

Paper FSAW 19/01/03
For discussion

Update from interim director

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper signposts to issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held on 12 December 2018. 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 interim Director for FSA 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 interim Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

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1. Summary of Chief Executive's Report to Open Board Meeting 12 December 2018.

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 18/12/04) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-18-12-04-chief-executives-report.pdf>

2. Interim Director for 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 in November 2018:

- 3 Dec – Meeting with Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Stakeholder engagement

2.2 I have arranged a series of engagement visits with a range of key stakeholders in Wales for early in the new year. The first of my visits will be to Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire County Councils on 14 January. I am proposing to meet with all local authorities in Wales, on an individual basis by the end of June 2019. I will also be meeting with a number of other key stakeholders in Wales. These meetings will provide the opportunity to discuss how we can continue to work together to protect the public, ensuring food is safe and what it says it is.

2.3 I have written to the wide-range of industry representatives inviting them to attend an industry roundtable event in Cardiff on 17 January. This event is a follow-up to the roundtables held with industry in 2017. The discussions in January will provide an opportunity to update industry representatives on how our preparations for EU exit are progressing and to hear their view and feedback on this work. We will provide updates on a number of key workstreams, such as, amending legislation, imported food and feed, risk assessment and risk management, and changes to health marks. We will also take the opportunity to provide an update on the FSA's Regulating Our Future programme, which aims to modernise the way food businesses are regulated.

EU Exit

2.4 The FSA in Wales is to make available an additional £100k to support local authorities with their preparations for EU exit in relation to the delivery of food and feed law services. I have written to all local authority Heads of Service across

Wales inviting them to submit bids against the additional resource to be made available. I am now reviewing the bids which have been received.

Local Authority Sampling

2.5 I have also written to all local authorities in Wales to inform that I will be making available further additional funding of £20k in support of further food standards sampling projects targeted at regional issues. Activities should be centred around areas of known or suspected compliance issues. All funded work must be completed and invoiced by 31 March 2019.

3 Forward Look

3.1 Between now and the next open meeting of the WFAC on 11 April 2019, I have made the following commitment of relevance to the FSA in Wales:

- 14 January – Meeting with Carmarthenshire County Council
- 14 January – Meeting with Pembrokeshire County Council
- 17 January – Industry Roundtable
- 22 January – Health Protection Advisory Group
- 29 January – Meeting with Directors of Public Protection Wales
- 5 February – Meeting with Isle of Anglesey County Council
- 5 February – Meeting with Gwynedd Council
- 5 February – Meeting with City of Conwy
- 7 February – Welsh Government liaison meeting
- 11 February – Food and Industry Board meeting
- 26 February – Emergency Preparedness Response & Resilience Board
- 20-21 March – Blas Cymru / Taste Wales event

Richard Bowen

Interim Director, FSA Wales

January 2019