel Morton (Chief Executive of Quality Meat Scotland [QMS]) joined the meeting at 11.20am.

2016/3/10 Discussion of the relationship between QMS and Scotland Food & Drink

The Chairman welcomed Mr Morton to the Board meeting and invited him to share with the Board his experience of the relationship between QMS and Scotland Food & Drink [SFD].

Mr Morton addressed the Board and gave a background to the setting up of SFD, how QMS became involved and indicated the main factors that contributed to the different sectors in the food and drink industry setting aside their differences within SFD. He feels that the great strength of SFD is that the different sectors can meet across a table to discuss areas of mutuality and common problems.

The Board members took the opportunity to ask questions and discuss some of the areas further with Mr Morton.

The Chairman thanked Mr Morton for attending the Board meeting and for his valuable insights.

Meeting ended at 12.40pm.