

**Meeting of the Northern
Ireland Food Advisory
Committee on Tuesday
26th April 2022, FSA Office,
Belfast and via Microsoft
Teams.**

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Agenda | 2 |
| Minutes of Open Meeting 26 January 2022 | 4 |
| Update from Director for Regulatory Compliance, People and NI to NIFAC 26 April 2022..... | 8 |
| NIFAC Discussion on Dietary Health | 19 |

Agenda

- 10am Welcome & Housekeeping
- 10.05am Minutes of meeting 26th January 2022
Declaration of Interests
- 10.10am Introduction to the Team – Sharon Gilmore
- 10.15am Eating Well Choosing Better Programme – Kathleen Mooney
- 10.25am Out of Home Sector and Food in Schools – Jennifer McGonagle
- 10.35am Nutrition Standards in Health & Social Care and plans for councils – Naomi Davidson
- 10.50am Overview of nutrition surveillance data – Emily Boyd & Aoibheann Dunne
- 11.05am Dietary Health policy update – Fionnuala Close
- 11.15am Discussion
- 11.25am Break
- 11.35am The new obesity strategy for Northern Ireland - Gary Maxwell, Department of Health
- 11.55am Discussion
- 12.15pm Director & Chair Update
- 12.40pm AOB
- 12.45pm Close
- Lunch

**PAPER FOR DISCUSSION
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING ON 26 JANUARY 2022**

Executive Summary

Attached are the minutes of the 26 January 2022 NIFAC meeting.

Members are invited to:

- Agree minutes as a true record of proceedings.

FSA in Northern Ireland

Contact Robyn McNeilly
Tel 07870362457
Email Robyn.McNeilly@food.gov.uk

**OPEN MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(NIFAC) ON 26 JANUARY 2022 IN FSA OFFICE, BELFAST AND VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Those present:

NIFAC Members

- Colm McKenna
- Ellen Finlay
- Fiona Hanna
- Greg Irwin
- Cathal McDonnell
- Lynne McMullan
- Lorraine Crawford
- Ciaran McCartan

FSA Executive

- Maria Jennings – Director for Regulatory Compliance, People and NI
- Andy Cole, Deputy Director Northern Ireland
- Sharon Gilmore – Head of Standards and Dietary Health
- Roberta Ferson – Head of EU Relations, Assembly Liaison & Legal
- Elvira Diez – Head of Operational Policy & Delivery
- Jayne McGlaughlin – Senior Policy Advisor
- Robyn McNeilly – NIFAC Secretariat

Guest Speakers

- Sam Faulkner & Ben Haden, FSA Strategy Unit
- Grainne Walsh & Adam Newton, Stratagem Public Affairs

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chair welcomed all NIFAC members, presenters, and guests to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 22 October 2021.

2.1 The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of NIFAC's meeting on 22 October 2021. No issues were raised.

3. The FSA Strategy

3.1 The Chair invited Sam Faulkner & Ben Haden to present to the Committee.

3.2 The presentation is attached



2022-01-26 NIFAC
Strategy Update.pptx

3.3 There then followed a discussion based on the presentation.

- The Committee thanked Sam and Ben for a very detailed overview of the new FSA strategy.
- The team was congratulated by the Committee on the clarity of the strategy and the inclusion of Northern Ireland and the adoption of a three countries approach by default.
- NIFAC welcomed the timing of the strategy and agreed it was the perfect time to refresh changes.
- The Committee discussed the guiding principles and agreed that the introduction of a 3rd pillar was a great addition to the FSA mission and vision.
- Members considered the new vision at length, specifically sustainability, discussing ways in which FSA can support other government departments and others in the wider food systems to access a healthier and more sustainable diet.
- The Committee discussed “affordability” and acknowledged although not FSA responsibility, the challenge and impact could not be ignored, especially with an impending cost of living crisis.
- Members proposed the idea of including a case study in the strategy, specifically Food and You survey results for Northern Ireland. Sam agreed this was a good idea and would take time to consider how a case study might best fit.

4.0 Public Affairs Update

4.1 The Chair invited Grainne and Adam to present to the Committee.

4.2 The presentation is attached below:



NIFAC Presentation
Jan 2022.pptx

4.3 The Committee thanked Grainne and Adam for their informative overview of the Northern Ireland Assembly and upcoming May election.

