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Food  
Standards  
Agency

WELSH FOOD ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE PAPERS

OPEN MEETING

8 MARCH 2018

**MEETING OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
8 MARCH 2018  
MAIN HALL, NEUADD REICHEL, BANGOR UNIVERSITY, BANGOR, LL57 2TR**

**AGENDA  
OPEN MEETING**

Registration and coffee 09:15 – 09:25

Introductions and Apologies 09:25 – 09:30

**Preparation for Board discussion items**

Science Update 09:30 – 10:00  
Paper FSAW 18/03/04

Update from the Chair of the Science Council 10:00 – 10:20  
Paper FSAW 18/03/05

Raw Drinking Milk 10:20 – 11:00  
Paper FSAW 18/03/06

Comfort Break 11:00 – 11:10

International Strategy 11:10 – 11:40  
Paper FSAW 18/03/07

**Committee issues**

Last Open Meeting and Matters Arising 11:40 – 11:45  
Paper FSAW 18/03/01

Report from Chair 11:45 – 11:55  
Paper FSAW 18/03/02

Update from Director 11:55 – 12:05  
Paper FSAW 18/03/03

Feedback from Committee Networks 12:05 – 12:15

**General Question and Answer Session** 12:15 – 12:20

Any other business 12:20

Close of open meeting

12:25

**Papers to note – available for viewing on [www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk)**

Schedule of Dates for Committee Meetings

Register of Members' Interests

WFAC Biographies

**Full versions of the papers are available at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/our-board/meetings/2018/010118/board-meeting-agenda-14-march-2018>**

**FSAW 18/03/02  
FOR DISCUSSION  
WFAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – MARCH 2018**

**1. Board Chair's Report to the December 2017 Board meeting**

- 1.1 The Board Chair provided an update on recent engagements and Ministerial meetings including a meeting with Steve Brine, the new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health for a constructive conversation on regulatory reform and EU Exit. The Chair advised that she had also met with the then Minister for Social Services and Public Health. The Chair noted that this portfolio had since been transferred to Vaughan Gething and that she hoped to meet him as soon as possible. The Chair noted that she and the Chair of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee also met with the wider Welsh Ministerial Group to discuss EU Exit. The Chair met Richard Pengelly, the Northern Ireland Permanent Secretary for Health.
- 1.2 The Chair reported that the annual Parliamentary Reception had been a success and was well attended by both Parliamentarians, stakeholders and FSA officials. The Chair also advised that she had visited the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) in Weymouth, the Warburtons factory and the Lloyds Register, which promotes engineering and technology responses and spoke about a focus on educating the public on health safety.

**2. Summary of Main Discussion Items**

2.1 At the December 2017 meeting the Board considered the following papers:

- **National Food Crime Unit Update**  
This paper provided an update on the work of the NFCU, highlighting its achievements and challenges and outlined next steps should funding be secured to complete Phase 2 of the build.
- **Regulating Our Future – the FSA's role as a Supporting Regulator under Primary Authority**  
The purpose of this paper was to set out the proposed approach to the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) role as supporting regulator under the Enterprise Act 2016 and asked the Board to discuss and agree the nature and extent of that role.
- **Regulating Our Future – Development of the Assurance Framework for the Target Operating Model**  
The paper set out the work being undertaken to develop the assurance framework for the ROF Target Operating Model (TOM) and discussed the priority which might be attached to the Certified Regulatory Auditor (CRA) concept of the assurance framework.

- **AMR Reduction**  
The paper set out the FSA's activities concerning antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- **Surveillance Report**  
This paper provided the Board with a more detailed update on progress of Food and Feed Surveillance.
- **Social Science Report**  
The paper asked the Board to agree a direction of travel for the FSA's social science activity and give advice on the focus of the new Social Science and Data Committee.

2.2 The draft minutes from the December 2017 Board meeting, which provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the above papers, can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/our-board/meetings>

### 3. Other Matters

3.1 I attended the Board members retreat in January where topics discussed were exiting the EU, IT security, and strategic risk.

3.2 In January, I hosted a development day for the committee which included briefing sessions on Consumer Insight from the FSA Social Science team, a policy update from the Lead Director for the Environment and Rural Affairs in Welsh Government, a discussion on Port Health Authorities in Wales, and an overview of the Regulating Our Future programme.

3.3 In January, the Board Chair and I met with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services in Wales where we took the opportunity to discuss the Regulating Our Future Programme (ROF) and EU exit matters. I have also recently met with three representatives of Directors for Public Protection Wales to discuss Welsh perspectives on the ROF programme.

3.4 The review of the Food Advisory Committees (FACs) as commissioned by the Board Chair last year is currently underway. At this stage a range of stakeholders including FAC members, FSA staff and colleagues in offices of the devolved governments in Wales and Northern Ireland have been asked to contribute to a questionnaire which aims to seek views on how well the FACs are performing and delivering their functions, how these might be improved, and what impact the FACs are having. It is anticipated that the findings from the review will be presented to the FSA Board at the June meeting.

