

Open Meeting of the Northern Ireland Food Advisory Committee On 11 September at the FSA Offices, Belfast.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

10 a-c Clarendon Road, Belfast BT1 3BG
Tel: 028 9041 7700 Fax: 028 9041 7726



Contents

Agenda.....	1
Minutes of Open Meeting on 13 June 2018.....	3
Update from Director for NI People and Organisational Change to NIFAC 12 September 2018.....	11
Animal Welfare Update	21
Incidents & Resilience Annual Report 2017/18	22
Regulating Our Future – Assurance Framework for Primary Authority National Inspection Strategies and Next Steps on Regulated Private Assurance	23
Standards and Dietary Health Update.....	24
Update on The FSA's Science Activities on Antimicrobial Resistance Including the Report Of The ACMSF Task And Finish Group	25
Risk Analysis: Process, Governance, Communication.....	26

**Open Meeting Of The Northern Ireland Food Advisory Committee On
Tuesday 11 September – FSA Offices, Belfast.**

Agenda

1.	12.50pm	–	Welcome and introductions
2.	12.55pm	–	Minutes of the Open meeting of 13 June 2018.
3.	1.00pm	–	Chair's report and Director's Update
4.	1.30pm	–	Annual Animal Welfare update - Julia Williams
5.	2.00pm	–	Annual Incidents and Resilience Report - Philip Randles
6.	2.30pm	–	Regulating Our Future – Assurance Framework for Primary Authority National Inspection Strategies and Impact for FSA Structure - Michael Jackson
7.	3.00pm	–	Standards and Dietary Health Team Update - Sharon Gilmore
8.	3.30pm	–	Update on the FSA's Activities on AMR including the report of the ACMSF Task and Finish Group - Paul Cook
9.	4.00pm	–	Risk Analysis: Process, Governance, Communication - Michael Wight
10.	4.30pm	–	AOB
11.	4.35pm	–	Close

Paper for discussion
Minutes of open meeting on 13 June 2018

Executive Summary

Attached are the minutes of the 13 June NIFAC open meeting.

Members are invited to:

- Agree minutes as a true record of proceedings.

FSA Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@food.gov.uk

Ref NIFAC minutes 2/18

Open meeting of the Northern Ireland food advisory committee

(NIFAC) on 13 June 2018, 10.00am, at the FSA offices, Belfast.

Those present:	FSA Executive
<u>NIFAC members</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colm McKenna – Chairman.• Christine Kennedy.• Elizabeth Mitchell.• Lorraine Crawford.• Phelim O'Neill.• Sara McCracken.• Fiona Hanna.• Aodhan O'Donnell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seth Chanas – NIFAC Secretariat.• Maria Jennings – FSA Director for NI, People and Organisational Change.• Kirsten Dunbar – FSA in NI Head of EU Exit and .• Colin Sullivan – FSA Chief Operating Officer.• Fionnuala Close – FSA in NI Senior Advisor for Dietary Health. <u>By Video/Teleconference</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andy Morling – FSA Head of Food Crime• Catriona Stewart – FSA Work Stream Lead for Sustainable Funding• Stuart Armstrong – FSA Head of Chemical Safety Policy

1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed all NIFAC members to the meeting, explaining that This would be the final meeting during the tenure of Christine Kennedy. No apologies had been received for this meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 3 March 2018.

- 2.1. The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of NIFAC's open meeting on 3 March. No issues were raised and the Secretariat agreed to publish the minutes.

Action Point – Secretariat to arrange for the publication of the minutes of the 3 March NIFAC Open meeting.

