

WFAC 20/01/02
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 last Board meeting which was held on 18 September 2019 and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales.
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 – January 2020

1. Board Meetings

1.1 Due to the pre-election period, the open Board meeting originally planned for December 2019 was rescheduled to 21 January 2020. The last open Board meeting was held on 18 September 2019. At this meeting the Board considered the following matters:

- **Update on FSA's Work on Food Hypersensitivity and the Implementation of the Allergen Labelling Review Outcomes:** The paper provided an update on current and planned activities for food hypersensitivity and the implementation of new rules for foods prepacked for direct sale following the Government's Allergen Labelling Review and discussions held at the Board meeting on 19 June 2019.
- **Cost of Illness Model, Willingness to Pay and Quality-Adjusted Life Years as Impact Measures for Foodborne Diseases and Food Hypersensitivity:** The paper provided a range of information aimed at providing a better understanding of the relative impacts of different food-related health conditions, as an input to the prioritisation of public health interventions alongside issues such as tractability and cost.
- **UK Official Food and Feed Laboratories: Vision for the Future:** The paper reported on the outcome of the FSA's recent review of the capacity, capability and governance of the UK official food and feed laboratory system. The paper also provided comment on potential areas for improvements for a future UK official food and feed laboratory system.
- **The FSA's Approach to Uncertainty and Risk:** The paper forms part of the Board's ongoing discussion of risk analysis principles and practice and underpins the FSA's role in providing evidence-based risk management advice to Ministers taking risk management decisions.
- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Progress:** The paper provided an update on the FSA's science activities concerning antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the food chain since the previous paper was presented to the Board in September 2018. It included updates on:
 - the FSA's role and contribution to the UK's 5-year AMR national action plan (NAP) from 2019 to 2024 and the UK's 20-year vision on containing and controlling AMR;
 - the FSA's efforts with respect to current and future AMR research and surveillance;
 - the continued efforts by UK industry in reducing sales of antibiotics for food production animals; and

- an update on the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on AM.
- **Report from the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Food Advisory Committee (NIFAC):** The paper provided a report from Colm McKenna as Chair of the NIFAC. It provided an overview of the report covering the changes in the operating procedures for the committee and activities over the previous two years.
- **FSA in Northern Ireland: Director's Update:** The paper provided an update from Maria Jennings as Director for Northern Ireland. The report outlined various areas of work delivered over the previous two years, highlighting the work led by FSA staff in NI around dietary health and food standards and labelling.

1.2 The draft minutes from the September 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/our-board#board-meetings>

1.3 The WFAC held a business meeting on 12 September 2019 to agree its input into the Board discussions outlined above.

2. Other Matters

2.1 On 14 October 2019, I attended the Board retreat. This provided, the first opportunity for discussions with Emily Miles the new Chief Executive of the FSA. The retreat also provided opportunities for briefing sessions on Allergen Labelling for Food Pre-Packed for Direct Sale, Uncertainty and Risk, Cost of Illness Model, Future FSA Strategic Priorities, Readiness for EU Exit, Operational Transformation Delivery Programme and Trade issues.

2.2 The open meeting in December 2019 was replaced with a further opportunity for the Board to be updated on a range of issues. I attended a one-day Board briefing session where discussions and updates were provided on a range of strategic issues including the National Food Strategy, Regulatory Reform, the Relationship of the UK and the FSA with CODEX and Trade issues. The Board also visited Allergy UK at its HQ in Sidcup.

2.3 I will be attending the January 2020 Board meeting. This will provide the opportunity to have further discussions with the Chair of the FSA Board on the proposed workplan for the WFAC for the coming year. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss a recruitment exercise which, subject to Ministerial agreement, will commence over the next few months to recruit for new members to serve on the WFAC. This will include replacement of WFAC member, James Wilson who has stepped down from the Committee for personal reasons. On behalf of the WFAC, I

would like to record our regret that James is departing, but also our appreciation for the very valuable contribution he has made. I wish him well for the future.

Dr Ruth Hussey CB, OBE
Board Member for Wales and Chair of the WFAC