

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY
24 JULY 2017 AT 10.00AM AT 1A LISSUE WALK, LISBURN**

Present:

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

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson

2017/7/1 Apologies

Mr G Maguire and Miss S Blain

2017/7/2 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.

2017/7/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting

The minutes of a Commission meeting, held on 26 June 2017, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mrs O Chesney

Seconded: Mr J Lennon

2017/7/4 Matters Arising**(i) Anuga 2017**

The Chief Executive advised that he would be meeting with Invest NI on Thursday 27 July 2017 to discuss arrangements for LMC participation in Anuga 2017 which would be taking place in Cologne, Germany from 7-11 October 2017.

2017/7/5 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on meetings and events he had participated in for LMC since the last Board meeting in June 2017:

- Meat Management Industry Awards in Birmingham on 28 June
- NSA Sheep Northern Ireland in Ballymena on 03 July
- Briefing of UK Agri Journalists in Ballymena on 03 July and on Edward Carson's farm in Downpatrick on 04 July

The Chairman reported that there had been good coverage of the Northern Ireland red meat industry and FQAS in The Scottish Farmer, Farmers Guardian and Meat Management Magazine following these events which was helping to deliver the LMC Board's objective of getting more coverage of our industry in UK national publications. The Chairman advised the Board that the Chief Executive had been nominated for, and was a finalist in, the Excellence Award for outstanding contribution and service to the UK meat industry and was presented with a finalist certificate by Meat Management Magazine at a black tie awards dinner in the Hilton Metropole Birmingham on Wednesday 28 June 2017.

Action Point:

- The Board congratulated the Chief Executive for this accolade at the awards and suggested that an article should be published in the LMC News to highlight this achievement by LMC.

2017/7/6 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive had provided a written update to the Board in advance of the meeting with reports on strategic matters pertaining to third country market access work, LMC sponsorship matters, declaration of outside interests statements and, FQAS workload.

Action Points:

- The Board agreed to support 50% of the cost of development and obtaining accreditation by the lab at AFBI Stormont for the Canadian O157 testing method.
- The Board requested the Chief Executive to consider the production of a quarterly or twice yearly update newsletter on LMC work for key stakeholder organisations.
- *Withheld – commercially sensitive.*
- The Board agreed to extend the contract of the (maternity cover) FQAS Manager until the end of December 2017, with the option for any further extension to be reviewed later in 2017.

2017/7/7 *Withheld – commercially sensitive*

2017/7/8 Brexit

- WTO Research Project:** The Chief Executive delivered a presentation to the Board on the findings of the LMC commissioned research project on the 'Impact of WTO Trading on the Northern Irish Beef and Sheep Meat Sector'. The Board noted

that The Andersons Centre (who had carried out this work for LMC) had presented the findings to DAERA's Brexit Consultative Committee on 18 July 2017 and to NIMEA on 19 July 2017.

Action Point:

- The Chief Executive will liaise with NIMEA and UFU to consider the best options for timing the launch and targeting the communication of the findings of this important project.

- (ii) **Policy priorities for Northern Ireland's beef and lamb sectors:**
The Board welcomed the publication of the LMC coordinated document and agreed that the release of this Brexit document to stakeholders with the next edition of the LMC Quarterly in August 2017 was a good precursor to the launch of the WTO project findings later in the year.

2017/7/9 Risk Management / Health & Safety

Nothing to report

2017/7/10 Quarterly Business Monitor

The Board noted the green status of all of the business objectives at the end of Quarter 1 of 2017-18. The Board welcomed the positive range of activities that were being delivered in support of the organisations strategic objectives.

2017/7/11 Quarterly Section Reports

The Board noted the reports from each of the business sections for Quarter 1 2017-18 and commended the staff for the comprehensive and informative updates to the Board. The Board discussed a number of issues in the reports including progress on the BVD PI Removal Incentivisation Scheme, LMC's involvement in Open Farm Weekend and the FQAS Appeal Panel process.

2017/7/12 Any Other Business

There were no items of any other business.

2017/7/13 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 25 September 2017.