

**FSAW 19/10/02**  
**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 September 2019 and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales.
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– October 2019**

## **1. Board Meetings**

1.1 There has been one Board meeting since the WFAC last met in open session. The Board met on 18 September.

1.2 At the 18 September the Board considered the following matters:

- **Update on the FSA Work on Food Hypersensitivity and Implementation of the Government's Allergen Labelling Review:** The paper provided an update on current and planned activities for food hypersensitivity and the implementation of new rules for foods prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) following the Government's Allergen Labelling Review and discussion at the Board meeting on 19 June 2019.
- **Cost of Illness Model, Willingness to Pay and Quality – Adjusted Life Years as Impact Measures for Foodborne Diseases and Food:** The paper described the extensive programme of work undertaken to date by FSA economists and external experts to improve estimates of the burden of foodborne diseases and to generate for the first-time analogous estimates of the burden of food hypersensitivities.
- **UK Official Food and Feed Laboratories: Vision for the Future:** The paper set out the outcomes from a review of the capacity, capability and governance of the UK official food and feed laboratory system. It also set out a vision for how a future UK official food and feed laboratory system could look and highlighted some of the next key steps required to develop an improved system.
- **The FSA's Approach to Uncertainty and Risk:** The paper described risk analysis principles and practice which underpins the FSA's role in providing evidence-based risk management advice to Ministers taking risk management decisions. It also set out expectations about the way that uncertainty in risk assessment and other evidence in support of risk management should be expressed and risk management measures to be when deciding to use the precautionary principle in formulating risk management advice.
- **Campylobacter Reduction Programme Update:** This paper provided an update on the activities the FSA has undertaken to reduce levels of Campylobacter. It also reported the suite of interventions trialled and implemented as part of the Campylobacter Reduction Programme and sought agreement to on-going activities being undertaken to reduce Campylobacter levels.

- **Antimicrobial Resistance Update FSA Approach to Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions:** The paper provided an update on the FSA's science activities concerning antimicrobial resistance and the food chain.

1.3 The draft minutes from the September 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](#).

1.4 The WFAC held a business meeting on 12 September to agree its input into the Board discussions outlined above.

## **2. Other Matters**

2.1 I am pleased that many members of WFAC were able to support FSA Wales' summer engagement programme including attendance at the Royal Welsh Agricultural show in July and attendance at the National Eisteddfod in August. Both events provided excellent opportunities to engage with consumers.

2.2 On 17 September I engaged in further discussions with the Chair of the FSA Board and the Board Member for Northern Ireland/Chair of the Food Advisory Committee for Northern Ireland in relation to the refocussed ways of working for the Food Advisory Committees (FACs). We continue to believe 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. We discussed, as part of my annual workplan, steps which will need to be taken in relation to appointments/reappointments to WFAC from June 2020 and also potential areas for discussion at future WFAC meetings including mapping out the food system in Wales.

Ruth Hussey  
Board Member for Wales and Chair of the WFAC