3. Chair's Report and Director's Update

- 3.1. The Chair updated NIFAC on discussions that had taken place with the permanent secretary for Health Richard Pengelly, around the review of the FACs, mentioning that members had been updated previously on the review's outcomes and recommendations. He also mentioned that the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) had signed off on the accounts for the FSA for England Northern Ireland and Wales. The Chair then invited Maria Jennings (the Director) to update members on items of her report included in the papers for the meeting.
- 3.2. The Director highlighted the following items:
- Vac-Pack Guidance Compliance;
 - Reformulation workshop for ice cream manufacturing sector;
 - The Innovation Lab;
 - The NI Science Festival Roadshow;
 - EU Exit Preparations; and
 - The Balmoral Show;
- 3.3. It was explained that the vac-pack guidance compliance work had been prompted by the Russell Hume incident. Two establishments had been found that were carrying out vac-packing of whom the FSA were previously unaware. The FSA have since been working with these businesses and are content their practices are in line with the guidance.
- 3.4. The attendance at the Reformulation workshop for the ice cream manufacturing sector of Kerry Taste and Nutrition was highlighted, explaining their showcasing of state-of-the-art ingredient and technology solutions for the ice cream sector.
- 3.5. The Director explained that the Innovation Lab had been set up by the Department of Finance and that the FSA's Chief Operating Officer, Colin Sullivan, in a previous role, had been involved with its establishment.
- 3.6. On the NI Science Festival Roadshow, the Director explained that two Councils were testing new systems in line with the Regulating Our Future programme. This had been helped by the two Councils sharing a common IT provider.
- 3.7. On the FSA's preparations for exiting the EU, the Director drew members' attention to the legislation work noted at the end of the paper, demonstrating the breadth and scale of the work being carried out.
- 3.8. The Director pointed out that there had been an omission in the papers, which was to mention the FSA's presence at the Balmoral show. The FSA's

stand involved helping consumers to know the recommended calorie intake for men and women and included a competition for children to win a 'Bento Box' lunch box. It had been a very successful Balmoral Show for the FSA with good feedback about the stand and the messaging.

4. National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) business case

4.1. The Chair welcomed Colin Sullivan, the FSA's Chief Operating Officer, and Andy Morling, the FSA's Head of Food Crime, to the meeting to introduce this item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. The presentation covered:

- the establishment of the unit in 2015;
- the initial role of the unit to gather intelligence information;
- food integrity and the Food Crime group; and
- the preparation and approval of the business case.

4.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- NIFAC supports the development of the NFCU and the direction of travel established by the business case. It is noted that assurances for future funding from Treasury will be key to the success of the unit and it is reassuring to hear that this funding is ring-fenced and a priority for the FSA.
- Good linkages with Local Authority personnel will be key and the work of the Food Fraud Liaison Officer in Northern Ireland is an example of where these linkages have been well established. It is acknowledged that this will be harder to achieve across England but it is reassuring to hear about role of the Outreach Officers in seeking to build these important relationships.
- The importance of maintaining the relationships across the island of Ireland, which have proved effective in the past in uncovering instances of food crime, is also emphasised.
- There will be a need for a strong communications campaign around the recruitment of staff to the NFCU as this will likely both raise the number of applicants, giving a greater pool of talent from which to recruit and raise the profile of the work of the unit and FSA around food crime.

4.3. The Chair thanked Colin Sullivan and Andy Morling for bringing these papers to NIFAC for consideration.

5. A Review of Cutting Plants and Cold Stores – Interim Update

5.1. Colin Sullivan, the FSA's Chief Operating Officer, remained at the meeting to introduce this item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. The presentation covered:

- the launch of the review by FSA and FSS in March 2018;
- the focus on reviewing the assurance regime;
- the terms of reference for the review;
- the plan to have recommendations for the Board by their meeting in September;
- the governance structure of the review;
- workstreams of activity; and
- emerging findings.

5.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- It is noted that the update focusses on activity by the FSA and contains little about action from industry. It is accepted that as an interim update, it is easier to document the FSA's own activities and it is reassuring to hear that the final report will contain recommendations for both the FSA and industry.
- Prior to the discovery of the activities taking place at Russell Hume, this was a plant with a good reputation. Learning more about the relevant drivers for this behaviour will be key to establishing if the things discovered at Russell Hume are endemic or an isolated case.
- The FSA could benefit from a greater level of engagement with Local Authorities in this area.

5.3. The Chair thanked Colin Sullivan for this update.

6. Regulating our Future Mid-Point Programme Report

6.1. The Chair welcomed Catriona Stewart, the FSA's Work Stream Lead for Sustainable Funding, to the meeting by video link from the FSA's Office at Clive House in London, to present an item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. The presentation covered:

- the focus on elements of the program needed post EU exit;
- the new registration system for food businesses;
- the creation of the online system;
- the risk engine;
- changes to inspection decisions;
- the sustainability of the funding for the new regime.

