

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCOTTISH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides an update on issues emanating from the Scottish Food Advisory Committee.
2. The Board is invited to **note** the report by the Chair of the Scottish Food Advisory Committee. **No action** is required.

Food Standards Agency Scotland

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SFAC Meetings

1. SFAC held an Open meeting on Wednesday 29th August. Main discussion items were as follows:

Scottish Consumer Committee report 'Young People and Food Safety – 5 Years On'

2. Members agreed to establish a Sub Group to discuss this report and felt it was important for this group to focus on the knowledge and understanding of food safety and not base their opinion on the information included within the report as some information was factually incorrect. Food Standards Agency Scotland supported the idea of the Sub Group and agreed that reports needed to be based on sound science.

Science in the FSA

3. Dr Andrew Wadge, Chief Scientist FSA, attended the meeting and gave a presentation highlighting to members the progress, structure and success of science within FSA. Members were supportive of the annual report and the Blog featured on the website, and held a detailed discussion concluding that the report should be used as a key tool for communicating to consumers in the future.

Eating For Health

4. Susan Pryde, Head of Food Standards Diet & Nutrition Branch, Food Standards Agency Scotland (FSAS) and Anna Whyte, Head of Science Branch FSAS gave a presentation highlighting the successes and future work of FSAS within the Eating for Health agenda including:- reformulation, traffic light labelling, partnership working and public sector projects. The Committee were supportive of the future work presented on this item and agreed to engage with their personal networks to highlight major FSA projects and key messages. They agreed to take this forward at their next meeting in October.

EU Labelling Review Sub Group

5. Members of the Sub Group presented their initial thoughts and draft response to the FSA consultation 'General and Key Principles for Food Labelling: A Framework for the Provision of Mandatory Food Information including Labelling Requirements for Foods Sold Loose'. Members were supportive of the general principles and felt the consultation provided an opportunity to improve consumer information and protection. They were also in favour of key nutritional information

being made mandatory. Members agreed to submit a response to this consultation by 21 September.

AOB

6. FSAS are currently recruiting for two new members for SFAC due to Catherine Brady and Jim Arbuckle ending their terms in March 2008. To date 135 applications packs have been issued.

MEETING WITH OTHERS

7. Deputy Chair, Bill Reilly, attended a briefing session with SFAC's EU Labelling Sub Group, FSAS Officials and Teresa Ekong, Senior Policy Advisor, FSA in St Magnus House on 23 August. This session allowed the Sub Group to formulate their response to the 'General and Key Principals for Food Labelling: A Framework for the Provision of Mandatory Food Information including Labelling Requirements for Foods Sold Loose'
8. The Chair, Deputy Chair and members of the Committee attend a Business Forum for the Food Hygiene Information Scheme at the Whisky Heritage Centre in Edinburgh.

FUTURE SFAC OPEN MEETINGS

DATE	LOCATION	POTENTIAL TOPICS
11 October 2007	Dundee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of SFAC Sub Groups• Utilising SFAC networks
28 November 2007	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Retreat