5.0 Chair's Update & Director's Report

5.1 The Chair advised that he would be standing down from his role of FSA Board member for Northern Ireland and Chair of NIFAC. The recruitment campaign is in planning stages and hoped to be advertised in the coming months with a new Chair in post by late summer.

5.4 Maria touched on vast range of work FSA NI has been involved in over the last few months and told the Committee that her report highlights and celebrates the work the agency carries out as business as usual.

5.5 Members praised the FSA for their work around Brexit and were pleased to note the strong position district councils are currently in, in response to the FSA "Temperature Check" and the ongoing Recovery Roadmap.

5.6 The Committee was delighted to hear about the beneficial work the agency carried out in relation to food safety messaging in Northern Ireland's Romanian Community. Members proposed making this information available in different languages, reaching out to other communities in Northern Ireland.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 No further business was raised, and the meeting was closed.

PAPER FOR INFORMATION

UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR FOR REGULATORY COMPLIANCE, PEOPLE AND NI TO NIFAC 26 APRIL 2022

Executive Summary

Attached is the FSA in NI Director's update to the Committee for April 2022.

- No action by members is necessary.

FSA in Northern Ireland

Contact Robyn McNeilly
Tel 07870362457
Email Robyn.McNeilly@food.gov.uk

Food Is Safe

Register a Food Business campaign

Following a rise in the number of new food businesses during the pandemic, the FSA [launched a campaign](#) across three nations calling for all new food businesses to register with their local authority. Around 32% of new food businesses registered in Northern Ireland since the start of the pandemic are run from domestic kitchens. Insight shows many of these home-based sellers have progressed their hobby without realising that they have become a food business and have not registered with their District Council. Councils need to know the food businesses trading in their area to give them the right help with hygiene and standards to keep consumers safe. Digital assets created for this campaign included videos and audio advertisements with a Northern Ireland voiceover. To effectively reach audiences, this content ran on relevant podcasts, promoted Facebook Marketplace and Instagram adverts, and online advertising via google search. Marking the first time the FSA has used these channels for promoted content.

Along with our digital promotion of the campaign, relevant partners were engaged and invited to share our message. These included the Federation of Small Businesses, The WI, Food NI, and District Councils.

NI media coverage in Q1 across 7 pieces earned a potential audience reach of 138K.

We eagerly await evaluation from the paid for content, which will be made available at the end of April and updated from partners. When received, an evaluation of channel performance, the impact that this has on web traffic and ultimately registrations will be carried out.

COVID-19 Recovery Roadmap for Local Authority Delivery

The formal review of LA performance with the COVID-19 Recovery Roadmap is being undertaken using the bespoke online end of year survey. The survey was issued to LAs at the end of March for completion between 1 April and 30 April and is very similar to the interim temperature check surveys. It will enable us to obtain a picture of delivery against the Recovery Plan and to assess if the ongoing expectations and controls have been achieved. It will also help us assess the assurance that LAs should be able to achieve the next milestone (30 June 2022) and continue to deliver the ongoing expectations and controls. We will analyse the returns during early May and prepare a report for presentation to the Board in June. We also continue to monitor DC performance via NIFMG, intelligence reports and informal engagement.

Removal of Authorisation of Titanium Dioxide

E171 Titanium Dioxide is a substance commonly used to change or enhance the colour of food in products such as bakery goods, soups and sauces. In May 2021,

EFSA's updated safety assessment stated it was no longer safe when used as a Food Additive. The EU has now published Commission Regulation (EU) No 2022/63 which removes the authorisation of Titanium Dioxide. This regulation is applicable in Northern Ireland and means that manufacturing companies will no longer be permitted to produce or place on the market food products containing the food additive from 7 August 2022.

E171 will remain a permitted food additive in England, Wales and Scotland. GB manufacturers must produce products that comply with the market they are destined for. E171 is currently going through UK's food and feed risk analysis process. As part of this process, the UK's Scientific Advisory Committees are considering this issue. It is estimated the independent scientific assessment will conclude in the first quarter 2023, with a decision on the use of E171 in GB expected thereafter. We will continue to monitor developments, including outcomes of the UK risk analysis process, and provide updates when available.