6.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following comments were made:

- The direction of travel indicated in the paper is supported, which gives an excellent and very clear synopsis of the issues.
- It would be interesting to hear what feedback had been received on the enhanced registration system and whether it is considered useful to businesses. It is good to hear that lessons are being learned on this as work progresses. It will also be key to ensure the financial challenges of the enhanced registration system are addressed.
- It is noted that in developing the risk engine, a lot of data will be collated. It would be a missed opportunity if the FSA did not ensure that it had the appropriate technology to maximise the use of the data it possessed.

6.3. The Chair thanked Catriona Stewart for bringing this item to the Committee.

7. Calorie Wise Update

7.1. The Chair welcomed Fionnuala Close, A Senior Advisor for Dietary Health with the FSA in NI, to the meeting to present an update on the Calorie Wise scheme as part of a series of presentations from the FSA in NI's Standards and Dietary Health team. The presentation covered:

- the background to, and nature of the scheme;
- the four principles for the award;
- the use of MenuCal in assisting businesses to comply with the scheme; and
- statistics.

7.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- This was a very enjoyable presentation, giving a useful background to the scheme, explaining how it has progressed and statistics underpinning the need for such a system. The figures on childhood obesity in Northern Ireland are particularly shocking and it is reassuring to hear that the display of calorie information by businesses has acted as a driver for reformulation in some instances.
- The consumers' trust in the FSA means that FSA branding for the scheme could be a useful tool in helping businesses offering reduced portion sizes without consumers imputing more cynical motivations.
- It would be good to see the scheme taken up by smaller businesses as well as by the larger profile, chain restaurants. The approach of

encouraging adoption by District Councils and Health Trusts to lead by example is endorsed as a sensible way to convince businesses that adoption is achievable and in their interests.

- Discussions with industry bodies that represent many of the food outlets such as Hospitality Ulster, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Hotel Federation could also help to expand the scheme.

7.3. The Chair thanked Fionnuala Close for assisting with the Committee's consideration of this paper.

8. Raw Drinking Milk

8.1. The Chair welcomed Stuart Armstrong, the FSA's Head of Chemical Safety Policy, to the meeting by video link from the FSA's Office at Clive House in London, to introduce an item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. The presentation covered:

- the key messages – 'pasteurisation is the best way to avoid food borne diseases from dairy' and 'consumer choice';
- the committee for microbiological safety conclusion on the increase of risk;
- claims around nutritional benefits and allergies and the lack of supporting evidence;
- risk communication; and
- meetings with producers.

8.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- It is noted that the major driver in the growth in consumption of unpasteurised milk appears to be a belief that there are nutritional benefits despite there being no evidence to support such claims. This raises the question of where consumers are coming across information that could mislead them to believe raw drinking milk is nutritionally superior to pasteurised milk. There is a responsibility on producers to provide accurate nutritional information and on the FSA and other authorities to act where producers are being economical with the truth.

8.3. The Chair thanked Stuart Armstrong for bringing this item to the Committee.

Any Other Business

8.4. No further business was raised and the meeting was closed. The next Open meeting will be held on 12 September.

Table of action points

No	Action	To be actioned by	To be completed by
1.	To arrange for the publication of the minutes of the 3 March NIFAC Open meeting.	Secretariat	12/9/2018

Paper for information

**Update from Director for NI People and Organisational Change to NIFAC
12 September 2018.**

Executive Summary

Attached is the FSA in NI Director's update to the Committee for September 2018.
This report covers the period from 13 June 2018 to 31 August 2018.

- No action by members is necessary.

FSA Northern Ireland

Contact	Seth Chanas
Tel	028 9041 7762
Email	seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Food Is Safe

Cross-border outbreak of *E.coli* VTEC O157 vt1 & vt2

Authorities in the Republic of Ireland have been dealing with an outbreak of *E.coli* O157 (vt1 & vt2) since June 2018. On investigation by PHA, it was noticed that the number of cases involving *E.coli* O157 in Northern Ireland had also seen a moderate increase in June. As a result, the FSA and the Public Health Agency (PHA) have been attending regular Outbreak Control Team meetings with counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. Cross-border co-operation has included the sharing of microbiological isolates for whole genome sequencing (WGS) and enhanced food history questionnaires. The most recent Outbreak Control Team (OCT) meeting was held on 14 August during which it was confirmed that there has been a total of 89 confirmed cases of which only two (matched using WGS) are from Northern Ireland.

