



## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCOTTISH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### SFAC Meetings

1. SFAC have held two meetings since the last report to the Board. The first was held on 27 July in Peebles where the main discussion items were:

#### ***Food & Health Alliance***

2. Kate Barlow, Food & Health co ordinator from the Scottish Executive gave a brief presentation covering the background, function, membership and objectives of the Alliance. Members discussed the engagement the Alliance had with stakeholders, how SFAC could become more active with the Alliance to assist with building networks and producing positive benefits.

#### ***FSA's Strategic Plan Theme – Food Safety***

3. Judith Hilton, Head of Microbiological Safety Division FSA, gave a detailed and informative talk relating to the draft outline of the Foodborne Disease Strategy information paper which will be presented to the FSA Board in October. Members held a detailed debate and were grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the draft paper.

#### ***Interim report on the Macrory review process***

4. Bill Adamson, Head of Strategic & Co ordination Branch FSAS, gave a presentation covering the background, key features, current position and implications for food regulators within this proposal. Members of the Committee agreed to form a sub group to focus on this subject and were also given the opportunity to attend a full briefing session covering the wider Better regulation agenda from FSAS.

#### ***SFAC Sub Groups***

5. The Chair provided an update of the current position of SFAC's Shellfish and Community Learning Sub groups. He informed the Committee that the formation of Sub groups for the future would be discussed in greater detail at the retreat in November.
6. The second SFAC meeting was held in Dundee on 13 September. The Committee discussed the following:

## ***FSA's Strategic Plan 2005/2010 Progress Review***

7. Neil Roden, Head of Strategy & Planning FSA UK, gave a brief presentation covering the objectives, management, emerging findings, possible changes/additions and the project timetable of the Strategic Plan 2005/2010 Progress Review. Members comments will inform the September Board discussion.

### ***Consumer Engagement***

8. Jaz Bangar, Head of Consumer Branch, FSA UK and Bill Adamson, Head of Strategy & Co ordination Branch FSAS, outlined the work to date on new Agency wide strategies for consumer engagement. This followed the Board's request to do so and the dissolution the Agency's Consumer Committee in December 2005. FSAS contributes to this process by piloting rural engagement mechanisms which add to the range of engagement activities already undertaken in Scotland. This is set in the context of the Reform of Public Services agenda which was also covered in brief. SFAC's views on this will assist to inform the main Board discussion in October 2006.

### **Meetings with Others**

9. Phillip Clarke, Strategy, Regulation & International Division FSA UK and Bill Admason provided members with a detailed briefing session on Better Regulation agenda on 24 August in St Magnus House, Aberdeen. The Chair, Deputy Chair and some Committee members agreed to form a working group to focus on this subject.
10. All members of SFAC attended a Parliamentary Reception on 12 September in Edinburgh. This event covered the future skills in the Food & Drink Industry and provided an opportunity to networks with colleagues to discuss skills development plans for the future.
11. FSAS held an open stakeholder meeting on *Monitoring the Scottish Diet* in Dundee on 11 September 2006. The Chair and several Committee members attended this event. The meeting had two broad objectives. The first to disseminate results of FSAS's recent project on monitoring progress towards the Scottish Dietary Targets and to describe the survey approaches being taken in the survey of salt intake in Scottish adults and the survey of NMES sugars in Scottish children. The second to elicit discussion regarding direction for future FSAS nutritional surveillance work in Scotland.

### **Future SFAC Open Meetings**

12. Dates of future SFAC Open meetings are listed below.

Date	Location	Potential Topics
22 November 2006	Dunkeld	H 1,2,3: Primary Production
24 January 2007	Aberdeen	Folic Acid