Gathering and Using Science, Evidence and Information

Eating Well Choosing Better Tracker Survey (Wave 7)

The Dietary Health team has published the [seventh wave of the Eating Well Choosing Better Tracker Survey](#). The survey collects information on Northern Ireland consumers' perceptions of healthy eating, healthier options and reformulation; consumer use of traffic light labels; consumer knowledge and understanding of the recommended daily calorie intake and consumer awareness of the FSA's healthy eating campaigns. To help disseminate key findings to the Northern Ireland food industry, the Dietary Health team also developed infographics for the [retail/manufacturing](#) and [out of home](#) sectors. The survey findings will be used by the FSA to inform future policy development and have been shared with relevant stakeholders and industry representatives as an evidence base to continue engaging the Northern Ireland food industry with food product improvement.

Supplementary Kantar Reports on Take Home Purchasing of 'Marker Foods' and Alcohol in 2016, 2019 and 2020

The Dietary Health team have produced two supplementary reports to their main report on ['Northern Ireland Take Home Food and Drink Purchases 2016, 2019 and 2020'](#) using data from the Kantar Fast Moving Consumer Goods Purchase Panel. The additional reports focus specially on the purchasing of 'marker foods' and alcohol in NI. 'Marker foods' have been identified within the NI obesity prevention framework 'A Fitter Future for All' and are defined as 'foods and nutrients selected for their nutritional and public health relevance to current dietary concerns in the UK'. The findings of the supplementary analysis align with already published purchasing data. These reports will be shared directly with the Department of Health to support monitoring within 'A Fitter Future for All'.

Recall of Kinder Products Linked to Salmonellosis

Kinder chocolate products have been associated with an outbreak of salmonellosis in children in the UK and other European countries. A number of recalls have been undertaken by the production company 'Ferrero' in the UK.

The FSA issued a [Product Recall Information Notice](#) on 08/04/2022 informing consumers of the recall of Kinder Surprise Eggs. The FSA also issued an update [News Story](#) on its website on 15/04/2022.

There has been a total of 70 UK cases, including, one in Northern Ireland, 61 in England, seven in Scotland and one in Wales.

It should be noted that the producer associated with the outbreak manufactures the Kinder branded and associated products at three sites in Europe, none of the manufacturing takes place in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

The UK Public Health Agencies and the Food Standards Agency are continuing to work collaboratively to investigate this outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium. PHA and FSA in NI will continue to monitor cases of Salmonella Typhimurium in NI to assess new cases and determine if they are linked to this outbreak.

Ukraine Crisis – Shortage of Sunflower Oil

The Food Standards Agency has advised consumers that some food products labelled as containing sunflower oil may instead contain refined rapeseed oil. This is happening to maintain the supply of certain food products containing ingredients that have become increasingly difficult to source because of the conflict in Ukraine.

The majority of the UK's sunflower oil comes from Ukraine and food businesses here are reporting that supplies of sunflower oil are likely to run out with some businesses already experiencing severe difficulties.

This has led to some food manufacturers urgently replacing sunflower oil with refined rapeseed oil before being able to make the change on the label. We are therefore advising that food products labelled as containing sunflower oil may instead have been produced using refined rapeseed oil and consumers should look out for additional information being provided by retailers and manufacturers to stay informed.

The immediate food safety risk of substituting sunflower oil with refined rapeseed oil - particularly to people with a food allergy - is very low. We know allergic reactions to rapeseed oil are very rare and - if they do occur - are mild.

The FSA and FSS are working across government and the food industry to understand the challenges and ensure food supply is maintained in a way that is safe and in the interests of consumers.

Empowering Consumers

Speak Up for Allergies' campaign

The three-nation campaign launched on Wednesday 9 March and had two elements with a focus on young people and food businesses. For the food business aspect, insight shows that staff behaviour and how a business responds to a young person who presents with allergies can affect the experiences of that young person and impact whether they go back to that restaurant. We are therefore encouraging food businesses to implement thorough allergen management processes, and to ensure all front-of-house staff are appropriately trained and able to support people with allergies. We direct businesses to a dedicated [allergen checklist](#) page on the FSA website which features an updated poster which they can print and display in-house to encourage people to ask for information about the ingredients in their food and drink before they order. The second part of the campaign began on 16 March, and is aimed at young people aged 18-21 and their friends. Insight shows that young people with allergies feel more confident eating out when their friends are supportive, understanding, and aware of their allergies. Therefore, the campaign shows how that supportive role from friends can make a difference for someone with an allergy when ordering in a restaurant and making a food business aware of their allergy. The FSA also has an [advice for young people](#) page on our website. The campaign promotion includes use of the hashtag #SpeakUpForAllergies across a variety of channels including YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook, and we have been working with the influencers on TikTok and Instagram to help us reach young people. Throughout the campaign, we also engaged with industry stakeholders and District Councils.