FSA and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) Review of Cutting Plants and Coldstores.

The second phase of this review, now concluded, included the roll-out of a series of six User Design Workshops across all regions of the UK. The NI event was held on Friday 3 August and was attended by approximately 20 NI stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors including the red meat and poultry processing sector, NI producers, District Councils and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The event took the form of creating a user journey where groups of attendees were asked to assume different personas and then identify pain points and potential solutions. The top 3 ideas along with an associated implementation plan were summarised by each group. The output from all UK workshops will be used to populate the final detailed report.

Publication of Food Supplements Toolkit for Enforcement Officers

On 23 June, the FSA published a toolkit to support district councils with the enforcement of food supplements regulations. Further training for district councils on the enforcement of food supplements regulations has been scheduled for 19 September and will be delivered by the FSA in partnership with the Public Analyst.

Safe Catering Guide

The FSA in NI has published an evaluation of the Safe Catering Guide prepared by BMG Research on behalf of the FSA. Safe Catering is an FSA food safety management guide for Northern Ireland to help catering businesses and retailers with a catering function to comply with food hygiene regulations. Summary of key findings from the evaluation included:

- Awareness of the Safe Catering Guide is strong among both food businesses and Food Enforcement Officers.

- Over 9 in 10 food businesses say that they are aware of the guide while 86% report having a copy.
- Awareness of how or where to access the guide appears to be the main barrier to the non-users of the guide.
- A number of sections of the guide are due to be updated – with reference to allergens and acrylamide.
- Concerns were raised regarding the future availability of hard copies of the guide.
- Attitudes towards digitization of the guide are split, but a significant proportion of non-users say that they would be more likely to use the guide and its forms in this format.
- Opinions towards the guide are overwhelmingly positive. 97% of food businesses who use the guide make clear that they find it useful, while 89% say it easy to use. Similar sentiments are expressed by Food Enforcement Officers.

The FSA in NI will now use the evidence and information gathered in the evaluation to identify any shortcomings of the guide and deliver on the recommendations outlined within the evaluation paper. The FSA in NI will engage with relevant stakeholders including District Councils, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and industry to deliver an up to date guide that is accessible, user friendly and includes information on complex risks associated with Allergens and Acrylamide.

Regulating Our Future – Business start-up and enhanced registration

In 2017 we published plans to make it easier for businesses to both register and access relevant food safety information to help them get their businesses right from the start. To achieve this objective, we are building a user friendly online service 'Register my food business' to provide us with more information about a business and its activities at the time they register and to provide signposting to important information for food businesses.

Since completing the development phase in April, we have been testing the system with food businesses and have embarked on the first phase of Local Authority (LA) testing to assess the usability, effectiveness and efficiency of the system. Three LAs are involved in this first phase of testing, including Mid and East Antrim Borough Council in NI. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council will then be involved in the next phase of LA testing. It is intended that a minimum of 40 LAs across England, Wales and NI will be fully operational by March 2019. This will be followed by a phased roll out of the service to the remaining authorities, with an option for LAs to adopt the new service earlier if ready to do so.

In addition to the testing outlined above, our Development Team recently visited NI for further user testing and research. Their visit was conducted over three days from 15 to 17 August and included:

- An updated engagement session on 'Business start-up and enhanced registration' with NI Food Managers.
- An opportunity for officers in Antrim and Newtownabbey to feedback their experiences in relation to food business registration.
- Food Business Operator interviews whereby they tested the new online service and provided feedback for further consideration.

Work to develop the online registration service continues and NI councils remain committed to trialling and testing the service to ensure the final product is fit for purpose. As well as continuing to test and develop the system, work is ongoing to carry out user testing of webpages for new food business guidance and to develop a campaign to raise awareness of the new digital service.

EU Exit - Re-Badging:

As part of the EU exit process, the FSA in NI's Operational Policy and Delivery Team has played an integral role in the FSA Re-badging Project Board workstreams. These include health and identification marking and exports. The workstream on exports is still in the early stages of development but the workstream on health marking and identification marking has just gone through a targeted 4-week consultation period and responses are currently being considered.

