

FSAW 19/07/02
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 meetings held in May and June 2019 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– July 2019

1. Board Meetings

1.1 There have been two Board meetings since the WFAC last met in open session. The Board met on 8 May and on 19 June.

1.2 The 8 May Board meeting was an extraordinary meeting arranged to focus on a single issue, which was Food Hypersensitivity and the Government's Allergen Labelling Review. The minutes from the May Board meeting, which provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the paper, is below https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/fsa-19-06-02-minutes-may-2019-board-meeting_0.pdf

1.3 At the 19 June meeting the Board considered the following matters:

- **Update on the FSA Work on Food Hypersensitivity and the Government's Allergen Labelling Review:** The paper provided an update on progress following the extraordinary Board meeting on 8 May and set out an outline workplan and proposed approach to taking forward the FSA's work on food hypersensitivity and allergen labelling.
- **Regulating Our Future – Delivering a Modernised Model for Food Standards Official Controls:** The paper updated on the FSA's plans to develop and implement a modernised food standards delivery model.
- **Final Report from the Science Council Working Group on Food System Risks and Horizon Scanning and FSA Response:** The report was the final report from the Working Group on Food System Risks and Horizon scanning which provided an analysis of the working group's recommendations and the proposed FSA responses to these.
- **Delivery of Official Controls for Animal:** The paper described the current arrangements for the delivery of official feed controls and set out steps for potential future arrangements.
- **FSA Sampling Strategy – Our Future Approach to Sampling:** The paper described the current arrangements for sampling and set out a series of guiding principles that to underpin the design and delivery of future sampling exercises.
- **FSA Approach to Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions:** The paper updated on the current position in relation to regulatory enforcement and sanctions and set out a proposed future approach.

2.2 The draft minutes from the June 2019 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-june-2019>

2.3 The WFAC held business meetings on 7 May and 13 June to agree its input into the Board discussions outlined above.

3. Other Matters

3.1 Since the last WFAC open meeting, I have been involved in discussions with the Chair of the FSA Board and the Chair of the Food Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland in relation to the refocussed ways of working for the Food Advisory Committees (FACs). Both FACs have now held two open themed sessions, one on allergens and one on animal feed. Discussions held at both themed meetings were reflected in papers recently discussed by the Board. There has also been a notable increase in stakeholder input at the themed meetings. As Chairs we have agreed that the repositioning of the FACs has been beneficial and is providing better country specific input to early stages of policy development. The new ways of operating will continue to be reviewed and evaluated.