

Scottish Food Advisory Committee
8 July 2009
FSA Scotland's Office, St Magnus House, Aberdeen
Open Session

Present

Committee Members:

Prof. Graeme Millar - Chair
David Cameron
Charlotte Maltin
Moyra Burns
Amanda O'Donoghue
Christopher Trotter
Lesley Stanley
Bernard Forteath
Jim Wildgoose
John Cowden

FSA Officials:

Charles Milne, Director FSAS
Lydia Wilkie, Assistant Director, FSAS
Jim Thomson, Assistant Director, FSAS
Ryan Bruce, Committee Secretary, FSAS
Neil Douglas, Committee Administrator, FSAS
Heather Peace, Head of Contaminants, Hygiene, Additives and Shellfish Branch, FSAS
Alison Tedstone, Nutrition Branch, FSA Headquarters

1. Chairman's Introduction and Welcome

- 1 The Chair welcomed members, guests and observers to the open meeting of the Scottish Food Advisory Committee (SFAC) and advised every one of the housekeeping rules. The Committee were pleased to be in Aberdeen.
- 2 The Chair introduced and welcomed Prof Charles Milne to his first open SFAC meeting as Director of Food Standards Agency Scotland (FSAS).
- 3 The Chair informed the Committee and observers that there had been a slight change to the agenda; David Thomson who was due to provide a presentation on Scotland's Food and Drink Policy, had experienced travel problems and was unable to attend the meeting. The Chair advised that there would still be some discussion on this topic and that David Thomson had agreed to attend the next meeting in Dundee on 2 September 2009.
- 4 The role of SFAC is to provide advice to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on all food safety and standards matters, in particular those with specific Scottish perspective. The Agency in turn has to fully consider the Committee's views when determining its actions and the policy advice it gives to Ministers. Food issues are devolved to Scottish Ministers and legislation is implemented by the Scottish Parliament. This Committee is an essential

element for the Agency to ensure that devolution is fully taken into account. The Committee holds regular meetings throughout Scotland.

- 5 Members of the Committee were invited to declare any conflicts of interest on specific areas before they are discussed to allow a decision to be taken on whether participation would be correct.
- 6 **Charlotte Maltin declared interest in Agenda item 3 & 4 through her employment by Quality Meat Scotland.**
- 7 The Chair asked for AOB items. No items were raised.
- 8 Apologies were received from Carrie Ruxton, Committee Member.

2. Minutes and Matters arising from previous meeting

- 9 The Chair directed the Committee to the minutes from the previous open meeting on the 29 April 2009 in Aberdeen.
- 10 The Chair discharged the following items

Under Para 38 Page 13

The following information was received from FSA HQ Communications team:

- SMS messages are sent out every time FSA publish food or allergy alerts.
- FSA also used SMS for the Sat Fat Campaign in February and people then have the option to stay registered for future campaigns.
- FSA also has a YouTube channel so there is a constant presence of our ads.
- There is also the Chief Scientist's blog.

FSA are constantly reviewing new technologies to see how the Agency might use them.

- 11 Members agreed the minute was a true and accurate reflection of the meeting held on 29 April 2009.
- 12 The Chair then directed the Committee to the minutes of the closed meeting held on 3 June 2009 in Dundee.
- 13 Moyra Burns asked for an update on when Harry Burns - Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for Scotland would be attending an SFAC meeting to provide a presentation on Vitamin D. The Chair informed the Committee that an invitation was sent to Harry Burns on 10 June 2009 and that we are still awaiting reply from CMO's Office. It was agreed that the Secretary would

contact CMO's office again to try and arrange for presentation on Vitamin D to be provided at the next SFAC open meeting in September 2009.

- 14 The Chair discharged the following actions:-

Under Para 15 under page 3

SFAC response to FSA 2010-2015 Strategic Plan consultation was sent to FSA on 5 June 2009. Timetable for delivery of the FSA 2010-2015 Strategic Plan was sent to all Committee Members on 2 July 2009.

Under Para 23 page 4

The brainstorming session has started, Moyra Burns would be providing a brief verbal update at today's meeting and it was proposed that this item would be added to a future meeting agenda for further discussion.

Under Para 24 page 5

As stated previously, an invitation was sent to the CMO on 10 June 2009 and still awaiting a response.

- 15 Members agreed the minute was a true and accurate reflection of the meeting held on 29 April 2009.

3 Front of Pack Labelling

- 16 The Chair welcomed Heather Peace, FSA Scotland to the table. The Chair informed the Committee that the Front of Pack (FOP) Labelling Consultation had not been issued, as of the time of the meeting.
- 17 Heather Peace introduced the information paper which was issued to the Committee Members and then invited the Committee to note the information available and to consider how the Committee wished to prepare their response to the Agency's proposal for Voluntary FOP Labelling Consultation, which she expected to be issued shortly.
- 18 The Committee had short discussion on how they wished to handle their response to the consultation, and it was agreed that a small sub group would be formed to look at the consultation to prepare a draft response.
- 19 The Chair informed the Committee that there would also be a Saturated Fats Consultation coming out shortly and suggested that the same sub group look at this consultation as well, the Committee agreed.
- 20 The Chair requested that Committee Members make the Committee Secretary aware if they wished to be involved in the sub group looking at the consultations.