The main proposal is that the letters 'EC' should be removed from all health and identification marks in preparation for day 1 readiness. Both the NI red meat and poultry processing sectors have expressed concern regarding the lead-in time required to replace all identification marks ahead of firm implementation on the exit date. They have also expressed serious concern regarding the consequences of not agreeing an appropriate transition period, post-EU exit, to use old stocks of identification marks. DAERA has committed to having the appropriate health marks available for official use on the EU exit date.

Gathering and Using Science, Evidence and Information

EU Exit Import Workshop

Following the referendum result to leave the EU the Agency has engaged, to an increasing level, in planning in relation to food regulation post EU exit. A key area of food regulation that will be affected by the UK leaving the EU is imported food with 50% of the food consumed within the UK being imported, and 30% coming from the EU. As a part of the FSA's EU Exit Imports planning we have been

engaging with Port Health Authorities across the UK to understand and fully scope out potential issues posed by leaving the EU.

As a continuation of this ongoing engagement FSA in NI organised an EU Imports workshop, held on 28 August in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's Mossley Mill, to update our key delivery enforcement partners on our EU Exit planning to date. Key speakers at the event included Mark de Brunner from the cross government 'Border Delivery Group', John Furzer Head of Delivery within the FSA's EU Exit Imports Exports branch, Kathryn Baker Head of Local Authority Policy and Delivery team FSA in NI and Mark O'Neill FSA in NI.

Attendees at the event included representation from all district councils in NI through members of the NI Food Managers Group and the NI Imports, Exports and Port Health sub-group and also members of several departments of DAERA. The successful event provided valuable input from attendees and sparked key discussions which will provide significant direction in further planning models.

Regulating our Future - Food standards workstream

On 19 June a member of the FSA in NI's Standards and Dietary Health team participated in a ROF workshop where analysis of the results of the LA survey on food standards were presented, discussed and priorities/next steps identified and agreed. The following priorities were agreed by the group:

- Validate survey results using LAEMS data & use this data to highlight the current resource issues in food standards enforcement at Board level;
- Consideration of the role of the CCA in terms of LA support.
- Consideration of officer competence in the current model (including training/support and qualifications of EHOs given enforcement responsibilities for food standards work, and determining whether the effectiveness of controls is linked to who delivers them);
- Examination of alternative approaches & partnership working;
- Considering how to improve consistency in delivery.

It was also agreed that expressions of interest would be sought from local authorities in England, Wales and NI to participate in a working group to help inform the direction of the food standards workstream within the RoF programme.

A district council representative from NI has been selected to participate in this working group. The first meeting is scheduled for later this month.

Food Poverty Conference

The fourth annual all island food poverty conference 'Food for Thought' is planned for 18 September 2018 in Belfast. The joint safefood/ FSA conference is highlighting the role of social supermarkets in tackling food poverty and the

challenges faced by homeless families in emergency accommodation in relation to food access and nutritional health. The Standards and Dietary Health team is publishing and presenting a report at the conference on a secondary analysis of the FSA Food and You consumer attitude survey on food security, food purchasing and nutritional intake in NI. The findings in the report note which households experience food security, how awareness of healthy eating recommendations depends on different levels of food security and how food purchasing and dietary intake varies by food security levels.

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/food-poverty>

Empowering Consumers

Eating Well Choosing Better

On 25 June the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in England published chapter 2 of their childhood obesity plan following the publication of chapter 1 in 2016. This second chapter sets out the actions the Department will take towards its goal of halving childhood obesity and reducing the gap in obesity between children from the most and least deprived areas by 2030. The proposed actions aim to improve the nutritional content of food and drink consumed by children, enhance the information available to parents about these products and to improve the promotion of unhealthy food and drinks.

The FSA in NI is currently considering these proposed actions for England and participating in discussions with Departments across all four countries. Importantly, the policy and proposed actions align largely with the aims of our Eating Well Choosing Better programme which focusses on supporting small and medium local businesses with strong partnership working with District Councils, knowledge providers and Invest NI to make the healthy choice the easy choice for consumers in NI.