Dr Ruth Hussey CB, OBE  
Chair of Welsh Food Advisory Committee  
March 2018

**PAPER FSAW 18/03/03  
FOR DISCUSSION  
UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

**1. Summary of Chief Executive's Report to Open Board Meeting 6 December 2017.**

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 17/12/03) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa171203.pdf>

**2. Interim Director for Wales' Report on Matters Pertaining to Wales**

External Engagement

2.1 I have been involved in the following engagement opportunities since WFAC last met on 30 November 2017:

- 5 December – Brexit and the Welsh Economy meeting
- 6 December – Sector Readiness meeting with Welsh Government
- 8 December – DPPW meeting
- 12 December – Courtauld 2025 Wales Working Group
- 29 December – meeting with Mark Elliot, Chair of DPPW
- 9 January - meeting with Christianne Glossop – Chief Veterinary Officer
- 9 January – meeting with Deputy Director of Public Health Service
- 10 January – meeting with Lesley Griffiths AM and Mark Drakeford AM
- 11 January – meeting with Tim Render, Lead Director for the Environment and Rural Affairs, WG
- 22 January – NFU Cymru conference – Brexit: Shaping the future of Welsh Agriculture
- 23 January – attendance at FUW farmhouse breakfast
- 29 January – FSA/WG liaison meeting

Food Law Code of Practice (the Code) for Wales

2.2 In January, the FSA issued a six-week consultation on proposed amendments to Food Law Code of Practice (the Code) for Wales. The amendments aim to:

- address comments provided by stakeholders in response to a consultation in 2015. The consultation clarified arrangements for food business registration and the inspection of mobile food establishments, ships and aircraft in order to reduce unnecessary regulatory activity; and also revised the competency and qualification requirements for authorised officers involved in delivering Official Controls and other enforcement activities;
- update and provide additional guidance on food incidents and dealing with criminality i.e. food fraud and food crime; and,

- improve the presentation, structure and layout of the document and provide additional clarification on the execution and enforcement of food law to enhance consistency in delivery by local authorities in Wales.

These changes will ensure the advice in the Code is up to date, relevant and aligned with the Codes for England and Northern Ireland.

<https://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/consultations/2018/the-food-law-code-of-practice-wales-review-2018>

### MoU with MHRA

2.3 As part of the work FSA Wales leads for the FSA on food supplements we have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). MHRA is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health and is the UK Competent Authority under relevant EU Directives for medicinal products, medical devices and for blood and blood components. Our working relationship helps maintain an effective joined up regulatory system for public health in England and Wales (In Northern Ireland the Department of Health (DoH) is responsible for the enforcement of legislation relating to medicinal products).

2.4 This is particularly relevant to the FSA's work on food supplements and novel foods for example, where we work closely with the MHRA on the status of products on the borderline between foods and medicines. The new MoU sets out the framework to support our joint working relationship. We agree on how to share information, to carry out our respective regulatory functions and to benefit the public.

### EU Exit: UK frameworks

2.5 Ministers from UK, Welsh and Scottish Governments, and senior officials from the Northern Ireland Civil Service, have asked officials in each administration to work together to discuss in detail where common legislative approaches (frameworks) may be required at GB or UK level once we leave the EU. A number of 'deep dives' have taken place focusing on areas which are currently within the devolved competence such as agriculture and fisheries. In early February FSA Wales was present at the first food deep dive alongside colleagues from FSA England and NI, FSS, devolved governments and central government. The deep dive covered the following areas:

Food Labelling  
Food Compositional Standards  
Geographical Indications  
Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene  
Export Health Certificates (EHCs)  
Santé F: Health and Food Audit and Analysis

2.6 This was the first step forward in trying to reach agreement between the four administrations on the need to maintain a UK wide framework for policy areas where this is currently maintained by EU legislation. Further deep dives will be scheduled to discuss how frameworks could be maintained and governance structures.



## FHRS report

2.7 The Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) places a duty on the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to conduct a review of the implementation and operation of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (the Scheme) one year after its commencement, with further reviews every three years. The FSA is also required to review the operation of the appeals system annually. These review reports must be laid before the National Assembly for Wales and a copy sent to the Welsh Ministers.

2.8 A report has been prepared to meet the requirement for the FSA to undertake a three-year review of the implementation and operation of the Scheme from 28 November 2014 to 27 November 2017, and a further annual review of the operation of the appeals system to 27 November 2017.

2.9 This report was laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 28 February 2018 and will be published in English and Welsh. The report can be found here:

English: <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/gen-ld11433/gen-ld11433-e.pdf>

Welsh: <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/gen-ld11433/gen-ld11433-w.pdf>

## Enforcement

2.9 Details of recent successful food standards, food hygiene and food safety related prosecutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2015/14644/food-standards-agency-publishes-food-law-prosecutions-database>

## **3. Forward Look**

3.1 Between now and the next open meeting of the WFAC on 14 June, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:

- 19 April – FSA/WG liaison meeting
- 24 April – Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Seminar: The future of food regulation in the UK

Richard Bowen  
Interim Director, FSA Wales  
March 2018