

**WFAC 21/04/03
FOR DISCUSSION**

WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WFAC) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Summary

1. The attached report from the Director of the FSA in Wales reports on issues of relevance which may be of interest to members of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC), covering the period 03/03/21 to 22/04/21.
2. The Director of FSA in Wales will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.
3. Members of the Committee are invited to:
 - **note** the update;
 - **invite** the Director to expand on any issues for further discussion.

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WFAC, FSA IN WALES DIRECTOR'S REPORT – APRIL 2021**

1 Food Law Code of Practice

- 1.1 Consultation on the Food Law Code Practice in Wales closed on 25 March. Nine replies have been received, including a response on behalf of the Directors of Public Protection in Wales and the 22 local authorities, and replies from the Welsh Local Government Association, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chartered Trading Standards Institute and UK Hospitality. We are currently considering the responses. Our response will be provided within three months of the consultation closing.

2 Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

- 2.1 The FSA in Wales is leading on a digital project that is using image recognition to detect the use of FHRs stickers/ratings in an online environment. The project has moved from proof of concept to further development and will inform decisions on the possible enhancement of the current scheme in Wales to the online display of ratings.

3 Safe Sustainable Authentic Food Wales (SSAFW)

- 3.1 The partnership group is scheduled to hold its next meeting on 23 June. The SSAFW COVID-19 response sub-group has been formally closed, and will be replaced by a recovery sub-group. The purpose of the recovery sub-group is to provide a forum for the FSA, local authorities and the Welsh Government to work together in the context of the operational issues associated with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of delivering food and feed law and practice, and service delivery in Wales.

4 School Engagement Programme

- 4.1 The FSA in Wales' school engagement programme has been adapted to enable delivery remotely, in addition to face to face delivery when conditions allow. The adaptation has been welcomed by primary schools in Wales who continue to benefit from workshops disseminating key food safety messaging.

<https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/food-hygiene-resources-for-school-children-in-wales>

5 Local Authority Training

- 5.1 Throughout April, the FSA in Wales has been hosting virtual animal feed training for local authorities on the current issues affecting animal feed and imported feed. Recent courses have included Feed Hygiene Primary

Production/Feed labelling, surplus food used in feed and raw pet food production. The courses have been well attended by local authority officials.

6 External engagement

6.1 Since the last meeting of WFAC (04/03/21) I have carried out the following engagement activity of which members may wish to be aware:

- 9/10 March – The International Food Regulatory Analysis Conference that explored ‘achieving regulatory excellence in the 21st century’.
- 10/11 March – Welsh Food & Drink Insight Conference; a 3 day programme that focussed on ‘new trends for renewed growth’
- 18 March – Chwarae Teg Webinar 'Society is the Disability': What does this mean for your business?
- 23/24 March – FSA Food Hypersensitivity Symposium; this event expanded understanding of food hypersensitivity through examining the challenges of allergen management while showcasing best practise and supporting food businesses to achieve compliance. The event was well represented by industry, consumer groups, enforcement agencies and clinicians. More information can be found here:
<https://fsahypersensitivitysymposium2021.co.uk/home>
- 8 April – Induction session for new WFAC members.
- 19 April – SSAFW COVID-19 Recovery sub-group. Establishing the forum for discussing the FSA’s outline roadmap for recovery, as well as ongoing operational issues relating to the recovery of food and feed official controls, and.
- 20 April – Meeting with Welsh Government officials to discuss collaboration and recovery planning for regulatory services associated with the end of the transition period, COVID-19 compliance and enforcement, and BAU activities.
- 22 April – Meeting with Welsh Government officials to discuss the classification of shellfish waters and the determinants of water quality in Wales’ coastal waters.

7 Information Sharing

7.1 Since the last meeting of the WFAC, the following information has been shared with members:

- The blog published by the FSA in light of British Science Week 2021 ‘People power – How the FSA plans to harness citizen science’.

- The formal announcement of new appointments to the Welsh Food Advisory Committee. [Appointments to the Agency's Welsh Food Advisory Committee | Food Standards Agency](#)
- The FSA's [published](#) the findings of a report exploring people's experiences of food during the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with cross-party think tank Demos.
- The Induction pack for new committee members
- Details of an additional WFAC meeting on 19 May to feed into the extraordinary Board meeting on 26 May.

Nathan Barnhouse
Director, FSA in Wales
16 April 2021