Calorie Wise Scheme

The FSA in NI's Standards and Dietary Health team organised an event on 15 June to officially present the Calorie Wise award to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) who have introduced Calorie Wise to its six hospital sites. The catering departments at Antrim Area, Holywell, Whiteabbey, Causeway, Mid Ulster and Braid Valley hospitals now display calorie information on all their menu items, enabling their staff and visitors to make more informed food choices. Delivered in partnership with the eleven district councils in Northern Ireland, Calorie Wise is a free and voluntary scheme which supports food businesses to display calorie information clearly and prominently on their menus. The NHSCT is the first trust in NI to receive this award, demonstrating their commitment to educating and encouraging healthy eating. The Chief Medical Officer, Dr Michael Mc Bride, attended the event and praised the partnership approach taken by the

FSA, Councils and NHSCT in encouraging healthier decisions. The Calorie Wise awards were presented to individual catering departments by the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and accepted by the Chief Executive of the NHSCT Dr Tony Stevens.

The Standards and Dietary Health Team are continuing to engage with all types of catering businesses including the Hospital Trusts to support and promote the introduction of energy labelling on menus in outlets in Northern Ireland. During August, Belfast City Council presented a fish and chip shop in West Belfast with the Calorie Wise award which received excellent local press coverage in this area. We are confident that we will have further joint announcements with our District Councils, of additional businesses joining the Calorie Wise scheme this autumn.

WHO Healthy Cities Conference

The FSA in NI's Standards and Dietary Health team is further highlighting the Calorie Wise scheme through an accepted poster presentation at the four day World Health Organisation Healthy Cities Conference which will be hosted by Belfast in October. Categorised under the 'place' theme, the Calorie Wise scheme promotes health and well-being for all by changing the physical environment to enable consumers to make healthier and more informed food choices. The rationale being almost two thirds (63%) of adults in NI are overweight or obese. Unsurprisingly 95% of adults in NI eat out, with 52% doing so at least once or twice a week. Across NI, 78% of consumers expressed a preference for more nutritional information on display when they eat out. More about the conference can be found through the link below:

<https://www.healthycitiesbelfast2018.com/>

Aligning Incentives

Shellfish Stakeholder Working Group

The FSA in NI is now a member of the Shellfish Stakeholders Working Group (SSWG) alongside our colleagues across the FSA. The SSWG includes members from Industry, Seafish, The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Shellfish Association of Great Britain, Bangor University and the FSA.

The SSWG is a collaborative and multidisciplinary group exploring an innovative risk-based approach to shellfish production. The group will consider the variable environmental factors that may influence levels of contamination in shellfish in production areas and Belfast Lough is now one of three shellfish production areas included in the project outline.

The FSA in NI alongside our FSA colleagues in England and Wales attended a group meeting in July and will continue to make a valuable contribution to the SSWG. We will have particular regard to the protection of public health while exploring flexibilities that may aide such collective innovation within the shellfish industry.

NI Border Delivery Group Meeting

The cross government 'Border Delivery Group' (BDG) held an engagement event with NI government officials including the Department for Infrastructure, NI Executive Office (TEO), as well as the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), HMT and FSA in August. The engagement event was designed to provide a forum to meet with key external stakeholders including the NI Freight Transport Association, Federation of Passenger Transport, Warrenpoint Harbour, Belfast port, Foyle port, Larne port and Belfast International airport. This was an initial introductory meeting to establish a forum for key external stakeholder engagement and FSA in NI will continue to have a presence at future NI BDG meetings to keep abreast of industry concerns.

EU Exit – Common Frameworks

The FSA in NI is working closely with wider FSA colleagues to prepare for how FSA and FSS will work together after leaving the EU. This will be especially important as the making of food safety policy and legislation will be re-patriated to the UK. Given that food safety is a devolved responsibility, it is important that the UK establish frameworks for how policy will be made within the wider UK, to keep alignment where it is necessary to do so. The FSA in NI is represented on various workstreams to consider how this wider work will be governed going forward, including how risk assessment will be conducted across the UK and how any disputes would be resolved should they arise.

Being the Best Organisation We Can Be

FSA Allergy and Intolerance Workshop

Two members of the SDH team attended and participated in the FSA's Allergy and Intolerance Team's Policy Workshop in London on 25 June. The purpose of the event was to help FSA develop a strategy that will define priorities for action, how we will measure success and an accompanying roadmap of activity for tackling food allergy and intolerance for the next ten years.

