

**WFAC 20/10/02
FOR DISCUSSION**

**WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WFAC) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON
ISSUES RAISED AT LAST BOARD MEETING**

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides a brief summary of matters introduced by the Board Chair at the last Board policy meeting which was held on 16 September 2020 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 – OCTOBER 2020**

1. Board Meetings

1.1 The last Board policy meeting was held on 16 September 2020. This was my first attendance at a Board meeting. At this meeting the Board considered the following policy matters:

- **National Food Crime Unit (NFCU): Food Crime Strategic Assessment** - This paper provided an update on the recent Food Crime Strategic Assessment, which is in development by NFCU, in concert with colleagues in Food Standards Scotland's Food Crime and Incidents Unit. The paper also provided the proposed direction of travel of the work of NFCU.
- **Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene Common Framework Update** - This paper described the common frameworks programme, a joint initiative between the UK Government (UKG) and the devolved governments to develop enduring post-transition period agreements on how the four countries of the UK will work together within devolved policy areas, where EU law previously created consistent approaches. The Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene (FFSH) framework proposals have been jointly developed by officials from the four countries. In particular, it set out how the key elements of the FFSH framework proposals align with the strategic objectives for EU transition set by the Board.
- **Risk Analysis Process Update** – The paper provided an update on the FSA's approach in developing and implementing the risk analysis process and reported on work undertaken to further refine the detailed operational procedures underpinning the process. The paper also set out the proposed approaches to prioritisation and triage of issues in the process, and also to publication and consultation on issues in the process.
- **Science Council Working Group 5 on Hypersensitivity** – The paper described the progress of the Working Group to date; and sought agreement to the Science Council's recommendations arising from the Working Group's review into previous and existing FSA research activities in food hypersensitivity as detailed in the Council's interim report.

1.2 The minutes of the Board's 16 September meeting and a video of the full proceedings, which provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the above papers, is available at

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-september-2020>

2. Other Matters

2.1 As part of my induction as the new Board member for Wales and Chair of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee, I participated in an intensive two-day programme of introductory sessions on Governance, Strategy, EU Transition and Trade, Regulatory Regimes, Finance Performance and Audit, Hypersensitivities, Covid-19 and a specific session on the operations of the FSA in Wales.

2.2 I have commenced a series of introductory meetings with key officials in Welsh Government, Local Authorities and the Welsh Local Government Association, as well as with industry representatives and a range of other key stakeholders in Wales. I will also be seeking the opportunity to engage with Ministers in Wales.

2.3 As the Chair of the WFAC I have observer status on the Safe Sustainable Authentic Food Wales (SSAFW) group. I attended my first meeting of the group on 21 September when areas discussed included EU transition matters and LA workforce planning issues particularly in relation to managing Covid-19 in Wales. I am pleased to report that Matthew Frankcom (the Chair of SSAFW) and I have agreed a reciprocal observer status for Matthew to attend meetings of WFAC. I view this as a positive way in which we can share intelligence and information gathering.

2.4 Over the coming months, subject to the approval of Vaughan Gething, the Minister for Health and Social Services, I shall be involved in the public appointments exercise for positions on WFAC which become available from 1 April 2021.

Peter Price

Board Member for Wales and Chair of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee

8 October 2020