

To: **MHPF Members
& MHS Contractors**

Date: 2 October 2007

Reference: MHA 1324

Dear Sir/Madam

Advisory Board for the Delivery of Official Controls

This letter seeks your views on proposals for the establishment of an Advisory Board for the Delivery of Official Controls, see Annex A.

Please reply by 31 October 2007 to:

Wing-Man Chan
Food Standards Agency
Room 315C, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH
Fax: 020 7276 8362 or E-mail: Wing-Man.Chan@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

If you wish to discuss these proposals please contact Alick Simmons on 020 7276 8380.

This letter is being sent to those listed at **Annex Bi/ii**. Please feel free to pass it to any other parties with an interest in the subject, or send us their full contact details and we will arrange for a copy to be sent to them direct.

A copy of this letter is on the MHPF website at www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/meat/ where a summary of replies will be published. Please note that any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be considered as such a request unless you specifically include a request, with an explanation, in the main text of your response.

Yours faithfully



John Harwood
Chief Executive

cc. MHS Board Members
Debby Reynolds
Brian Harding

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE DELIVERY OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS

Decision 7 of the Tierney Report¹, which was accepted by the FSA Board, recommended that the FSA set up an Advisory Body for the Delivery of Official Controls. The report went on to say “Creating a forum for business, consumers and others to advise the FSA and TMHS on the delivery of Official Controls will help ensure the success of the proposed change programme. Participants will recognise that the FSA, as Competent Authority, will ultimately have to make decisions (for example on plant approval, enforcement and interpretation of the rules), but those decisions are likely to be better with the benefit of informed advice from a group of committed partners.”

We propose the following arrangements:

1. Role of the Advisory Body

The FSA Board is responsible for setting the overall strategy for the change programme on the delivery of official controls. **It is proposed that the Advisory Body would provide advice to the FSA Board on the whole of the change programme.** It would also have the power to offer advice to other parts of the FSA’s structure, such as the MHS Board, the FSA’s executive team, and the MHS Chief Executive and his management team

The Advisory Body would have four main functions:

- a. Advice to the FSA Board and to the MHS Board on progress on the transformation of the MHS
- b. Commenting on the strategy for the negotiation and development of the regulatory regime including advising on the evidence base.
- c. Advising on Charging policy and arrangements to allow a progressive move towards full cost recovery including the issues of incentives and subsidies
- d. Overview of preparations for piloting the Delivery Partner model.

2. Meetings

It is proposed that the Advisory Body would meet at least twice a year, timed so that it can consider the 6 monthly reviews of TMHS progress and performance required by the FSA Board. More frequent meetings could be held if appropriate.

3. Terms of Reference

It is proposed that the terms of reference for the Advisory Body should be:

- a. *To involve those being regulated in decisions about how regulations are to be designed and implemented.*
- b. *To identify and advise on issues concerning the design of policies and their ease of delivery.*
- c. *To advise on the delivery of Official Controls to ensure the success of the proposed change programme.*
- d. *To advise on plans to implement the agreed changes.*

¹ Paragraphs 46- 48 see www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/fsa070706.pdf

4. Membership

It is proposed that membership of the Advisory Body is limited to no more than 11 persons who would serve a maximum three year term, drawn from the following stakeholder groups, selected by their peer groups, plus the chair:

- Red meat FBOs x 2
- White meat FBOs x 1
- Game FBOs x 1
- Primary Producers x 1
- Defra x 1
- Contractors x 1
- Consumers x 1
- Meat retailers x 1
- BRC/Supermarkets x 1
- TMHS x 1

The secretarial function would rest with the FSA.

It is proposed that the chair should be an independent external person appointed by the Agency.

5. Nominations

You are invited, if you wish, to indicate in your response who you would be likely to nominate as your representative, if the membership set out in the paper is confirmed.

6. The Future of the Meat Hygiene Policy Forum

The existence of the Advisory Body would not undermine the normal consultation process required for legislative change or production of guidance. That would still entail discussion with affected parties and wider formal consultation. In addition to formal consultation, the Agency currently makes use of a twice yearly Meat Hygiene Policy Forum (MHPF) and three working sub-groups that advise on red meat, poultry meat and game meat issues. The Tierney report recommended that the MHPF should be redesigned or closed down to avoid overlap.

It is proposed that with the setting up of the Advisory Body, the MHPF should be consulted on whether it serves its purpose or whether the Advisory Body together with the existing MHPF sub-groups should take over. Interested stakeholders, who are not key members of the sub-groups, would be invited to meetings whenever discussions that directly affect them were on the agenda.

Please send replies and likely nominations by 31 October 2007

To:

Wing-Man Chan
Food Standards Agency
Room 315C, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH
Fax: 020 7276 8362 or
E-mail: Wing-Man.Chan@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

CONSULTATION LIST**(i) Meat Hygiene Policy Forum Members****Red Meat**

Association of British Abattoir Operators (*Sam Morphet*)
 Association of Independent Meat Suppliers (AIMS) (*Norman Bagley*)
 British Meat Processors' Association (BMPA) (*Stuart Roberts*)
 Guild of Welsh Lamb and Beef Suppliers (*Alan Horine*)
 Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (*Phelim O' Neill*)
 Quality Meat Scotland (*Andy McGowan*)
 Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers (SAMW) (*Alistair Donaldson*)
 Small Abattoir Federation (SAFe) (*John Chadwick*)

White Meat

British Poultry Council (BPC) (*Peter Bradnock/Richard Griffiths/Jeremy Hall*)
 Northern Ireland Poultry Federation (*Eric Reid*)
 TAPPAG (*David Thacker/Graham Brand*)

