

Paper WFAC 20/01/03 For discussion

Update from director

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper signposts to issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held on 18 September 2019. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk>. The paper also provides an update on issues of relevance to Wales and forms the basis of the update to the Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC).
2. The Director for FSA in Wales will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.
3. Members are invited to:
 - **note** the update
 - **invite** the Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

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**PAPER WFAC 20/01/03
FOR DISCUSSION
UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

1. Summary of Chief Executive's Report to Open Board Meeting 18 September 2019.

1.1. The Board received the [written report \(FSA 19/09/03\) of the Chief Executive \(CE\)](#)

2. 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 in open session on 24 October 2019:

- 4 November – ESRC Conference
 - Cardiff hosted the FSA's ESRC symposium of social science – food, innovation and the future consumer. Very good representation of academia in Wales.
- 8 November – Member's Research Service, National Assembly for Wales
 - I met with the Member's Research Service to build our relationship to continue to expand our channels for communicating our messages to Assembly Members and the public.
- 11 November – Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils – DPPW officers
 - This is part of my regular programme of meetings with local authority environmental and public health leads to discuss our programmes of work.
- 19 November – Director General, Economy, Skills and Natural Resources, Welsh Government.
 - This is part of my work to build and strengthen links across the Welsh Government where there are areas of mutual interest, and to build resilience.
- 27 November – Director of Integrated Health Protection Public Health Wales
 - This is part of my regular programme of meetings with public health leads to maintain relationships and discuss our programmes of work.
- 27 November – Government Digital Service
 - I met to discuss inter-governmental data sharing and data standards, and to learn of good practice.
- 3 December – FSA/WG liaison meeting
 - This is part of the regular programme of meetings to discuss the FSA in Wales activity.
- 5 December - Welsh Language Commissioner's office
 - I met with the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner to discuss the FSA in Wales' Welsh Language scheme.
- 17 December – meeting of Health Protection Advisory Group

- I provide the FSA's input into the CMO's advisory group.
- 17 December – Wales Audit Office
 - We discussed the links between the audit programmes between the FSA in Wales and the Wales Audit Office. We will also follow up with meetings to share knowledge and working practices at an operational level, and explore opportunities for staff development.
- 20 December – Care Inspectorate Wales
 - We discussed areas of mutual interest, including clarification and support around the application of FHRS in care settings, and shared our experiences as regulators working in Wales.

New Year's Honours List

- 2.2 I would like to congratulate Nina Purcell, the former Director for RDD, ROF and Wales, who has been appointed a CBE for services to consumer safety in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 2.3 I would also congratulate Chris Brereton, former Chief Environmental Health Officer at the Welsh Government who has been awarded an OBE for services to Environmental and Public Health in Wales
- 2.4 Congratulations also to former FSA Board member Laura Sandys, was awarded a CBE for services to UK Energy Policy.

Office update

- 2.5 Alice Teague, Head of Regulatory Policy and Local Authority Partnerships, will shortly be undertaking a two-year loan to the Welsh Government as Head of Programmes (Biodiversity), in the Department for Economy, Skills and Natural Resources. The quality and consistency of Alice's work is noted across the FSA. I would like to share my personal thanks for her support and contributions, and I wish her well with her next challenge.

New Food Standards Reference Manual (eBook) for Local Authorities

- 2.6 In response to feedback from officers on the need for a 'Food Standards Reference Manual' for England, the FSA appointed Trading Standards South West (TSSW) to develop and supply a Food Standards Reference Manual for England. The TSSW were also appointed to review and update the existing Wales and Northern Ireland manuals.
- 2.7 Having successfully piloted a Food Standards Reference Manual with a selection of LA officers, the FSA are now launching the manual in eBook format. The manual contains weblinks to relevant legislation, useful resources and supplementary guidance. The eBooks are fully interactive and officers delivering food standards official controls can access them via the same Moodle platform, which is currently used to host eBook versions of the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code) and Practice Guidance. Already some 400 LA users access the Code and Practice Guidance via Moodle.

Funding for Local Authority EU Exit preparations 2019/20

2.8 In the past few months, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in Wales has been working with Welsh Government officials to develop a case for additional funding to support local authority (LAs) food and feed law enforcement services, in their preparations for EU exit. This case has now been approved and LAs have been invited to bid for funding detailing the work directly related to the delivery of food and feed official controls they have and/or need to undertake in 2019/20, to prepare for the UK's exit from the EU.

FSA, CIEH & PHW Communicable Disease Training for Local Authorities

2.9 The FSA have worked with PHW and CIEH on the development and delivery of a workshop for lead food hygiene and communicable disease officers to explore the Wales response to a complex food related multi-country outbreak. A training event took place in November which aimed to improve understanding of respective roles and responsibilities of key partners involved in responding to a significant food related outbreak. The event also assisted in building relationships and trust amongst key partners to facilitate collaborative working and increase partners capability in Wales to identify, investigate, contain and respond to a significant food related outbreak.

Consultation on Country of Origin Statutory Instruments (SI)

2.10 FSA in Wales is proposing to consult in early January on an SI in Wales to implement the requirements of the new EU Country of Origin Regulations (Regulation (EC) 2018/775) which comes into force on the 1st of April. Although Welsh Ministers' approval for a shortened 8 - week consultation has already been approved this did not commence due to the pre-election period. A request for Ministerial consent to a shortened 4-week consultation was submitted on 2 January, which the Minister agreed on 14 January.

3. Forward Look for Director for Wales

3.1 Between now and the next open meeting of the WFAC on 9 April 2020, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:

- 23 January - Meeting with Which? to discuss Implementation of the Official Control Regulations
- 27 January – follow-up meeting with the Wales Audit Office
- 29 January – second meeting of Wales Food Law Enforcement Liaison Committee
- 4 February – meeting with Wrexham Local Authority
- 5 February – meeting with Flintshire and Denbighshire Local Authorities
- 18 February – accompanying Principal Environmental Health Officer, Monmouthshire County Council

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