Action- Committee Members to inform Secretary if they wish to be involved in Front of Pack Labelling and Saturated Fats Sub Group.

Action – Sub Group to be formed to prepare the Committee’s draft response in relation to both Front of Pack Labelling consultation and Saturated Fats consultation.

- 21 Amanda O’Donoghue raised a query on page 2 of the Executive Summary on FOP Labelling which stated that the Committee received copies of the Project Management Panel (PMP) report on 6th May 2009. Amanda O’Donoghue advised that this was not issued to the Committee. Heather Peace agreed to send a copy of the report to the Committee Secretary which would then be sent out to Committee Members.

Action – The Secretary to issue PMP Report to Committee Members

4 Obesity

- 22 The Chair informed Committee Members and observers that Committee Member Carrie Ruxton advised that she found it very difficult to find concentrated reports or information on Obesity. Moyra Burns was asked to look at this issue with the help of various Committee Members, and to provide a short verbal update at today’s meeting.
- 23 Moyra Burns gave a short verbal update stating that information was available but in an inaccessible and incoherent form, however Moyra felt that this issue was not only a matter for the Food Standards Agency to deal with.
24. Charlotte Maltin advised of the need for Science Based information to be available and to have consistent advice. Charlotte suggested working in partnership with Health Boards to create a one portal website which should have information for academics and consumers.
25. Moyra Burns informed the Committee that the Sign Guidelines for treatment of Obesity has been due out for sometime, but Moyra understood that they will not be available until January 2010.
26. Lydia Wilkie confirmed that the remit for the policy of Obesity is firmly the responsibility of Scottish Government. Lydia also advised that FSA Scotland have been working in close partnership with Scottish Government regarding this issue. Lydia highlighted that this is a very complex area and is high on the Scottish Government’s agenda.
27. The Chair suggested that FSA Scotland come to the next open meeting with an update on the work which FSA Scotland and Scottish Government have been doing on Obesity.

Action – An update on the work being done by FSA Scotland and Scottish Government on Obesity to be provided at the next SFAC open meeting.

5 SACN Report.

28. The Chair welcomed Alison Tedstone, Nutrition Division, FSA London to the table.
29. Alison Tedstone provided a presentation on the draft report on Iron and Health Consultation which was released by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) on 17 June 2009. Alison advised that the draft report considers the health consequences of both iron deficiency and excess. Also considered was the adequacy of iron nutrition in the UK population and the possibility that some people may have inadequate intakes of iron and be at risk of iron deficiency.
30. Alison advised the Committee that they were invited to make a submission to SACN on the draft report, which is due by 23 September 2009.
31. The Committee had a short discussion on the presentation provided by Alison and it was agreed that the Committee would form a small sub group which would look at preparing a response to SACN on the draft report

Action – Sub Group to be formed to look at providing a response to SACN on the Draft Report.

6 Scotland's Food and Drink Policy

32. Charles Milne provided a brief verbal update on Scotland's Food and Drink Policy which was announced on 26th June 2009 at Royal Highland Show. Charles also advised that there would be citizen forums held to try and gain citizens views on how the FSA could contribute to the delivery of Scotland's Food & Drink Policy.
33. Lydia Wilkie informed the Committee that FSA Scotland was involved in 4 of the 5 Work Streams.
34. The Chair reminded the Committee that David Thomson had agreed to attend the next open SFAC meeting in Dundee to provide a presentation on Scotland's Food and Drink Policy. The Chair asked Committee Members to pass to the Committee Secretary any questions that they may have for David Thomson in advance of the meeting on 2 September 2009.

Action – Committee Members to send any questions they may have for David Thomson to Committee Secretary in advance of next meeting.

7 AOCB

35. A member of the public raised whether it would be possible for a member of the public who contributes at a particular SFAC meeting, should be given the opportunity to comment on the minute. The Chair informed everyone that the minutes are the Committee's minutes and if any member of the public has any queries with what is inserted in to the minutes about what they said then they should make contact with the Secretary. The Chair and Secretary are currently discussing the length of the minutes and the format for writing up the minutes.
36. Meeting finished at 12pm

Summary of Action Points.

Action- Committee Members to inform Secretary if they wish to be involved in Front of Pack Labelling and Saturated Fats Sub Group.

Action – Sub Group to be formed to look at Committee's response in relation to both Front of Pack Labelling consultation and Saturated Fats consultation.

Action – Secretary to issue PMP Report to Committee Members

Action – An update on the work being done by FSA Scotland and Scottish Government on Obesity to be provided at the next open meeting.

Action – Committee Members to send any questions they may have for David Thomson to Committee Secretary in advance of next meeting.

Action – Sub Group to be formed to look at providing response to SACN on Draft Report.