Launch of the revised Nutritional Standards for Health and Social Care catering settings

The Food Standards Agency in partnership with the Public Health Agency, safefood and Department of Health have launched [updated Nutritional Standards](#) which are designed to make the food on offer for staff and visitors in hospital restaurants, cafés, vending machines and retail outlets healthier. They have been produced in partnership with Health and Social Care (HSC) colleagues with the overall aim of helping to address overweight and obesity and improve staff and visitor health and wellbeing. The standards were originally introduced in 2017 and have recently been updated to take into account the latest evidence and guidance. This has led to, for example, increasing fruit and vegetables and wholegrains while decreasing the amount of saturated fat, salt and processed meats. In addition to specific guidance for each food group, the Standards now also address the topics of vending and the food environment. To note, the standards do not apply to patient food and beverage provision.

Obesity Strategy

The FSA in Northern Ireland are working closely with the Department of Health on the development of the new obesity strategy. The current obesity prevention framework 'A Fitter Future for All' ends this year. The new strategy will incorporate a whole systems approach to obesity prevention and include a strong focus on the food environment and health inequalities. Members of the Dietary Health team are represented on the obesity prevention strategy steering group and the whole systems approach sub-group and are currently attending thematic workshops to assist in the co-production of a new 10-year strategic framework, building on the outcomes of 'A Fitter Future for All' whilst seeking new evidence-based outcomes, actions, collaborations and alignments to deliver real change.

EU Transition

Our priority has continued to be ensuring the smooth movement of safe food into Northern Ireland despite disruption caused by the recent P&O incident. The incident has resulted in a significant temporary increase in consignments being routed through Belfast whilst the Cairnryan to Larne route remains affected. District Council staff have responded commendably to these challenging circumstances and continue to deliver proportionate checks on goods to minimise disruption to food supply chains. Although Larne staff have been reassigned to inland duties supporting the recovery roadmap, teams will return to duties at the port once ferry services return to normal. At this time only one vessel is in operation on the Cairnryan to Larne route whilst the second vessel awaits final inspection by the Maritime and Coastguards Agency.

Although Liz Truss had set out her ambition to have outcomes on the protocol agreed by the end of March, so that no checks or documentation would be required for goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland and staying here. The unfortunate Ukraine crisis has rightly become a primary issue of focus for the UK, but there continues to be ongoing contact between the UK and EU Commission to discuss the protocol. The FSA continues to work closely with District Councils, DAERA and Defra on a range of matters that could potentially affect the movement of goods into Northern Ireland and making certain that NI interests are heard.

Annual Report on Official Controls (AROC)

Under Regulation (EU) 2017/625, and as an EU quasi-state, Northern Ireland must submit an annual report to the EU on official controls and cases of non-compliance, using the model form prescribed under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/723. The first such report in this new format was required to be submitted by UK (NI) for the 2020 calendar year. DAERA are responsible for submitting the report and have agreed with the EU to submit this report in Spring 2022. DAERA and FSA have worked together to collate the relevant available data for the 2020 return.

The model form is relatively detailed and prescriptive and as a result, some of the information/data was not available in the necessary format; in addition, some information was not available at all, in any retrievable format. That being the case, FSA provided the best available data and information for the 2020 return. FSA have since conducted a mapping exercise and assessment of the data currently available against the reporting requirements to align as far as possible with the reporting requirements for the 2021 report and future reports. Work is underway to explore the potential and feasibility for further proportionate data recording and retrieval with the aim of building data availability for future AROC returns. We have also commenced engagement with DAERA in relation to the governance arrangements for the 2021 return to facilitate submission of the report by the 31 August 2022 deadline.

