

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Executive Summary**

1. The attached report provides an update on the work of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee.
2. The report is for **information** only. **No action** is required.

**Food Standards Agency Wales**

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**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE****Advisory Committee Meetings:**

1. The Welsh Food Advisory Committee held a closed meeting in Llandudno on 2 July. This was the first meeting attended by the four new appointees to the committee (Mr Stephen Bolchover, Mrs Susan Jones, Dr Hugh Jones, and Mr Derek Morgan). During the meeting the committee discussed its forward work programme for 2008-2009. Additionally, the Committee received a detailed briefing on the role and remit of the Wine Standards Board.
2. The open meeting, which followed the next day, was a themed session on "Food Safety". The committee discussed a paper informing on FSA involvement in Food Safety Week activities. Additionally, the Committee observed a presentation which focussed on FSA Wales' engagement with Welsh local authorities during Food Safety Week. The Committee discussed recent TV coverage concerning the consumption of food past its use by date. The Committee expressed a view that the Agency might wish to consider developing further information, for the consumer, informing on the difference between use by and sell by dates on foods. The main part of the meeting was devoted to a presentation on the Agency's research currently underway which might provide for the safe and legal production of skin on sheep meat. The Committee expressed a view that every action should be taken to ensure that any legislation to be implemented to provide for the safe production of skin on sheep meat should be done unilaterally within the EU.

**Forward Look:**

3. Please note that items listed are provisional, and are therefore subject to change.

<b>2008</b>	
10 September	Closed and open meeting Cardiff. Hold in diaries for now. Agenda yet to be determined. Possibly use date for an element of induction training for new WFAC members. Invite outgoing WFAC members to attend for valedictory dinner.
4/5 November	Closed and open meeting West Wales. Combination of business and themed session <i>Incident Prevention and Management</i> .

<b>2009</b>	
January 13/14	Closed and open themed meeting Cardiff. Theme <i>Dietary Health</i> .
One day meeting during Royal Welsh week 20-23 July. Date dependant on availability of venue.	Closed business meeting. Open themed discussions at Royal Welsh Agricultural showground on <i>Primary Production</i> issues.
November 10/11	Closed and open meeting North Wales. Combination of business and themed session <i>Local Authority enforcement issues</i> .

**Other Activities:**

4. During June, Dame Deirdre and I met with the Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister for Social Services. This was a regular stock take meeting in the course of which we were able to update the Deputy Minister on several strategic issues (including meat hygiene charging proposals, progress on the Food Information Regulation proposals, colourings in food, and folate fortification).
5. The deputy Minister informed us of the current state of play in relation to the development of the Welsh Assembly Government 'Quality of Food' strategy. A further meeting has been scheduled for spring 2009.
6. The Committee has contributed to the FSA response to an invitation from the National Assembly to comment upon proposed assembly Measure (effectively making 'Welsh' laws) on food in schools. In addition to offering preliminary written comments the Agency in Wales has signalled a willingness to contribute further as the measure progresses.
7. During July, I am proposing to meet with the Minister for Rural Affairs at the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss a number of issues including the safe production of skin on sheep and meat hygiene charging.