

**WFAC 21/04/02
FOR DISCUSSION**

WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WFAC) CHAIR'S REPORT

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides a brief summary of matters discussed at the Board policy meeting on 9 March and the Board Business Committee meeting on 10 March, lists other Board-level meetings attended and reports on aspects of work relating to the FSA remit within Wales.
2. Members of the Committee are invited to:
 - **note** the Board discussions;
 - **ask** the Chair to expand on any issues for further discussion.

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WFAC CHAIR'S REPORT – APRIL 2021**

1. Board Meetings

1.1 The last Board policy meeting was held on 9 March. The Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC) met on 4 March to agree its advice on the papers being considered. I reflected the WFAC's advice in the Board's discussions on the following three policy papers: -

- **Annual Report from the Science Council Chair (Paper FSA 21/03/04)**

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-21-03-04-science-council-chairs-annual-report-to-the-fsa-board.pdf>

This paper provided an overview of the work of the Science Council and highlighted its successes and challenges over the past year, as well as giving a forward look at the future activities. The paper outlined the recommendations delivered on data usage and digital technology. It also reported on interim results from an innovative project on food hypersensitivity, which is looking at key priorities and the relevant knowledge landscape. The Council has also diversified its portfolio of projects, adding a rapid critical review on the quality of third-party evidence to the longer format reviews.

- **EU Transition Programme Update (Paper FSA 21/03/05)**

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-21-03-05-eu-transition.pdf>

This paper provided updates on the key activities and projects within the EU Transition Programme since December 2020. Further, the paper outlined the remaining risks and mitigations in place within the projects and set out the next steps for the Programme. The paper additionally provided an update on how the changes on 1 January 2021 have progressed, setting out the key challenges that remain across the EU Transition Programme and the activities in place or being taken forward to address them. An overview of the changes taking place in the Programme showed that it is evolving into a new 'business as usual' approach to managing the FSA responsibilities in the post-transition regulatory environment.

- **Strategic Risk Management (Paper FSA 21/03/06)**

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-21-03-06-strategic-risk-management-final.pdf>

The FSA's core purpose is to manage risk in the food system. This paper asked the Board to comment on the current approach to strategic risk management, the latest strategic assessment of potential concerns in the food system and in particular whether there are opportunities for the FSA to more effectively manage the inherent risks. It also summarised the outcomes of the Board's annual risk workshop for formal approval by the Board.

1.2 A link to the video of the full proceedings of the 9 March meeting is below: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-march-2021>. The minutes of the meeting, when available, will be posted on: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/our-board#meetings>.

1.3 The Board next met on 10 March for a business meeting. Agenda items considered at that meeting included the quarterly report on Performance and Resources, the FSA budget and Priorities for 21/22, and a review of Staff Engagement for 20/21. The latter paper included an update on the FSA's Civil Service People Survey Results for 2020, which were our strongest set of results yet, showing consistent improvement across all but one area. Copies of the papers considered and a record of the full proceedings are at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-business-committee-meeting-march-2021>

1.4 The Board has held fairly informal 1-hour KIT (mainly single topic) meetings on 25 and 30 March and on 14 April. The main topics were the Northern Ireland Protocol, the Operational Transformation Programme and the work of Local Authorities.

1.5 As a member of the Board's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), I attended a briefing by the Government's Internal Audit Agency on 18 March.

2. Other Matters

2.1 On 8 April, I facilitated, in conjunction with Nathan Barnhouse and team leaders in the FSA in Wales, an induction programme for the new WFAC committee members. The new members were provided with a detailed overview of the work of the FSA and the role of the Board. Team leaders covered the work of Regulatory Policy, Local Authority Delivery, Consumer Protection, Business Services and Communication, and the Operational Transformation Programme. It was a constructive meeting, at which we were able to provide insights on our work to the new members.

2.2 As the Chair of the WFAC I have observer status on the Safe Sustainable Authentic Food Wales (SSAFW) group. I will be attending the meeting of SSAFW on 23 June and will provide an oral report of this meeting to you at our following meeting.

Peter Price

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

13 April 2021