

SCIENCE IN THE FSA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST 2008/09

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Chief Scientist has prepared his third 'Annual Report of the Chief Scientist' for the period April 2008 to March 2009, Annex 1.
2. The report is divided into four sections: Trends and the science behind the food risks; Science and decision-making; Science strategy; and What does the future hold? and presents the Agency's scientific work during the financial year 2008/09.
3. The report highlights the following areas of the Agency's work:
 - Tracking foodborne disease with a focus on one pathogen: *Listeria monocytogenes*, where the incidence has increased predominantly in patients aged over 60 years and has more than doubled since 2000.
 - Work on saturated fat.
 - The main scientific activities supporting the Agency's policies during the financial year 2008/09.
 - Key findings from the independent review of the Agency's science carried out by the Government Office of Science, published in April 2009.
 - Information on the research and surveys completed for the period of the report.
4. An interactive CD-Rom containing the full text of the report which also includes links to the extensive information on the Agency's website will be available. This will enable readers to drill down to the level of detail they need and will ensure that as much of the information as possible remains up to date after the report has been published. Also, as happened last year fewer paper copies of the report will be made available to improve sustainability.
5. The report will be launched in London on 23 September at the Royal Society of Chemistry. This will be followed by a presentation from the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor John Beddington.

6. The Board is asked to

- **consider and endorse** the report; and
- **agree** the plans for the launch of the report in September

CHIEF SCIENTIST TEAM

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