

Commonage Implementation Committee Terms of Reference

- 1) The Commonage Implementation Committee (CIC) is an independent ad hoc Committee set up to adjudicate on issues raised with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to commonages.
- 2) The CIC will be independent from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the performance of its functions.
- 3) The remit of the CIC extends to cover the following;
 - To examine cases where there is disagreement by shareholders over proposed minimum/ maximum stocking levels for commonages;
 - To assist with instances where difficulties emerge in securing agreement between shareholders regarding participation in EU funded schemes
 - To assist with instances where there is disagreement on the assigned commonage advisor
 - Other issues on implementation as may arise and deemed appropriate by the Committee
- 4) The members of the committee will include a chair appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine - Mr. Pádraig Gibbons together with representatives of Teagasc, the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and such experts as appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- 5) Persons dissatisfied with a recommendation affecting them in relation to issues relating to commonages may in the first instance, request a review of that decision from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- 6) Persons dissatisfied with the outcome under Paragraph 5 may request a review of that decision to the CIC Committee by submitting the request with all supporting documentation to the Secretary, Commonage Implementation Committee, GLAS Section, Johnstown Castle, Wexford.
- 7) The process of dealing with cases will be:
 - a) The Department will provide an individual file for each case which will include copies of all relevant documentation.
 - b) Cases will be assigned to the CIC and assigned to a committee meeting which will consider each case in a comprehensive manner. It is expected that this process may take a number of weeks to complete.
 - c) Committee meetings will, generally, be comprised of at least three Committee members and the chair.
 - d) In certain circumstances the Committee may request additional information, including an inspection, from the Department.
 - e) Having considered all relevant information a recommendation will be made on each individual case in a fair manner by collective decision of the Committee.

- 8) The Committee will make a recommendation in writing to the Department on each case following the outcome of their deliberations with agreement reached at a committee meeting.
- 9) The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine shall be the final decision maker in all cases where the Committee has made a recommendation.
- 10) Where a final decision affects payment entitlement of a beneficiary a right of appeal to the Agricultural Appeals Office against the decision of the Department shall exist.
- 11) Where a final decision does not affect payment entitlement of a beneficiary a right of referral to the Office of Ombudsman against the decision of the Department shall exist.

Commonage Implementation Committee
21 December 2016.