

WELSH FOOD ADVISORY

COMMITTEE PAPERS

OPEN MEETING

15 JUNE 2017

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**MEETING OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**15 JUNE 2017**

**FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY WALES, SOUTHGATE HOUSE, WOOD STREET, CARDIFF, CF10 1EW**

**AGENDA**

**Open Meeting**

Registration and coffee 09:15 – 09:25

Introductions and Apologies 09:25 – 09:30

**Preparation for Board discussion items**

Chemical Contaminants Strategy 09:30 – 10:00

Paper FSAW 17/06/04

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 10:00 – 10:30

Paper FSAW 17/06/05

Developing Our Approach to Identifying Risks and 10:30 – 11:00

Issues across the Food System

Paper FSAW 17/06/06

Comfort Break 11:00 – 11:15

**Committee issues**

Last Open Meeting and Matters Arising 11:15 – 11:30

Paper FSAW 17/06/01

Report from Chair 11:30 – 11:45

Paper FSAW 17/06/02

Update from Director 11:45 – 12:00

Paper FSAW 17/06/03

Feedback from Committee Networks 12:00 – 12:15

**General Question and Answer Session** 12:15 – 12:30

Any other business 12:30

Close of open meeting 12:45

**Papers to note – available for viewing on www.food.gov.uk**

Schedule of Dates for Committee Meetings

Register of Members’ Interests

WFAC Biographies

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| **FSAW 17/06/04**  **FOR DISCUSSION**  **CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS PRINCIPLES**  Executive Summary  1.1 The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 21 June, explains the Agency’s approach to managing chemical contaminant risks in food[[1]](#footnote-1). It outlines what chemical contaminants are and the main risks they pose to the consumer and trade in food. The paper also outlines the current control framework.   * 1. This paper sets out the policy principles we have developed to manage risk effectively and identifies several future challenges for the regime.   2. Mark Willis will present the paper to the Committee.   3. Members are invited to:-  1. consider the Board paper 2. consider any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.  |  | | --- | | FSA Wales Contact: Lucy Edwards  [lucy.edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk) | |
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**FSAW 17/06/05**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015**

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 21 June, describes actions taken by Welsh Government, through the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The paper outlines the challenges Wales faces, now and in the future, and sets out the actions which public bodies will need to take, in a joined up approach, to address the vision of improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The paper also identifies FSA strategic objectives and activities which align, and contribute to, the aspirations of Welsh Government.
2. Nina Purcell, Director for Regulatory Delivery and Wales.
3. Members are invited to:-

* consider the Board paper
* consider any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

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| FSA Wales Contact: Lucy Edwards  [lucy.edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk) |

**FSAW 17/06/06**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**DEVELOPING OUR APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING RISKS AND ISSUES ACROSS THE FOOD SYSTEM**

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 21 June, details the current and developing approaches to surveillance and horizon scanning provide us with capabilities to identify specific new and emerging risks in the near- and medium-term. But they do not, on their own, deliver an informed and integrated view of the global food system and of systemic risks and issues over the next five to ten years. The development of such a capability should be a medium-term objective. It would support development of our future strategy and contribute to our ambition of being an excellent, accountable and modern regulator.
2. Patrick Miller will present the paper to the Committee.
3. Members are invited to:

* consider the Board paper
* consider any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

FSA Wales Contact: Lucy Edwards

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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2017 AT THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY, SOUTHGATE HOUSE, WOOD STREET, CARDIFF.

**Present:**

**Welsh Food Advisory Committee (WFAC) Members Attending:**

Dr R Hussey

Mr R Alexander

Mr D Morgan

Dr H Jones

Mr D Peace

**Food Standards Agency (FSA) Officials Attending:**

Richard Bowen, Director (Interim) FSA in Wales

Helen George – Secretariat

Lucy Edwards – Secretariat

Nina Purcell via TC for item 1

Jason Feeney and Richard Collier via VC for item 2

Steve Wearne, Stuart Armstrong, Chun Han Chan and Paul Tossell via VC for item 3

**1. Introduction and Apologies**

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the open meeting and notified those present of the guest speakers who would be presenting papers. Apologies were noted from Mrs. S Jones.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 Committee members advised the following declarations of interest:-

* David Peace advised that he is non-executive chairman of Hall Mark group and business advisor to a farm-based food business in Monmouthshire.
* Norma Barry advised that she is a member of the Food and Drink Industry Board and is also Wine Ambassador for Wales as part of this role.
* Ruth Hussey advised that she is the Chair of the Health and Social Care Parliamentary Review Wales.

