

**REGULATING OUR FUTURE – DEVELOPING THE FSA’S NEW APPROACH TO REGULATING FOOD  
BUSINESSES**

**PRESENTATION**



# Food Standards Agency

Outputs

Workshop sessions 14/15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

# What are the reasons for change?

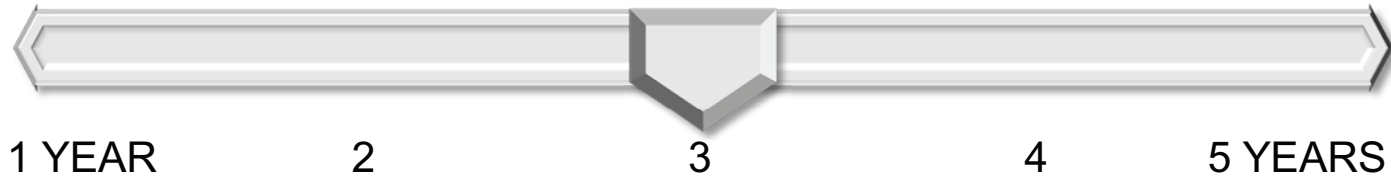
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1. Current one size fits all approach is not fit for purpose in achieving consumer protection
2. Meat industry regulation is the most outdated
3. Local authorities are under severe pressure that is worsening
4. There is a major opportunity to use technology to fundamentally change the way we regulate the food industry

# What is our level of ambition?

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Timescale



Level of Change



Level of Involvement in good businesses



## Where have we got to?

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Based on principles and extensive stakeholder engagement, we have come up with a blueprint for an overarching future model.

It is presented here for Board discussion, with examples of how it could be put into practice for two business groups.

Our intention is that this model will form the basis of the next stage of engagement, along with testing and piloting the approach.

The high-level model will apply to all food businesses, large or small, irrespective of the type of food or feed they produce, handle or sell.

Here we explain how the model could be applied to very large businesses and SMEs. Our next phase of work will involve refining and potentially expanding this segmentation

# Overview of overarching model

- Approach tailored to businesses' willingness/ability to provide us with information
- Our systems should help businesses to be 'responsible food businesses' from the start.
- Opportunities for coaching and development to be part of this business support regime.

- This will be different for different businesses, but always evidencing compliance with the standards the FSA has set.
- If the information we receive through this process is continuously satisfactory, the business will remain in this stage.

SEGMENTATION

ASSURANCE

SET-UP

EVENT

INTERVENTION

- Businesses need to be clear about expectations
- The set-up phase helps businesses to understand the expected standards and is the start of our relationship with them.
- Registration is currently the first stage in this process. We propose to reinforce this, including a mechanism to ensure that the information we hold about businesses is up-to-date.

If a business is not meeting the required standards or level of performance, we will intervene so they can modify their behaviour. Following an intervention we will reconsider whether the assurance regime for that particular business needs to be changed.

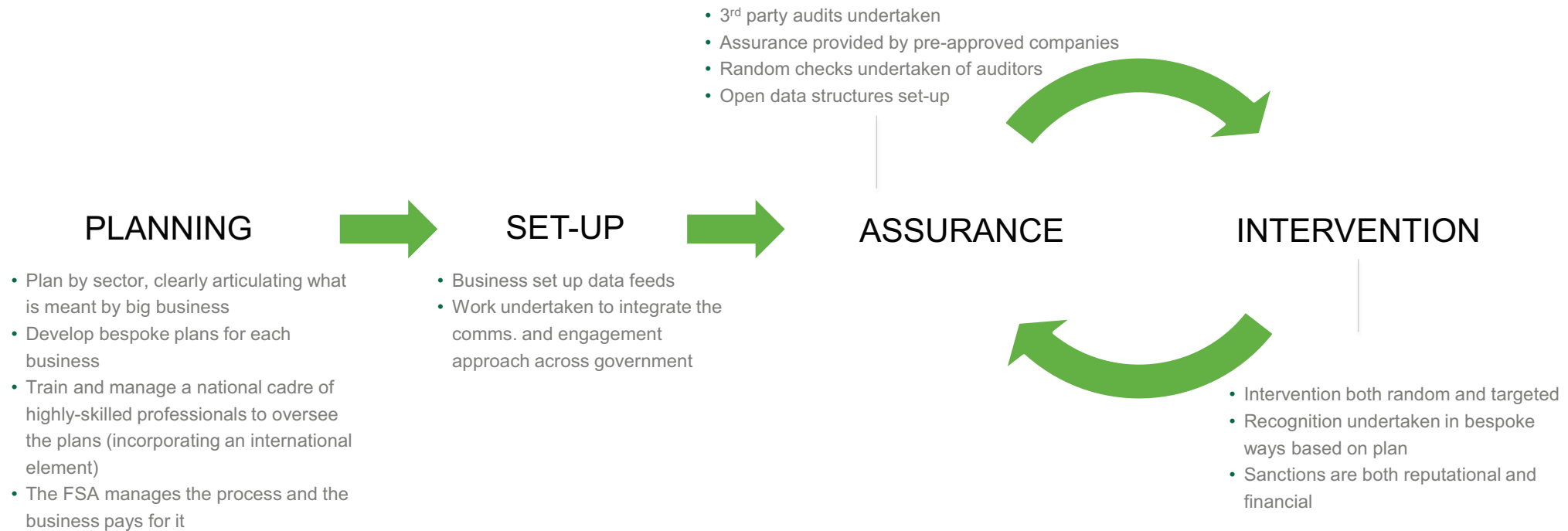
We will be revisiting the sanctions at our disposal to ensure they allow us to tackle non-compliance as effectively and swiftly as we would like, when dealing with businesses who continuously put consumers at risk.

