

**MINUTES OF A REMOTE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
MONDAY 31 JANUARY 2022 AT 10.00AM BY MS TEAMS**

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

2022/1/1 Apologies

None.

2022/1/2 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.

2022/1/3 Minutes of Commission Meeting Held on 25 November 2021

The minutes of a meeting, held on 25 November 2021, were approved by the Commission and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Mr J Lennon
Seconded: Mr J Stewart

Signed _____
Chairman

2022/1/4 Matters Arising

- **Certification Services Tender**

The Chief Executive advised that the successful tenderer should be in place for the 1 April 2022.

2022/1/5 Joint DAERA and LMC Board Meeting draft minutes of 25 November 2021

Noted.

2022/1/6 Chairman's Report

- **Covid 19** - The Chairman commented that it was 2 years since the 1st Covid case was reported in hospital and he hoped that there was light at the end of the tunnel. He proposed that the next Board meeting should be held in person and also that an in-person gathering with staff could be arranged before the end of his tenure as Chairman.

Action Point: The Chairman and Chief Executive will make suitable arrangements for in-person Board and staff meetings.

- **Recruitment for New Board Members** – The Chairman advised that the closing date for applications was the previous week. DAERA has decided the Chairman will have no input in the recruitment process.
- **Climate Change Legislation** – The red meat industry is hoping that the politicians make the right decision for the Northern Ireland agri-food industry.

2022/1/7 Chief Executive's Report

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

- **Covid-19**

LMC continues to follow the Covid-19 pandemic guide to the coronavirus restrictions in Northern Ireland and the public health advice. The Senior Management Team has

Signed _____
Chairman

been considering how the organisation might return to office based/hybrid working in the weeks and months ahead.

- **Staffing Matters**

Two of the three vacant staff positions have been filled. An offer was made for the final position but unfortunately the candidate declined the offer. No further recruitment is planned at this time.

- **Northern Ireland Affairs Committee**

The Chief Executive, Victor Chestnutt (UFU) and Michael Bell (NIFDA) gave oral evidence to the NI Affairs Committee on 26 January 2022.

- **Climate Change**

A meeting of representatives of the agri-food industry will be held at Stormont on 1 February 2022

- *Withheld – Commercially Sensitive*

- **NIFDA Awards**

The NIFDA Awards are being held on 11 March 2022.

Action Point: Board members will advise the Chief Executive if they wish to attend.

2022/1/8 DAERA Consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for NI – for consideration

Action Point: The Chief Executive will draft a response to the consultation and circulate it to Board members

2022/1/9 Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector – for consideration

The Chief Executive has given a briefing to the staff after the publication of the Review.

Action Point: The Chairman and Chief Executive will write to the DAERA, UFU, NIMEA and Dairy Council to request a meeting to discuss the Strategic Review Recommendations.

Signed _____
Chairman

2022/1/10 Risk Management/Health & Safety

The Chief Executive advised that a review of Risk Register is due before the end of March 2022. The new Corporate Governance Manager will take this forward.

2022/1/11 Quarterly Business Monitor to end of Q3 – for consideration and noting

Noted.

2022/1/12 Quarterly Business Section Reports – for noting

Noted.

2022/1/13 Any Other Business

-SMT meeting minutes 20 October 2021

Noted.

2022/1/14 Date of Next Meeting

The next LMC Board meeting will be held on Monday 28 February 2022 at 10am on Crown Plaza Hotel.

The Board meeting ended at 12.30pm.

Signed _____
Chairman