2.2 All declarations were noted. No members withdrew from discussions.

**3. Minutes of the Last Open Meeting (Paper FSAW 17/03/01)**

3.1 The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 November were accepted as a true record of discussions. It was agreed that the final minutes should be translated and placed on the website. **Action: Secretariat**

**4. Report from Chairman (Paper FSAW 17/03/02)**

4.1 The Chair presented her written report on the issues raised at the Board meeting held in November 2016. In commenting on the report, the Chair gave the WFAC an update on update on the visits and meetings she has attended since the last Committee meeting. In a further oral update, the Chair provided further detail on the FSA Board retreat held in January and the resulting strategic priorities that have now been agreed for the Agency over the next three years.

**5. Director’s Update (Paper FSAW 17/03/03)**

5.1 The WFAC received the regular report from the Director in Wales, this time presented by Richard Bowen, interim Director for Wales, which informed the Committee on a number of issues including the laying of a report before the National Assembly for Wales, on 28 February on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and the annual review of the operation of the appeals system for the period 28 November 2015 to 27 November 2016. Additionally, this report informed the WFAC of discussions which have been held with Welsh Government officials on amending the FHRS guidance for local authorities in Wales, and a revised draft is currently with local authorities for consideration.

**6. Regulating Our Future Programme Update (Paper FSAW 17/03/04)**

6.1 WFAC members discussed the paper which provided an update on activity across the programme since September 2016 and also gave an overview of the high level plan for 2017-19 along with a summary of the strategic risks.

In its more general discussions on the Target Operating Model Delivery Plan, the WFAC noted that the model was high level and was a living management tool designed to be revised and refined over time. The Committee noted that a number of governance changes had recently been made and that the work of the programme would now be overseen by the FSA's Executive Management Team (EMT). In this respect, it was noted that a more detailed delivery plan, with specific outcomes and defined timescales, would be prepared for, and regularly monitored, by EMT. The WFAC raised a number of queries in relation to the risks associated with the programme. While noting the extract of the RoF's risk register, it was agreed that the WFAC might benefit from seeing the more detailed register which would place the risks in more context and provide detail on the risk ratings assigned to each risk. **Action: Secretariat**

6.2 In considering the assurance aspects of the paper, the WFAC made the following comments:-

* that it would welcome further detail on the proposal for a Certified Regulatory Auditor (CRA) and, in particular, on standards of competence for the CRA – in this respect the WFAC noted that the assurance work stream had been charged with exploring this concept further; and
* that it had a concern about reliance on 3rd party assurance schemes, particularly assurance schemes paid for by individual businesses.

6.3 A number of questions were raised by the Committee in relation to the possibility of introducing the principle of permit to trade. Indeed, this was also an issue raised by a stakeholder question submitted in advance to the committee. The WFAC discussed the benefits of the statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) in Wales and its success in raising food hygiene standards in food businesses in Wales. This was also an issue raised by a stakeholder question. The questions received, and the responses which were provided at the meeting are attached at Annex 1 for completeness. There were also a number of specific questions relating to the RoF programme, by stakeholders attending the meeting, which were raised in the general answer session, formal responses to these questions have been provided and are also attached at Annex 2. The concerned conflict of interest using paid assurance inspectors, an overreliance on data gathered by the private sector, and concern if there is a shift to private regulation that there will be a loss of support to businesses as audit and inspection are different skill sets. A further comment was made in relation to the Food Law Code of Practice being amended a few years ago to simplify the registration process while the direction of the RoF programme is now moving towards enhanced registration. **Action: Secretariat**