SPOT CHECKS, SAMPLING AND SURVEILLANCE

MONITORING & EVALUATION

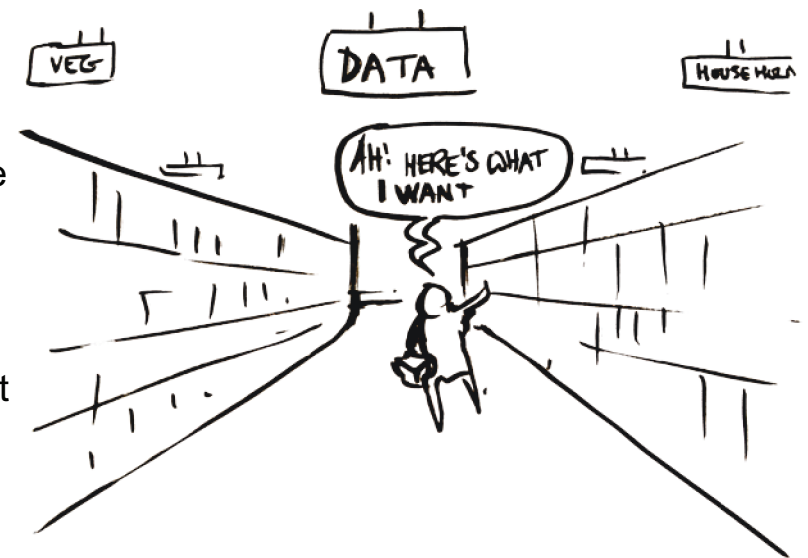
# The potential model for big business

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# Big businesses, big data, big wins – a glimpse of the future

- FSA and the Big Business Voluntary Forum today were thrilled with their joint statement, building on 3 years of collaboration and intensive piloting.
- All large food businesses signed up to a voluntary code to publish their data – making it available to the FSA, consumers, app developers etc.
- Expanding from the success of the campylobacter campaign, the FSA and businesses worked to agree data standards, with the FSA maintaining a role in verifying the quality and reliability of the data (paid for by the businesses).
- Benefits: reduced number of inspections, much larger volume of assurance data
- FSA maintains strong suite of sanctions to address any wrong-doing
- Big Brother Food Business says “This is brill! Customers trust us more than ever – no more useless inspections, and we are more confident that non-compliant businesses will be identified and made to comply – finally, a level playing field!”





# The potential model for SMEs

- Segmentation is based on previous track record / type of business / FHRS score
- It requires provision of evidence to demonstrate FSMS
- This leads to intervention based on a technology enabled decision model
- Anyone can deliver once the FSA has set the framework

- Random sampling undertaken to verify compliance by regulator
- Potential mandatory display of FHRS+, issued by FSA accredited body
- FBOs self certification on an annual basis or when a business event occurs
- Gain a complete picture of every business in one place
- Work undertaken by LAs / FSA / private sector

## SEGMENTATION

## ASSURANCE

## PRE-TRADING

- Business notifies of intention to trade
- Seeks advice on how to set up
- Understands legal obligations and trains staff
- Develops food safety management system—support through safer food, better business
- Online :
  - Registers business (charged?)
  - Advice is available
  - Evidence of systems / processes
  - Need for incentives (e.g. lower insurance)
- Works undertaken by Private Companies / Trade Associations / LAs

## INTERVENTION

- Demonstrate ongoing compliance – light touch if any
- Reward and recognise compliance
- Physical intervention at cost to FBO to take action and ensure compliance
- If required action not taken by FBO to return to compliance, then robust sanctions taken – with closure where appropriate

## RISK-ENHANCING CHANGE

- Change of owner
- Food incident
- Consumer complaint
- Persistently non compliant
- Poor confidence in management



# SMEs – a glimpse of the future

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- Education is at the heart of our approach – helping businesses along the path to producing safe food

SME A:

*“Before we started trading we knew what, how and when we had to do things – and we did them. Our assurance partner is helpful, even though they’re sometimes challenging, and what we pay them seems pretty reasonable.”*

SME B:

*“Today three takeaway owners have been prosecuted for failing to meet food safety and authenticity standards, putting public health at risk”*

SME C:

*“I’ve just expanded my business so I had a visit from my assurance partner, so we can both be confident my food safety management system is still adequate for my business model. I got my FHRs rating updated at the same time”*



# High level plan