Game

British Association for Shooting and Conservation
 British Deer Farmers' Association (*Dr John Fletcher*)
 British Deer Society (*David Kenyon*)
 British Wild Boar Association (*Dr Ian Horrell*)
 Deer Commission of Scotland (*Alastair MacGugan*)
 Deer Initiative (*Peter Watson*)
 Deer Management Qualification (*Andrew Hoon*)
 FACE – UK Countryside Alliance (*Tim Hoggarth*)
 National Game Dealers Association (*Stephen Crouch*)
 National Gamekeepers Organisation (*Charles Nodder*)
 Scottish Game Dealers and Processors Association (*A. MacLean/Leo Barclay*)

Primary Production

Country Land and Business Association (*Caroline Cranbrook/Oliver Harwood*)
 Farmers Union of Wales (FUW) (*Alan Gardner*)
 National Farmers Union (NFU) (*Alastair Johnston/Michael Seals*)
 National Farmers Union, Cymru Wales (NFUCW) (*John R Owen*)
 National Farmers Union of Scotland (*Nigel Miller*)
 Soil Association (*Philip Stocker/Bob Kennard*)
 The Ulster Farmers Union (*Ian Stevenson*)

Consumers

Foodaware (*Sue Knox/John Godfrey*)
 Food Commission (*Tim Lobstein*)
 Halal Food Authority (*Masood Khawaja*)
 Human BSE Foundation (*Janet Gibbs, Chairman*)
 Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome Help (HUSH) (*Paul Santoni/Ishbel MacKinnon*)
 Islamic Cultural Centre (*Dr Yunes Teinaz*)
 Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) (*Dr Abdul Majid Katme*)
 National Consumer Federation (*Stella Nicholas/John Brown*)

National Council of Schechita Board (NCSB) (*David Rose*)
National Council of Women (GB) (*Judy Brander*)
Scottish Consumer Council (*Martyn Evans*)
Sustain (*Jeanette Longfield*)
Welsh Consumer Council (*Lindsey Kearton*)
Which? (formerly Consumers Association) (*Sue Davis/Michelle Smyth*)

Meat Retailers / Supermarkets / Meat Promotion

British Retail Consortium (BRC) (*Mary Salmon, Sainsbury plc*)
Cold Storage and Distribution Federation (*John Hutchings/Tony Reed*)
Federation of Wholesale Distributors (*John Murphy*)
Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) (*Gwyn Howells/Prys Morgan/Kirsten Smith*)
International Meat Trade Association (*Chris Gadsden*)
The Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (*Mike Tempest*)
Meat & Livestock Commission (MLC) (*Michael Fogden/ Kathy Roussel*)
National Association of British Markets Authorities (*John Edwards*)
National Association of Catering Butchers (*Nigel Tottman*)
National Federation of Meat and Food Traders (NFMFT) (*Graham Bidston/John Taylor/Richard Stevenson*)
Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association (*Douglas Scott/Hamish Deans*)

Government

DARDNI (*Jean Wales*)
Defra (*Stephen Wyllie*)
Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) (*Jane Downes*)
Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)
Scottish Government (*Martin Morgan*)
Welsh Assembly Government (*Alan Streeter*)

Other Organisations

Association of Meat Inspectors (*Pierce Furlong*)
British Veterinary Association (BVA) *Jason Aldiss* (Scottish Branch) (*F O Sless*)
Campden & Chorleywood FRA (*Mike Stringer*)
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) (*Jenny Morris*)
Meat Training Council (*Bill Jermev*)
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) (*Jill Nute*)
Royal Environmental Health Institute, Scotland (REHIS) (*Tom Bell*)
Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (RSPH) (*Christopher Suter*)
RSPCA (*John Avizienius*)
UNISON (*Ron Spellman*)
Veterinary Public Health Association (*Craig Kirby*)

CONSULTATION LIST**(ii) MHS Contractors**

AKER	Malcolm J Wheeler BVMS MRCVS
Armac Veterinary Group	McTaggart Veterinary Group
ARO Ltd	Merlin Veterinary Practice
Avenue Veterinary Centre	Michael Gratton
Bellevue Veterinary Group	Midforest Veterinary Practice
Carrick Veterinary Centre	Milfeddygon Bodrwnsiwn Veterinary Group
Clyde Veterinary Group	Miller & Swann
Conanvet	Mount Services Wellington
County Veterinary Group	Oaksford & Birch
Crescent Veterinary Clinic	Old Courts Veterinary Centre
Deveron Veterinary Surgeons	Onevet & Co.
E.L.L. Williams	Paragon Veterinary Group
Eastgate Veterinary Group	Patrick A Boyd BVMS MRCVS
Estcourt House Veterinary Surgeons	Paws Veterinary Health Centre
Eville & Jones Ltd	Pearson Thompson & Callery
FCI Ltd	Perriferell Veterinary Services
G & P J Nute	Quarry Veterinary Group
Gordon Vets	R C Challinor BVSc MRCVS
Grants Veterinary Services Ltd	Raoul Dowding Veterinary Surgeons
Hall Mark Meat Hygiene Ltd	Scotvet OVS Services
Harbit & Ryder	Skeldale Veterinary Centre
Hook Norton Veterinary Surgeons	STA-Vets Ltd
Hygiene Audit Ltd	Susan A Goodall
J Cranley	The Corporation of London
Jeffrey Kidner	The Fenton Veterinary Practice
John Highet Ltd	The Willows Veterinary Group
Lerwick Veterinary Practice	ULIMIT
M O A Pengelly & G P Mizen Veterinary Surgeons	VMHS Ltd
	Westside Veterinary Surgery