**7. Stow Project Phase 2: Sustainable Funding Model (Paper FSAW 17/03/05)**

7.1 Members considered the paper which detailed the progress made to date by the Steering Group on Meat Charging, the implementation of Stow 1 discounting and charging arrangements from 28 March 2016. In noting the positive progress made to date in encouraging greater joint working between industry and the FSA by driving efficiencies in the delivery of official controls, the WFAC appreciated that a number of factors were now hampering the ability to make significant further progress. In its discussions on the paper the WFAC made the following observations:-

* that it was reassured that if it was agreed to suspend the work on the development of a future sustainable model, that it would not be problematical to resurrect this work and the steering group should the need arise;
* that it had been disappointing that it had not been possible to secure any Welsh farming union representation on phase 2 of the steering group;
* that should the group be resurrected, that its size and membership should be reviewed, and in this respect, the WFAC was of the view that a smaller steering group might be more beneficial supported by a wider consultative group;
* that it would appreciate a greater understanding of the total cost of delivering official controls and, in this respect, it would welcome a table identifying costs to the FSA (including what can be recovered) and costs to the industry over the last three financial years. **Action: Secretariat**

7.2 In conclusion, the WFAC supported the proposal to suspend the work on the development of a sustainable funding model pending further progress on the future design of official controls. Further, the WFAC was of the view that the FSA should continue with the development of a definition of a small/micro premises with a view to designing a specific solution for such premises under any future sustainable funding model.

**8. Allergy and Intolerance Programme (Paper FSAW 17/03/06)**

8.1 Members considered the paper which detailed the recent outputs from world-leading research and their routes to impact, with a view to shifting the emphasis of the research programme from food allergy in infants and children to adults.

In its considerations of the paper, the WFAC made the following observations:

* the significance of a food allergy or food intolerance with relatively high numbers of hospitalisations;
* that it is important for the FSA to undertake research to underpin the future focus and priorities for any potential future policy interventions and advice;
* in recognising that risk groups include consumers who are teenagers and in their 20s, that the use of modern, reliable, technologies could usefully be explored;
* that consistent labelling standards introduced in the UK, and across Europe, under the Food Information Regulations legislation, has proved a useful safeguard in providing allergenic information for consumers; and
* that any future work might usefully be targeted at a greater understanding of, and further work with other bodies, in relation to a range of different cross contamination issues, including cross contamination in food premises and environmental factors and further work with local authorities to assist those working within an enforcement role.

8.2 A member of the Committee usefully fed back on his recent attendance at an FSA consumer panel held in Wales where it was observed that consumers highlighted that food labelling is complicated and not always fully understood and that clear and consistent messaging is vital with such a large number of imported foods being available.

8.3 Subject to the above considerations the WFAC supported the paper's recommendation for a shift in focus of the research programme to food allergy in adults.

**11. Feedback from Committee Networks**

11.1 Numerous committee members advised that they had observed consumer panels over the past few months from which the main themes were food labelling, a lack of understanding around food safety and the role that the FSA plays in ensuring this. It was also noted that there was a perception that once consumers were influenced by a scare story, i.e. the dangers of artificial sweeteners, it is difficult to change their opinions even with science and evidence.

**12. Question and Answer Session**

12.1 All issues raised as part of the session are reflected in the comments above.

**13. Any other Business**

13.1 The Committee noted that the next open meeting would be 15 June 2017.

**ACTION POINTS**

| Index | Action | By | Status |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Para  3.1 | Minutes of the November meeting to be translated and placed on website. | 31 March 2017 | Complete |
| Para 6.1 | Full Risk Register to be shared with the Committee. | 30 April 2017 | Complete |
| Para 6.2 | Reports on Regulating Our Future pilots with Tesco and Mitchell & Butler to be shared with the Committee. | 17 March 2017 | Complete |
| Para 7.1 | Table detailing FSA costs and how much is recovered year on year from meat charging. | 31 May 2017 | Complete |

**Annex 1**

**Questions on the Regulating Our Future programme from the Wales Heads of Environmental Health:**

**Q1**. Welsh Ministers have asked the Agency to explore and advise Welsh Government on the possibility of introducing an enhanced system of registration or licensing that would require prior approval rather than a right of registration for all food businesses. In the light of that, do paras 4.21 and 4.22 of the ROF update paper to the Board merely refer to England? What is the current position in Wales insofar as the potential for food business licensing is concerned?

