

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2022 AT 10.00AM AT CROWNE PLAZA, SHAWS BRIDGE**

Present:

Mr G McGivern (Chairman)
Mr J Lennon
Mr G Maguire
Mr H Sinclair
Mr J Stewart
Mrs O Chesney

In attendance:

Mr I Stevenson
Miss S Blain

2022/2/1 Apologies

None.

2022/2/2 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.

2022/2/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 31 January 2022

The minutes of a meeting, held on 31 January 2022, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Lennon
Seconded: Mrs O Chesney

Signed _____
Chairman

2022/2/4 Matters Arising

- **Recruitment for New Board Members**

LMC understands that the recruitment process undertaken by DAERA is continuing.

- **Staffing Matters**

The Chief Executive advised that all new staff had commenced employment.

- **Board meeting with LMC staff**

Action Point: The Chief Executive will arrange a suitable venue for a staff meeting with the Board.

- **NIFDA Awards**

All Board members have indicated they can attend the NIFDA awards ceremony.

2022/2/5 Chairman's Report

- **World Events** - The Chairman reflected on the tragic events in Ukraine and the potential long-term impact on the world-wide agri-food industry.
- **Irish Farmers Journal** – The Chairman attended a climate change meeting held in Cookstown organised by the Irish Farmers Journal.
- **Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector** – The Chairman has not had an opportunity to speak to NIMEA or UFU as they have been engaged in other issues and not able to discuss the report. There does not seem to have been much movement around the setting up of the new body.

2022/2/6 Chief Executive's Report

In advance of the meeting the Chief Executive had circulated a report relating to this section of the meeting.

- **Climate Change**

The Chief Executive reported that LMC along with other agri-food industry organisations had sent a letter to all MLA's setting out the industry position regarding

Signed _____
Chairman

the proposed amendments to the draft executive climate change bill. The vote on the proposed amendments will take place later today (28 February 2022).

- **PGI**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the current position. LMC coordinated a joint industry submission to DEFRA regarding the grounds for opposition and DEFRA has now submitted the notice of opposition. Work is continuing on the grass fed beef verification system for Northern Ireland.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

- **Red Tractor**

LMC is due to have a joint meeting with Red Tractor, QMS and WLBP in March 2022 to try and iron out the final details on a common framework agreement

- **Management Accounts**

Management accounts to December 2021 had been circulated to the Board. A year end underspend is anticipated and is mainly a consequence of Covid-19 impacts on FQAS activities.

- **Certification Services Tender Exercise**

The Chief Executive reported that the tender exercise has closed and the tender evaluation panel has met to score tender submissions. It is anticipated that an award of the contract will be made in the coming week.

- **Business Planning for 2022/2023 Financial Year**

The Board discussed the priorities for the next financial year.

Action Point: The Chief Executive will aim to prepare a draft business plan for the next Board meeting.

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

2022/2/7 Risk Management/Health & Safety

- **External Audit Strategy 2021/22**

The NIAO is currently drafting the external audit strategy and will forward it to LMC ARA committee for approval.

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Chairman

- **Internal Audit**

The Chief Executive advised that the draft Internal Audit report is due soon for consideration by LMC.

2022/2/8 Any Other Business

- **Office Space Requirements**

The Chief Executive advised that the senior management team is considering the office space requirements for both existing and new staff. Discussions are taking place with the LMC landlord regarding the possibility of additional office space.

2022/2/9 Date of Next Meeting

The next LMC Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 March 2022 at Crown Plaza Hotel.

The Board meeting ended at 12.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairman