

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCOTTISH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides an update on issues emanating from the Scottish Food Advisory Committee.
2. The Board is invited to **note** the report by the Chair of the Scottish Food Advisory Committee. **No action** is required.

Food Standards Agency Scotland

Contact:

George Paterson	Tel: 01224 285102 Email: george.paterson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Jane Ferries	Tel: 01224 285104 Email: jane.ferries@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

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SFAC Meetings

1. The Scottish Food Advisory Committee (SFAC) met on Wednesday 26 April in the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Inverness and discussed the following:

Folate & Health

2. The Committee were pleased that the FSA Board had not decided to consult with a preferred option. They felt it was important for them to respond to the consultation once issued, as there were some specific Scottish issues with this topic. Members asked the Agency to produce a paper highlighting how the data for this report was gathered, who was responsible for gathering it and an estimate of its robustness. This paper will be produced and discussed at the next SFAC meeting.

Eating for Health

3. The Committee received a presentation from Susan Pryde, Head of Diet & Nutrition FSAS which highlighted to them the four main UK areas of priority policy issues. Bill Knock, Deputy Head Nutrition Division, FSA UK also attended the meeting to assist with the Committees discussions.
4. The Committee discussed the four main areas of priority policy issues and congratulated FSAS on having the lead in many key areas. After a detailed discussion the Committee concluded:
 - 6g salt was a pragmatic starting point for reducing the daily amount given the issues surrounding processed foods;
 - considerations should be made to target men more effectively as they seemed to be more reluctant to reduce the salt within their diets;
 - they were pleased to see consultation responses were taken into account by the Board when agreeing the final model of voluntary labelling scheme;
 - there would be difficulties with a naming and shaming policy within the area of the traffic light scheme; and
 - physical activity played a vital role in helping to reduce saturated fat intakes and encourage calorie balance.

Openness

5. Alan Harvey, Head of corporate & Board Secretariat, FSA UK, gave a brief presentation to the Committee on Openness and asked for members comments which would feed into the FSA Board paper up for discussion in June.
6. Members of the Committee agreed the following:
 - Communicating with the less advantaged consumer group would be a challenge;
 - Stakeholder meetings were an important part of openness however more emphasis was needed to encourage the less advantage to be heard and more feedback after these events was needed; and
 - FSA Board briefing sessions should be in open session with the exception of confidential information.

FSA Consultation: 'Labelling: Competitiveness, Consumer Information and Better Regulation for the EU'

7. SFAC have formed a sub group to focus on this topic. Members agreed a response to the 38 questions within the consultation and submitted this to the FSA.

Meetings with Others

8. Bill Reilly attended an Induction day at the Meat Hygiene Service in York on 20 April 2006.
9. FSAS Senior management and both FSA Board members met with Lewis Macdonald MSP, Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care in Edinburgh on 31 May.

Future SFAC Open Meetings

DATE	LOCATION	POTENTIAL TOPICS
7 June	Glasgow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Folic Acid• Charging for the Enforcement of Meat Hygiene• Scottish Executive consultation 'Improving the health & nutrition of Scotland's children
27 July	Peebles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food & Health Alliance• FSA Research Programme• Strategic Theme – Food Safety
13 Sept	Dundee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FSA Horizon Scanning Committee• Consumer Engagement
22 Nov	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• H 1,2,3