**A1**. We are committed to the principle of permit to trade. We have met with Welsh Government lawyers to discuss how this might be introduced. We are also in discussions with our social scientists and economists to determine a suitable framework. All policy development, particularly that to be enshrined in legislation. requires a comprehensive evidence base on which sound proposals can be based therefore the approach on permit to trade that is detailed in paras 4.21 and 4.22 is applicable to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We are committed to building this evidence base to ensure that the policy we develop is fit for purpose and will be sufficiently robust to withstand the challenges of the legislative process across each of the countries. We will be looking to local authorities to help us build the evidence base in Wales.

**Q2**. Given the Joint Welsh Government Ministerial Position Statement on ROF, in particular with regard to independent local authority inspections and the mandatory FHRS in Wales, to what extent does ROF reflect the potential for different approaches in Wales and England in relation to these matters?

**A2**. We have made it clear in para 7.1 that in progressing the development of a new operating model we are taking into consideration the need for flexibility in any new arrangements to enable the model to meet the needs of individual countries, whilst delivering an overall regime that meets the principles that support the programme. Through the open policy making approach that we have adopted we are committed to engaging with and listening to the views of key stakeholders across each of the countries and affording them the opportunity to shape development of the model and we will continue to work in this way.

**Annex 2**

**Stakeholder comments and questions on the Regulating Our Future Programme:**

**Comments**: Concerns that there is a conflict of interest using paid assurance inspectors and that there will be overreliance on data gathered by the public sector. If there is a shift to private regulation there is a danger of loss of support to businesses, audit and inspection are different skill sets.

**Q1**. FHRS pilots with Tesco and Mitchell and Butler, have these results been shared with the WFAC committee?

**A1**. The reports of these pilots have recently been finalised and were published on 9 March at <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2017/16046/regulating-our-future-assurance-studies-published>

**Q2**. If there is a shift to private regulatory assurance, what is the value to the consumer in Wales as opposed to the current system?

**A2**. The current system is fully reliant on interventions delivered by Local Authorities to determine the degree to which businesses are complying with food law and does not make use of assurance data gathered by industry. Local Authority interventions take place at wide intervals in time and by using assurance data gathered by industry on an on-going basis it will be possible to build a more detailed assessment of compliance, which will provide added value to the consumer. The proposal is to take account of Regulated Private Assurance and not “shift to private regulatory assurance”. Official controls will always have a presence but their focus, frequency, and type will vary according to the level of assurance that can be taken from a food business’ private assurance stream. The recognition of Regulated Private Assurance for businesses that seek compliance will allow LAs to place greater focus on the persistently non-compliant businesses that pose the greatest risk to consumers.

**Comments**: In England the Food Law Code of Practice changed a few years ago to simplify the registration process now ROF is moving towards enhanced registration which is an interesting juxtaposition. Registration is a fundamental foundation which FHRS is based on, there are many risks i.e. re-registration to avoid display and avoid penalties. Concern that giving a choice of regulator gives a confusing message to both businesses and consumers.

**Q3**. Will the paid assurance inspectors issue FHRS?

**A3**. It is envisaged that the evidence on business compliance that would be gathered by Certified Regulatory Auditors (CRAs) could play a role in informing the calculation of food hygiene ratings, however, the detail of how this could work in practice, under the Brand Standard in England and within the current legislative frameworks in Wales and Northern Ireland, has not yet been developed.

**Q4**. Will more scrutiny be applied to 3rd party accreditation schemes?

**A4**. Yes – it is proposed that for any industry assurance to be taken into consideration within the new delivery model it will be regulated and deemed to have met standards for assurance that will be set by the Food Standards Agency.

