

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2020 AT FSA IN WALES, SOUTHGATE HOUSE, CARDIFF**

**Present:**

**Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC) Members Attending:**

Dr R Hussey, Chair  
Dr N Barry  
Mr A Gardner  
Dr P Hollington  
Mr D Peace  
Mrs B Lyne-Pirkis

**Food Standards Agency (FSA) Officials Attending:**

Nathan Barnhouse – Director, FSA in Wales  
Julie Pierce – Director of Openness, Digital, Data and Wales  
Lucy Edwards - Secretariat  
Helen George – Secretariat

**Stakeholders Attending:**

Representatives from the following:

Rhondda Cynon Taff Council

**Presentations from:**

Dr Katherine Steele, Bangor University  
Hugh Jones, WRAP

**1. Introductions**

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and informed that the meeting was the second to be held following the review undertaken in 2018 on the operations of the Food Advisory Committees (FACs) in Wales and Northern Ireland. The Chair reminded that, following the review, the WFAC had moved towards a more forward looking way of working and, in line with recommendations made in the review, would focus its attention on developing its own intelligence/insight which might usefully contribute to forthcoming issues to be considered by the Board. The Chair said that the WFAC intelligence would be supplementary to information already provided for the FSA from a wide range of other sources, including advice from expert advisory groups, scientific advice, data from social science and consumer insight programmes and incident management. The Chair informed that the new way of working

would be monitored and reviewed and commented that she would welcome feedback from stakeholders on the day's proceedings.

1.2. Apologies were noted from Mr R Alexander.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

2.1. Committee members advised the following declarations of interest:

- Norma Barry advised that she works on consultancy assignments for food businesses which involve drafting HR policies and business plans. Norma also advised that she is a member of the Wales Food and Drink Industry Board.
- Ruth Hussey advised that she is the Governor of The Health Foundation, Commissioner, LSE/Lancet Commission on the 'Future of the NHS' and an Advisory Board Member for the School of Public Health Research. Ruth also has family members who are farmers.
- Philip Hollington advised that he is a member of the British Grassland Society and the Tropical Agricultural Association.

2.2 All declarations were noted.

## 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October were agreed as a true record.  
**Action: Secretariat. Minutes to be translated and posted to the website.**

## 4. Report from Chairman (Paper FSAW 20/01/02)

4.1. The Chair presented her written report which summarised discussions at the last Board meeting and covered discussions at the Board retreat. It was noted that the new arrangements for meetings were working well and would continue to be reviewed in order to best inform the strategic approach of the FSA. The Chair thanked the committee members who took part in the summer engagement opportunities at the National Eisteddfod and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. The Chair asked members to note the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales strategy recently published by Welsh Government which gives reference to the food environment in Wales that may be of relevance. There were no matters arising from the report. James resignation.

## 5. Director's Update (Paper FSAW 20/01/03)

- 5.1. The WFAC received the regular report from the Director in Wales, which stated that meetings had been held with a range of stakeholders. The report advised of a recent consultation on Official Controls Regulations, the reinstatement of the UK FHRS Focus Group, an update on EU Exit and the ESRC Social Science Festival. In a further oral update, the Director advised of the inaugural meeting of the Food Law Enforcement Liaison committee within Wales. There were no matters arising from the report.

## **6. The Food System in Wales – Open discussion**

- 6.1. The Chair opened the discussions reiterating that the purpose of the open discussions was to assist the WFAC in developing its own insight and intelligence that might usefully contribute to issues which are likely to be the feature of forthcoming Board discussions. The Chair commented that she was particularly interested in opportunities for the WFAC to explore any country specific aspects of an issue. The Chair added that she would welcome inclusive dialogue and invited stakeholders present to participate throughout the discussions.

## **7. Current Food Research at Bangor University – Dr Katherine Steele**

- 7.1 The presentation detailed the current food research being undertaken at Bangor University which included studies on Shellfish catchment processes in relation to water quality and food security, the identification of Biological Assays to authenticate Basmati rice varieties, food waste valorisation projects, soil borne micro plastics and developing cereals with improved health benefits.
- 7.2 The committee commended the work of the University and noted the research being undertaken. Along with previous presentations from Aberystwyth University and the Food Technology Centre, the committee commented that they have a clear picture of the Academic work in Wales.

## **8. Food Waste prevention – Hugh Jones, WRAP**

- 8.1 The presentation detailed both the global implications of food waste and food waste in the UK and in Wales as follows:

### Global implications:

- We are likely to need 60% more food by 2050 compared to 2005.
- One third of food is wasted globally.
- The cost of food waste globally is \$750 billion.
- By 2050 it is predicted that food supply could contribute 2 degrees Celsius to global warming.

### UK:

- 10 million tonnes of food waste a year at a cost of £17 billion, of this 69% is household food waste, 18% is manufacturing, 10% is hospitality and food service, 3% is wholesale and food waste in litter and 2% is retail. Despite this, 60% of people say they waste no to little food and 80% of people say they are doing all that they can to reduce waste.
- Over half of the food waste generated within the manufacturing and retail industry is avoidable.
- 200 million tonnes of food is thrown away by households due to not being used in time and for a third of this the date label is sighted as a factor (WRAP Cymru – Helping consumers reduce food waste – retail survey 2015)

Wales:

- Welsh households threw out 300,000 tonnes of food waste in 2015, around 9% lower than the average for the UK.
- People in Wales are less likely than people in Northern Ireland to be concerned about food waste (45% and 60%, respectively compared to 51% in England).
- 25% of landfill waste is food waste.
- Wales has the third highest recycling rate in the world beaten only by Singapore and Germany.
- Welsh households already recycle 63% of their waste (Welsh Government statistic)
- Every local authority in Wales provides a waste and recycling service.

## **9. Question and Answer Session**

- 9.1 There were no issues raised.

## **10. Any other Business**

- 10.1 The Committee noted that the next meeting would be a business meeting on 5 March and the next open meeting on 24 April in Cardiff.