

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
INFORMATION PAPER

**Update on Outbreak of *E. Coli* O157 in South Wales and
Subsequent Developments – September 2008**

Following the South Wales *E.coli* O157 outbreak in September 2005, the National Assembly for Wales announced its intention to hold a full Public Inquiry. The Inquiry, which was chaired by Professor Hugh Pennington, heard evidence during six weeks of oral hearings earlier this year.

As part of the Inquiry's evidence gathering, the FSA and the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) submitted witness statements and several members of staff gave oral evidence. The Inquiry asked the FSA/MHS for clarification on a number of points and further evidence was submitted.

Core participants in the Inquiry, including the FSA/MHS, have submitted closing written submissions.

In his closing remarks on 14 May 2008, the Chair set out the first steps for phase 2 of the Inquiry. He has written to public authority core participants requesting statements of material changes that have occurred since the outbreak, and has issued a note of emerging topics within which recommendations are likely to be considered. He stressed that this would not be an indication of what the findings are likely to be. The FSA/MHS responded to that note on 11 August.

The Inquiry has indicated that it will set up a programme of work to determine how organisations and individuals who feel that they can contribute to phase 2 of the Inquiry, may best submit their views and comments. Further information on this is awaited.

Secretariat
September 2008