

FSAW 19/04/02
For discussion

Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC) Chairman's report on issues raised at last open board meeting

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides a brief summary of matters introduced by the Board Chair at the Board meeting held in March 2019 and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/>
2. Members of the Committee are invited to:
 - **note** the Board discussions
 - **invite** the Chair to expand on any issues for further discussion.

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WFAC Chairman's report – April 2019

1. Board Chair's Report to the March 2019 Board meeting

1.1 The Board Chair provided an update on recent engagements and highlighted the Board and FSA Executive January away-day held to consider corporate risk and the shape of the business plan for the coming year. Information was provided on a range of meetings held to discuss EU exit planning including meetings held with the Secretary of State for Health, the Public Health Minister Steve Brine and with the Defra Minister David Ruttley. The Board Chair also highlighted discussions with David Ruttley over the FSA's provision of animal welfare services and a meeting held with Lord Gardener, the Lords Minister for Defra, to discuss his portfolio around bio-security and its role in relation to food incidents.

2. Summary of Main Discussion Items

2.1 At the March 2019 meeting the Board considered the following matters:

- **EU Exit:** An oral update in relation to the FSA's EU exit work.
- **Local Authority Performance:** The paper sets out proposals for updating and improving how the FSA can monitor, assess and provide assurance on local authority performance.
- **Annual Science Update from FSA's Chief Scientific Adviser and the Annual Science Report from the Science Council Chair:** Both of these annual reports provided a personal perspective, one from the FSA's independent Chief Scientific Adviser and the other from the Chair of the Science Council. Both reports outlined the current status of the FSA's science and set out the key opportunities and challenges ahead.
- **Risk Assurance:** The paper mapped proposed assurance mechanisms to apply through the stages of the risk analysis process and set out an FSA approach to the evidencing and consideration of an appropriately broad set of impacts in risk management.
- **Strategic Risk Management:** The paper set out the timeline for the Board to consider the next strategic priorities for the FSA, and included a summary of the outcomes of the Board's annual risk workshop.
- **The FSA's Approach to Managing Interests of its External Scientific Advisers:** The paper set out revised guidance proposed for managing interests for the FSA's external scientific advisers.

2.2 The draft minutes from the March 2019 Board meeting, which will provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the above papers, will be posted to the

FSA's website shortly at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-March-2019>

2.3 The WFAC held a business meeting on 7 March to agree its input into the above Board discussions.

3. Other Matters

3.1 Since the last WFAC open meeting, I have been involved in a range of discussions with the Board Chair in relation to taking forward findings emanating from the Review of the Food Advisory Committee in Wales and Northern Ireland.

3.2 I accompanied the Board Chair and Julie Pierce to the Ministerial meeting with Vaughan Gething on 2 April where useful discussions were held on EU exit, allergens, and Board and executive appointments.