The workshop was attended by a range of stakeholders (Public Health England, PA, Industry, FSAI, Anaphylaxis UK, Allergy UK) with the aim of gathering their views on potential future food allergy and intolerance areas where FSA should be focussing and how best to work with stakeholders to build a cohesive, stretching and meaningful strategy for the FSA which aligns with the work of our stakeholders.

Legislation

EU Exit

FSA in NI continues to work closely with FSA colleagues and other Government Departments, including Defra, DHSC, DAERA, the Department of Health and the Departmental Solicitors Office to progress all necessary legislation required for EU Exit. Work is ongoing to ensure that, on exit day, the UK body of law is consistent with EU law and that retained EU law is transferred to the UK acquis.

Work is also ongoing to make all necessary fixes to NI domestic legislation required due to EU exit and it is intended that a consultation on the Miscellaneous Amendments SR will be published shortly. FSA in NI is also working collaboratively with all relevant parties, including other devolved administrations, to ensure workable plans are in place to enable the FSA to continue to function as an effective regulator on EU Exit.

We also continue to engage with our DAERA and District Council colleagues on preparations for EU Exit.

The Food Law Code of Practice (NI) review and consultation

FSA in NI has recently published a consultation on proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Food Law Code of Practice (the Code). The Code is issued under the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991 and sets down guidance for councils as competent authorities on how to execute and enforce food safety legislation.

The Regulating Our Future (ROF) Programme aims to modernise how food business in Northern Ireland, England and Wales are regulated to check that our food is safe and what it says it is. We have recently reviewed the Code for Northern Ireland to make changes to the process of registration, the application of the food hygiene intervention rating scheme and to elicit early views from stakeholders and other co-dependent aspects still in development.

In particular, the consultation seeks to:

- Reflect that there will be new digital options to the process of registration for new food businesses that wish to do so following the development of the new web-based platform in April 2019;
- Make a range of changes to the Food Hygiene risk assessment process for targeting resources to maximise the impact on non-compliant food businesses; and
- Consider, when assessing confidence in management, whether the food business operator proactively registered the new establishment under their

control before the business started trading or when food operations commenced.

The 12-week consultation closes on 27 September, when we will consider all stakeholder responses and decide on the best way forward for NI.

M Jennings

Director for NI and Organisational Development.

Paper for discussion

Animal Welfare Update

Executive Summary

Julia Williams, the FSA's Animal Welfare & Delivery Assurance Lead, will present by video link to introduce this item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board.

The papers can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-18-09-05-animal-welfare-update-amends.pdf>

Annex1:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-18-09-05-animal-welfare-update-annex-1.pdf>

Annex2:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/final-annex-2-data-stories-290818-updated-figs-5-and-7.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Paper for discussion

Incidents & Resilience Annual Report 2017/18

Executive Summary

Philip Randles, the FSA's Acting Head of Incidents & Resilience Unit, will present by video link to introduce this item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board.

The paper can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-18-09-06-incidents-and-resilience-report.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Paper for discussion

Regulating Our Future – Assurance Framework for Primary Authority National Inspection Strategies and Next Steps on Regulated Private Assurance

Executive Summary

Michael Jackson, the FSA's Head of Standards & Assurance, will present by video link to introduce this item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board.

The paper can be found on the FSA website here:

https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-18-09-07-rof-assurance-framework-and-national-inspection-strategies_0.pdf

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Paper for discussion

Standards and Dietary Health Update

Executive Summary

Sharon Gilmore, the FSA in NI's Head of Standards and Dietary Health will introduce this item as part of a series of presentations from the FSA's NI Standards and Dietary Health team.

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Paper for discussion

Update on The FSA's Science Activities on Antimicrobial Resistance Including the Report of The ACMSF Task And Finish Group

Executive Summary

Paul Cook, the FSA's Head of Microbiological Risk Assessment, will present by video link to introduce this item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board.

The [paper can be found on the FSA website.](#)

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Risk Analysis: Process, Governance, Communication

Executive Summary

Michael Wight, the FSA's Interim Director of Policy and Science, will present by video link to introduce this item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board.

The paper can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-18-09-09-risk-analysis-process-governance-communication.pdf>

Annex1:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-18-09-09-board-risk-analysis-sep-18-amended-final.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk