

Alison Austin - FSA Board Member

Outlines the professional history of our Board Members and gives details of any business interests they may have in order to ensure transparency.

Profile

Alison has experience of public sector Non-Executive Director roles as well as running an independent sustainability consultancy working with a range of businesses on strategy development covering environmental, social and governance matters. She spent 25 years working for Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd. in roles ranging from Marketing to Food Technical to Sustainability where she gained a strong understanding of consumers' needs in the food sector.

Since leaving Sainsbury's 16 years ago she has continued to be active in considering the interlinked interests of consumers and sustainability both within companies and public sector organisations. Previous roles include a Non-Executive Director of the Consumer Council for Water (a statutory body providing a voice and advice for consumers in a regulated market), Independent Board Member for Seafish where she represented Northern Ireland on the Board for six years. She has also been a Trustee for WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) which focused on food waste and packaging reduction strategies and the circular economy. She has worked with SGS UK Ltd and the Soil Association on governance of auditors for standards certification and accreditation.

Appointed to the FSA's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) between June 2021 and November 2025 her role on the Committee was to represent the needs of consumers to ensure that their interests were at the heart of the Committee's discussions.

Alison is a past Trustee of the Green Alliance (nine years) and a current Director of a renewable heat co-operative providing a district heating system for a care home complex as well as a member of a number of other community based, renewable energy schemes in her local area.

She was awarded the OBE for services to sustainability in 2000.

Register

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board Members are asked to declare any interests or related party interests that are relevant to the work of the FSA as well as all remunerated outside employment, work and appointments (whether relevant or not).

An individual may have other interests and while the FSA is aware of these, they are judged to be not relevant to the Members' role and therefore not in scope for publication.

All relevant interests are managed by the department to prevent the risk of perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interest.

- A pension investment portfolio managed by a third party.
- Stocks and Shares ISAs, managed, by a third party.
- Sustainability consultant trading as a Sole Trader.