Legislation

The team has been planning legislation we intend to take forward in the new Northern Ireland Assembly mandate. We hope to be able to pursue primary legislation giving FSA additional powers to investigate food and feed related offences committed under the Fraud Act 2006. Our secondary legislation programme includes regulations to: require businesses which supply food via online order to display their Food Hygiene Rating online; reflect the four country review of the Bread and Flour Regulations, including mandatory fortification with folic acid; provide for the enforcement of safety requirements on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food; and to provide for the enforcement of safety requirements on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control. It also includes two proposed Statutory Rules which unfortunately were not made during the last mandate: on the addition of vitamins, minerals and other substances to food; and on official controls carried to verify compliance with food and feed safety requirements. In March, FSA Chair Susan Jebb wrote to Minister of Health Robin Swann outlining this programme, and official level engagement with the Department of Health and relevant cross-departmental groups is ongoing.

Call for Evidence on Ocean Bound Plastic

Together with Food Standards Scotland (FSS), the FSA has launched a call for evidence to gather evidence on the use of recycled plastics originating from the open environment, through ocean-bound/cycle schemes in Food Contact Material (FCM) products. Ocean-bound plastic is a relatively new concept in FCM, and the intention of this call for evidence is to help assess and identify any potential risks to human health in its use. This relates to products that are in part, or fully manufactured using plastic material obtained from the environment, much of which originates from South-East Asia. The call for evidence is open until 20th September.

Public List of eligible Cannabidiol food products in England and Wales

On 31st March, a list of validated applications for CBD food products was published, applicable to England and Wales only.

This list does not apply in Northern Ireland and the position remains the same. That

is, CBD food products are unauthorised novel foods in Northern Ireland, under Regulation (EU) 2015/2283 on Novel Foods, as applied via the Protocol on Northern Ireland. CBD extract products require authorisation, including validation, to be placed on the Northern Ireland market. The European Food Safety Authority have not yet authorised any CBD food products as Novel Foods for the EU market. Therefore, there are currently no authorised CBD food products in the Northern Ireland market. District councils are the enforcement authority for the Novel Foods Regulations in Northern Ireland.

Authorisation of Regulated Products

As part of the process for the authorisation of Regulated Products, the FSA has recommended the approval of 9 Genetically Modified Organisms for GB. The recommendation to approve follows scientific assessment and consultation. Advice has been provided to Ministers, and progress is being made on authorisation by the laying of legislation. The process for approval of Novel Foods is ongoing, with advice prepared to go to Ministers, following consultation.

A consultation is being undertaken on applications for 11 Feed Additives, seeking views in relation to the risk management advice for the applications which have been submitted to the FSA's Regulated Products Approval Service. Stakeholders are being asked to consider the non-safety legal requirements and other legitimate factors relating to these applications. The responses to the consultations will be used to inform Ministerial decisions on the authorisation for use in England, Scotland, and Wales.

Requests for modification of authorisation holder details for five smoke flavouring authorisations has been received in GB and are currently progressing through the stages of Authorisation. Similar changes have been requested for the European Union and are progressing. The changes will be administrative in nature and have no bearing on the safety of the smoke flavourings or how they are used on the UK market. There are currently ten smoke flavouring primary products authorised for use in the UK and EU. These products have been approved for use since 2014 and are subject to a 10-year approval process, therefore are due to expire in January 2024. FSA Officials will monitor the approval process, which is expected to begin in mid-2022, and will provide updates as required.

Edible Insects

The EU is currently considering the authorisation of a number of Edible Insects as Novel Foods, with the yellow mealworm (*tenebrio molitor*), the migratory locust (*locusta migratoria*) and the house cricket (*achesta domesticus*) already receiving authorisation. Currently there are 9 other applications for insects, which are subject to a safety evaluation by EFSA.

As EU Food Law on Novel Foods continues to apply in Northern Ireland, these insects can be placed on the Northern Ireland market. Transitional measures are in place for the other 9 applications, meaning that they can continue to be placed on

the market in Northern Ireland, subject to the outcome of the safety evaluation by EFSA.

Airport Meet and Greet for Ukrainian refugees

In response to the rapidly developing situation in Ukraine, the Department for Communities put a call out for volunteers to cover multiple shifts at Belfast City and Belfast International airports to ensure that any refugees arriving would receive a friendly welcome and be sign posted to sources of early support.

