

Paper FSA in Wales 19/10/03
For discussion

Update from director

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper signposts to issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held on 18 September 2019. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk>. The paper also provides an update on issues of relevance to Wales and forms the basis of the update to the Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC).
2. The Director of FSA in Wales will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.
3. Members are invited to:
 - **note** the update
 - **invite** the Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

FSA in Wales Contact: Lucy Edwards
Lucy.edwards@food.gov.uk

Paper FSA 19/10/03
For discussion
Update from director

1. Summary of Chief Executive's Report to Open Board Meeting 19 June 2019.

1.1. The Board received the written report (FSA 19/06/04) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at:

https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-19-09-03-ce-report-to-board-final_0.pdf

2. Director of Wales' Report on Matters Pertaining to Wales

External Engagement

2.1. I have been involved in the following engagement opportunities since WFAC last met in open session on 10 July 2019:

- 18 July – Meeting with Chair of the Public Protection Wales Board) and Simon Wilkinson (WLGA Regulatory Services policy officer)
- 22-25 July – Various events at the Royal Welsh Show including NFU Cymru Brexit Seminar, BVA Welsh branch reception, AMR workshop and FUW President's reception
- 28 August – Meeting with Public Protection Wales Board policy lead for Food Safety and Standards. Meeting with Chief Executive Officer, Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus Ltd
- 11 September – Meeting with Welsh Government Policy
- 13 September – Directors of Public Protection Wales Liaison meeting
- 20 September – meeting with the Private Office of the Minister of Health and Social Services
- 3-4 October – Meeting with Scotland Food Enforcement Liaison Committee
- 7 October – Meeting with Zero to Five at Cardiff Met
- 10 – 11 October – All Wales Public Service Leaders' Summit
- 15 October – Meeting with Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales
- 21 October – Inaugural meeting of the Food Law Enforcement Liaison Committee
- 23 October - UK international association of Food protection conference

Official Controls Regulation

2.2 On 9 July, the FSA in Wales launched a consultation seeking stakeholders views on the implementation of the Official Controls Regulation in relation to the FSA's areas of responsibility for food and feed law and animal health and welfare in Wales. The Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (OCR) applies from 14 December 2019 and will be directly applicable in Wales if, on 14 December 2019, the UK:

- remains in the EU

- or has agreed an implementation/transitional period with the EU.

The consultation closed on 9 October and a summary of responses received will be published by February 2020.

UK FHRs Focus Group

2.3 The FSA has reinstated the UK FHRs Focus Group to provide a forum to discuss the ongoing implementation and operation of FHRs matters that relate to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The first meeting took place on 17 October. There is representation from the FSA in Wales on the group.

EU Exit

2.4 FSA planning has been on a no deal basis and the overall FSA EU exit work programme was delivered in time for 31st March.

Legislation

Regarding legislation, all pre-exit Statutory Instruments (SIs) have been made both at the UK level, and for the Welsh domestic regulations. These are ready to come into force on exit day. One further FSA wash up SI and two Defra SIs are to be made post exit.

Imports

There will be no changes to checks on high risk imported food on day one. High risk food from third countries will still be checked. There will be no additional checks on high risk from EU on day one (and won't be any until the risk changes).

We have improved our surveillance arrangements and will introduce a requirement for prenotification of high-risk food imports from the EU. (Defra are the lead for the Traces replacement IPAFFS, which the FSA are actively contributing to).

All local authorities in Wales have been offered imports training to refresh their knowledge should checks be needed, and we have an Imports Delivery Manager based in Holyhead should the Port Health Authority there (or at any other ports) need additional support.

Emergency response

The FSA stood up its emergency response for EU Exit on 2 September and will manage and coordinate the Agency's response via its established Non-Routine Incident Management Plan (IMP). A Briefing Cell was set up from 30 September and is designed to be scalable depending on business need.

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Social Science

2.5 On Monday 4 November the FSA will hold its annual Symposium for Social Science in Cardiff. The event is part of the ESCR Festival of Social Science. The focus for the event this year will be on innovation and the changing world, whether that be social, technological or methodological, and some of the work underway to better understand the future implications for food and food regulation. It will offer an excellent opportunity for anyone in the social science or policy making community to hear about how social science directly informs real life policy making in a government context. As well as learning about the work and priorities of the FSA, funding opportunities and emerging ideas, it is also a networking opportunity to put people in touch with experts from academia, industry and policy. Further information can be found at: <https://esrc.ukri.org/public-engagement/festival-of-social-science/festival-events/events-in-wales/food-standards-agency-symposium-of-social-science-symposiwm-gwyddorau-cymdeithasol-yr-asiantaeth-safonau-bwyd/>

Forward Look for Director of Wales

3.1 Between now and the next open meeting of the WFAC on 9 January 2020, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:

- 29 October - FSA/Welsh Government liaison meeting
- 1 November - Meeting with representatives of Directors for Public Protection Wales and also a meeting with the British Retail Consortium
- 4 November – ESRC Conference
- 14 November – Policy Forum for Wales keynote seminar
- 27 November – meeting with Public Health Wales

Nathan Barnhouse
Director, FSA in Wales
October 2019