

**Paper FSAW 18/11/03**  
**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 19 September 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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**Update from director**

**1. Summary of Chief Executive's Report to Open Board Meeting 19 September 2018.**

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 18/06/04) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/ceo-board-report-september-2018.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 September 2018:

- 26 Sept – accompanied the Board Chair to a meeting with Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs
- 15 Oct – FSA Wales and Welsh Government Liaison meeting
- 18 Oct – Welsh Government Health Protection Committee
- 19 Oct – Directors of Public Protection Group Wales
- 23 Oct - Parliamentary Reception
- 25 Oct – Regulating Our Future Working Group meeting
- 12 Nov – FSA/ESRC Symposium on Social Science

Stakeholder engagement

2.2 The FSA in Wales is continuing its programme of stakeholder engagement in Wales focussed around schools, public events and with key stakeholders. The FSA's attendance at the 2018 Royal Welsh Agricultural Show and the National Eisteddfod, where a new corporate stand was launched, has been evaluated internally. The evaluation has concluded that the new stand provided a successful and efficient platform from which to engage with consumers in Wales on key activities relating to the FSA's remit. I am now considering how we might build on this platform and will be proposing additional events in Wales in 2019 where the FSA might usefully have a presence including the 2019 Taste Wales event.

2.3 I am currently arranging a series of engagements with a range of key stakeholders in Wales including local authorities. Over the coming months I am proposing meeting with all local authorities in Wales, on an individual basis, to present an overview of the FSA's current priorities as an effective, modern and accountable regulator. Local authorities are a key part of the food regulatory system and as co-regulators, it is important we have a shared vision and work in partnership to deliver a modern, robust and sustainable food regulatory system. 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. I

will be supplementing these meetings with separate discussions with other key stakeholders including Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Directors of Public Protection in Wales, Public Analysts, and Public Health Wales.

## Food Law Code of Practice

2.4 Consultation on the Regulating Our Future - Amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) 23 November 2018. This consultation is of interest to local authorities, food businesses and consumers in Wales. The Regulating Our Future (ROF) Programme aims to modernise how food businesses in Wales, England and Northern Ireland are regulated, to ensure that our food is safe and what it says it is. The FSA welcomes views on the proposals to amend the Code to operationalise the first phase of ROF related changes. Initial discussions on the proposals have already been held with the Regulating Our Future Working Group and with representatives of Directors of Public Protection in Wales. The proposed changes will:

- enable the new digital approach to the process of registration for food business
- enable the targeting of resources to maximise the impact on non-compliant businesses through amendments to the food establishment intervention rating scheme
- recognise National Inspection Strategies, creating better alignment between the Code and Primary Authority

<https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/regulating-our-future-amendments-to-the-food-law-code-of-practice-wales>

## Local Authority Performance

2.5 In November 2017, the FSA undertook a detailed analysis of LAEMS food hygiene intervention data for Wales for the periods 2014-2017. We are working with and supporting LAs in Wales to achieve their objectives in relation to food law enforcement. Our analysis of LAEMS data for the period 2014 to 2017 showed overall improvements in the delivery of planned interventions by local authorities and that a risk based approach had been adopted. However, the analysis identified that five local authorities had reported more than 200 lower-risk food establishments that were overdue an intervention in the 2016/17 reporting period. As a consequence, we made available additional resources (£89k) to some local authorities in Wales in 2017/18 to support overdue food establishment inspections. The funding was targeted at authorities that had reported the highest numbers of overdue interventions in 2016/17. Funding was allocated to 10 authorities for the delivery of almost 700 full scope food hygiene inspections. New food hygiene ratings were issued to all of these establishments for the benefit of consumers.

2.6 Following analysis of the latest LAEMS data, there have been significant improvements in Wales in both the number of outstanding food hygiene and

standards interventions. For food hygiene, the headline figures illustrate that the number of outstanding interventions have reduced from 2145 to 1721. Importantly, circa 85% of those outstanding interventions are attributable to just 3 authorities. We will focus on these for the remainder of the operational year. It is good to note also that 9 of the 22 authorities in Wales had no outstanding interventions, an improvement from 4 the previous year. Similarly, in food standards, we saw a significant reduction in outstanding interventions from 6733 to 2404, and of that figure we know that three authorities make up 65% of that total figure; there are 3 authorities that have zero outstanding food standards interventions also. The picture, therefore is an improving one and endorses and underlines our responsibilities as a regulator and competent authority. I will continue to review intervention information and to support local authorities in Wales. Indeed, in October, I wrote to all local authorities in Wales to inform of an additional £50k which will be made available to support further intervention work.

## EU Exit

2.7 The FSA in Wales remains fully engaged with all aspects of the central EU exit work programme to ensure that Welsh needs are taken into account. This includes representation on all workstreams. We are currently recruiting additional staff from additional funding of £476k, spread over 3 years, from Welsh Government to support our EU exit work. I am proposing to make available additional funding of up to £100k to local authorities in Wales to support their EU exit work during 18/19.

## 3 Forward Look

3.1 Between now and the next open meeting of the WFAC on 10 January 2019, I have made the following commitment of relevance to the FSA in Wales:

- 13 December – Welsh Government Health Protection Committee

**Richard Bowen**

Interim Director, FSA Wales  
November 2018