

**PAPER FSAW 16/01/03  
FOR DISCUSSION  
UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper provides a brief summary of issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held in November 2015. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/>. This paper also provides an update on issues of relevance to Wales and forms the basis of the update to the Welsh Food Advisory Committee.
2. The Director will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.
3. Members are invited to:
  - **note** the Board discussions
  - **invite** the Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

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**1. Summary of Chief Executive's report to open Board meeting 18 November 2015.**

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 15/11/18) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa151103.pdf>

1.2 Since the report had been written, the results of the 2015 Civil Service People Survey had been released and the CE was grateful to the 92% of FSA staff who had responded. The CE was pleased to report that the FSA's engagement score had increased from 53% to 60% over the year. This put the FSA 2% above the Civil Service average and only 3% behind the benchmark of Civil Service high performers.

**2. 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 on 12 November 2015:-

- 10-27 November, official FSA visit to Australia and New Zealand to learn about their arrangements model for delivering official food and feed controls.
- 2 December, meeting with Tracey Cooper, Public Health Wales.
- 14 December, meeting with Phil Stocker, National Sheep Association.
- 13 January, the FSA Chair, Deputy Chair, Chief Executive, WFAC Chair and I met with Vaughan Gething, AM and Deputy Minister for Health. Agenda items included future delivery models, burgers served rare, Campylobacter, WFFCU, official feed controls and TSEs.
- 20 January, FSA and Welsh Government liaison meeting.

Welsh Food Fraud co-ordination Unit (WFFCU)

2.2 The FSA in Wales has recently consulted Welsh Government and the Directors for Public Protection in Wales (DPPW) on how to achieve integration of the WFFCU with the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU). Following this consultation, and discussions with the Welsh local Government Association (WLGA) it has been agreed that the Wales Food Fraud Co-ordination Unit Governance Group (WFFCGG) will review the role of the WFFCU and draft recommendations for its future operating arrangements. The ultimate aim is for the WFFCGG to complete the review and provide its opinion for further consideration by DPPWs, the FSA, Welsh Government and the WLGA.

## Welsh Language Standards

2.3. We have now received the report from the Welsh Language Commissioner in relation to the Welsh Language Standards Investigation, for the attention of Welsh Government. It is a blanket report which has been sent to each public body included in this round of standard setting (round 3). The Commissioner has recommended (section 7 of the report) that most of the standards should be specifically applied to **all** departments in this round. This includes the operational and policy making standards (including the provision of a bilingual intranet for example) which the Food Standards Agency listed in its evidence as being unreasonable and disproportionate. Although there is no formal appeal process at this stage, we have taken the opportunity to write to the Commissioner to reiterate the Agency's position in relation to this matter. Looking ahead, the Agency will be provided with its draft compliance notice. At this stage, a formal appeal will be submitted if necessary. This is unlikely to be before mid-2016.

## Regulatory Strategy

2.4 The proposed features of the Agency's regulatory delivery framework is due to be considered by the Board at its January meeting and will form the basis of discussion at our key stakeholder forum in St. David's Hotel, Cardiff Bay on 10 February 2016. This will be the first major opportunity for a wide range of key stakeholders from central and local government, food industry representatives and consumer organisations to consider the proposed regulatory features and importantly, enables them to help translate the Agency's vision for a sustainable and resilient future model of regulation that protects consumers, by contributing ideas and suggestions of their own. I am pleased to report that we have had a very positive stakeholder response to the launch event and we expect the final number to be in the region of around 75 delegates from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. From this event, a programme of external engagement and collaborative working with all the FSA's stakeholders to deliver our future delivery models will be taken forward.

## **3. Forward Look**

3.1 Between now and the next meeting of the WFAC on 10 March 2016, I have a number of business as usual appointments in relation to issues of interest for Wales.

Nina Purcell  
Director, FSA Wales  
January 2016