

FSAW 19/01/02
For discussion

Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC) Chairman's Report on issues raised at last open board meeting

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides a brief summary of matters introduced by the Board Chair at the Board meeting held in December 2018 and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/>
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 – January 2019

1. Board Chair's Report to the December 2018 Board meeting

1.1 The Board Chair provided an update on recent engagements and highlighted the annual parliamentary reception and meetings with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the FSA's Advisory Committee on Social Sciences. Other engagements reported on included a series of Ministerial meetings, including with David Rutley, the Minister of State for Defra, Mat Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Chris Heaton-Harris from the Department for Exiting the EU. Further, the Board Chair reported that she had spoken at the Safer Communities Portfolio Board of the Local Government Association on the FSA's reform plans, EU exit and the National Food Crime Unit.

2. Summary of Main Discussion Items

2.1 At the December 2018 meeting the Board considered the following papers:

- **EU Exit:** An update in relation to the FSA's EU exit work.
- **Incident Management Post EU Exit:** The paper detailed the work of the Incidents and Resilience Unit to strengthen the FSA's resilience, capability and capacity to ensure the FSA maintains, and continues to improve upon, the UK's high standards of incident handling post EU exit.
- **Annual Surveillance Report:** The paper provided a description of the new overall surveillance approach and how the components fit together, an update on the progress in the design and delivery of those components, an update on the progress of the laboratory capacity and capability review and identification of the need for a new sampling strategy.
- **Regulating Our Future Programme – Report on the Review of Food Standards Delivery:** The paper provided a summary of the findings of the Food Standards Delivery review undertaken by the FSA, which has provided a baseline assessment of the delivery of food standards official controls across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- **Report from the Science Council Working Group (Capability and Assurance):** The paper which presented the final report from the FSA Science Council's Working Group on Capability and Assurance and set out the Executive's analysis of the Working Group's recommendations and its proposed response
- **Report from Science Council Working Group (Risk and Uncertainty):** The paper presented the final report and recommendations from the FSA

Science Council's Working Group on Risk and Uncertainty and set out the Executive's analysis of the Working Group's recommendations, including which actions are priorities.

- **Risk Analysis Process:** The paper outlined the process and principles that should be used at the different stages of risk analysis. It also set out the plans to strengthen capacity and structures of FSA Scientific Advisory Committees for EU Exit and for establishing the Advisory Forum on Food and Feed (AFFF).
- **Progress and Future of Social Science in the FSA:** The paper updated on the work undertaken to date to implement the 2017 Review of Social Science and proposed priorities for the social science function over the coming year, including priorities for the Advisory Committee for Social Science and the planned review of Food and You.
- **Raw Drinking Milk – Triggers for Review:** The paper which updated on progress on the actions arising from the last Board discussion on RDM in June 2018 paper and presented recommendations for data-enabled “triggers” that would prompt the Executive to review the control strategy
- **National Food Crime Unit Annual Report:** The paper provided an annual business update on the progress of the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) and highlighted progress being made towards building an end to end counter-fraud capability within the FSA.

2.2 The draft minutes from the December 2018 Board meeting, which will provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the above papers, will be posted to the FSA's website shortly at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-January-2019>

3. Other Matters

3.1 Since the last WFAC meeting, I have been involved in a range of discussions with the Board Chair in relation to taking forward findings emanating from the Review of the Food Advisory Committee in Wales and Northern Ireland.