As expected, there was an excellent response from FSA staff based in NI, including those working for teams outside the NI Directorate. 10 staff volunteered to help provide this support, in many cases giving up their evenings and weekends to ensure that the best help possible was offered to those coming here in such difficult circumstances.

Industry Engagement

FSA NI Industry Bulletin

The bulletin is intended to make it easy for industry organisations, businesses and interested parties within the food system to feel informed about EU legislative developments on food and feed matters. We advise our subscribers that editions are guided by subject matter so maybe irregular in their frequency. Subscriptions are growing, currently 1,343, and the edition sent on 10 February achieved a 19% open rate, a healthy performance well based on government benchmarks for engagement (c21%).

Eating Well Choosing Better Newsletter

The EWCB newsletter is our new targeted engagement channel with the Northern Ireland food industry to encourage and support food product improvement. Over time the updates on the latest nutrition policy, research, resources, and events will support in building the narrative around the next phase and progress of the EWCB programme. Following our first launch edition in February, EWCB Steering Group members are assisting with building the subscriber base across numerous segments of industry and interested parties.

IFEX 2022

Visiting the exhibition provided FSA NI Director and Deputy to opportunity to interact with stakeholders from Food NI, NI Takeaway Association and Fare Share. The accompanying imagery was used on FSA NI social channels to help signpost #IFEX2022 followers to our allergen guidance, food business registration page and MenuCal resources.

Healthier Product Innovation Award-NIFDA 2022 Food and Drink Awards

As part of the 2022 Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Awards, the FSA sponsored the 'Healthier Product Innovation Award'. This award recognised the commitment of

a Northern Ireland business to offer healthier products lower in calories, sugar, saturated fat and/or salt. The award was won by Shera McAloran, head of [Karri Kitchen](#) for her success in developing innovative Asian fusion inspired meals that focused on increasing vegetable content, portion size and meeting the FSA's green and amber traffic light label criteria. Media coverage referencing FSA and the NIFDA Awards in Q1 resulted in 7 pieces with a potential reach of 324k.

Cheesecake Reformulation Workshop

The Dietary Health team in partnership with the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) hosted a cheesecake reformulation workshop on the 23rd of March 2022. The purpose of the workshop was to launch [guidance](#) developed to support industry to produce healthier cheesecake that meets the UK Government's guidelines for calories, sugar and salt. The workshop welcomed delegates from the manufacturing, retail, catering and education sectors. Speakers included food technologists from CAFRE who provided advice on how to reformulate cheesecake while still meeting consumer demand for taste and value, as well as Invest NI who provided an overview of relevant consumer insights and funding opportunities available to support industry with reformulation and new product development. The guidance is available on the FSA and CAFRE websites and the Dietary Health team will work with the Northern Ireland District Councils to disseminate it to relevant food businesses.

Food Hypersensitivity Symposium 2022

In March, the FSA held its annual Food Hypersensitivity Symposium – Food Hyposensitivity Perspectives and Practice. The symposium was for food business and associated bodies and promotes information and good practice sharing between key stakeholders across the UK. It brought together key experts to consider and share their thoughts on Food Hypersensitivity from different perspectives to help businesses manage allergens more effectively. The symposium covered how FSA work with others to manage Food Hypersensitivity, including clinical aspects as well as the consequences of living with Food Hypersensitivity. It also focused on sharing experiences and practice to help businesses to implement and embed allergen management, including the role of Local Authorities in supporting food businesses, practical experiences, and the recent launch of new model guidelines for implementing allergen management in schools

Maria Jennings

Director for Regulatory Compliance, People and NI

NIFAC DISCUSSION

Dietary Health

Executive Summary

The theme of the meeting is dietary health, with a focus on the new Obesity Strategy for Northern Ireland. The Committee will be hearing from the dietary health team, who will provide an overview of recent nutrition workstreams, consumer data and emerging dietary health policy.

Gary Maxwell from the Department of Health will update members on the Northern Ireland Obesity Strategy Project, providing background to the project, key challenges faced and progress to date.

There will then be a panel discussion to allow NIFAC members to ask further questions to help inform the Committee's advice and information to the FSA on this topic.

Members are invited to:

- Consider the content of the presentations and;
- Comment on and consider the impacts of dietary health and obesity in Northern Ireland.