**Q5**. Will there be a register of auditors, their function and use?

**A5**. Yes – to put the concept of Certified Regulatory Auditors in place it will be necessary to develop arrangements for the certification of individuals to an accredited standard set by the Food Standards Agency. It is envisaged that there will be different levels of competence within the standard related to the nature and complexity of food businesses to be audited and the circumstances in which a person accredited to a particular level can be deployed will be specified.

**FSAW 17/06/02**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**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 Chairman at the Board meeting held in March 2017 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 Chairman to expand on any issues for further discussion.

**FSA Wales Contact: Lucy Edwards**

[Lucy.Edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.Edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk )

**FSAW 17/06/02**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**WFAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JUNE 2017**

**1. Board Chair's Report**

1.1 The Board Chair provided an update on recent engagements, including a Board away day in January where they had discussed the FSA’s 5 year plan. The Chair said she had met with the Minister for Social Services and Public Health in Wales and had discussed Welsh stakeholders’ views of regulatory reform. The Chair had also met with George Eustice MP, Minister at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Defra, the Chair had discussed progress on the National Food Crime Unit; animal welfare and CCTV use in abattoirs; and the FSA’s contribution to exiting the EU.

The Chair also noted she had: spoken at the opening of the recent Codex AMR discussions and thanked Steve Wearne, the FSA’s Director of Policy, for his excellent co-chairing; attended a Moy Park dinner; visited a feed mill in North Allerton; met with Leeds City Council’s Environmental Health team; met with the International Meat Trade Association; and met with the Managing Director of Waitrose.

**2. Summary of Main Discussion Items**

2.1 At the March 2017 meeting the board considered the following papers:-

* **Regulating Our Future Programme**

The paper gave a comprehensive update on the engagement work undertaken by the Regulating Our Future (ROF) Programme team since September 2016.

* **Stow Project Phase 2 – Sustainable Funding Model**

The paper highlighted the progress made by the independent Group on a sustainable funding model; and asked the Board to decide whether work should continue on the definition of small/micro operations in the expectation that it would be needed for future work on the model.

* **Food Allergy and Intolerance Programme**

The paper detailed the recent outputs from world-leading research and asked the Board to agree to the shift of emphasis of the research programme from food allergy in infants and children to adults.

* **Dietary Health Update**

The paper provided an update on the work programme of the dietary health team in Northern Ireland, describing the FSA’s continuing role in this policy area and the importance of working collaboratively across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

* **Oral Report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

The Chair of ARAC gave a summary of the four areas of discussion covered by the Committee at its meeting the previous day, namely: the year-end accounts; the internal audit programme; risk; and the annual report on information security.

2.2 The draft minutes from the March 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>

**Other Matters**

3.1 Since March I have been involved in a recruitment process to appoint two new members to the WFAC. Interviews are being held on 15 and 16 June. It is anticipated, subject to Ministerial approval, that there will be two new members on the WFAC from July. I would like to take the opportunity to record my sincere thanks to both Derek Morgan and Sue Jones whose appointments come to an end on 30 June. Both have been on the committee since 2008 and their expertise and input will be missed. I wish them well for the future.

3.2 Due to the pre-election period other FSA official activities have been limited.

Dr Ruth Hussey CB, OBE

Chair of Welsh Food Advisory Committee

June 2017

**PAPER FSAW 17/06/03**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**UPDATE FROM INTERIM DIRECTOR**

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper signposts to issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held on 15 March 2017. 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.

2. The interim Director for FSA Wales will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.

3. Members are invited to:

* **note** the Board discussions
* **invite** the interim Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

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| FSA Wales Contact: Lucy Edwards  [Lucy.Edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.Edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk) |

**PAPER FSA 17/06/03**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

**1. Summary of Chief Executive’s report to open Board meeting 15 March 2017.**

* 1. The Board received the written report (FSA 17/03/03) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa170303.pdf

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| **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 9 March 2017:-   * 15 March – Langstone Primary School, Newport to view a performance of *Ghastly Gravy on the Star Ship Ghastromo* workshop * 21 March - meeting with the head of Shared Regulatory Services for Bridgend Council, Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan * 23-24 March – attendance at the Taste of Wales Awards * 28 March – meeting with Chair of the Directors of Public Protection, Wales * 30 March – meeting with Head of Lifestyle Services, Ceredigion County Council * 31 March – site visit with Vale of Glamorgan food safety team * 5 May – attendance at Welsh Government Food Policy Group meeting * 17 May – attendance at the Heads of Government in Wales meeting * 19 May – attendance at Directors of Public Protection Wales meeting * 23 May – attendance at the NFU Food and Farming celebration * 24 May -- attendance at WRAP Cymru working group meeting * 6 June – meeting with Welsh Government Health Policy directorate   2.2 Additionally, I have taken the opportunity to attend the FSA Wales’ exhibition at the Urdd Eisteddfod.  Regulating Our Future (ROF)  2.3 Representations have been made toRebecca Evans AM, Minister for Health and Social  Services about the direction of travel of the FSA’s ROF programme. The Welsh Local  Government Association and Directors of Public Protection Wales have expressed concerns  relating to the engagement process and concerns about possible implications they foresee for the cohesive and robust regulatory regime which exists in Wales. As a consequence of these concerns, and mindful of Welsh Government’s position statement of December 2016 on the ROF proposals, the Minister has commissioned a new working group to consider wider engagement with the ROF programme, particularly in respect of the Welsh Local Government landscape and Local authority updates and consultations. Terms of reference and membership of the group is currently being drawn up by Welsh Government officials. The working group will be led by the Chief Environmental Health Officer for the Welsh Government. The FSA will be an integral part of the group which is likely to meet soon after the general election. The rescheduled (due to the pre- election period) dates for the next phase of ROF Local Authority engagement events are now confirmed. The events are consultative in nature and intended to help inform the ROF Target Operating Model design. The next local authority event to be held in Wales will be on 11 July, at the Metropolitan Hotel, Llandrindod Wells, Powys.  Local Government Reform in Wales  2.4 Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in Wales, confirms that as a result of the White Paper consultation and responses he will shortly be setting out the next steps in local government reform.  [**http://gov.wales/newsroom/localgovernment/2017/170511-local-government-reform/?lang=en**](http://gov.wales/newsroom/localgovernment/2017/170511-local-government-reform/?lang=en)  Approval from Welsh Assembly Members for a Public Health (Wales) Bill  2.5 A new wide ranging Public Health Bill was passed by the National Assembly for Wales  on 16 May.  Welsh Assembly members unanimously voted to introduce a raft of new  measures designed to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Wales”, including  extending smoke-free areas and forcing tattooists and body piercers to sign up to a licensing  scheme. The Bill also places a duty on Ministers to tackle obesity by publishing a national  strategy on preventing and reducing it. Of particular interest to the FSA is that the Bill  enables a ‘food authority’ under the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 to retain fixed  penalty receipts resulting from offences under that Act, for the purpose of enforcing FHRS.  Currently, local authorities are not permitted to retain these receipts. This will assist local  authorities in recovering the costs associated with addressing cases of non-compliance and  help maintain the ongoing success of FHRS in Wales.  [http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/national/15289664.WelshAssemblyvotesthrough radicalhealthandwellbeingbill/](http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/national/15289664.WelshAssemblyvotesthrough%20radicalhealthandwellbeingbill/)  <http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=16155>  Enforcement  2.6 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 September, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:-   * 11 July – Local Authority stakeholder meeting to discuss the Regulating Our Future programme * 25 July – attendance at Royal Welsh Agricultural Society show * 29 July – attendance at Caerphilly Big Cheese * 9 August – attendance at National Eisteddfod * 16 August – attendance at Pembrokeshire County agricultural show   Richard Bowen |
| Interim Director, FSA Wales  June 2017 |

1. Defined here as food, drink and feed. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)