

**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**

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

### SFAC Meetings

1. SFAC held their first Open meeting for 2007 on 24 January in St Magnus House, Aberdeen. Main items for discussion were

#### ***FSA's Consultation: 'Options to Increase Folate Intake of Young Women'***

2. Members held a detailed discussion on this topic. After much debate members agreed that none of the options within the consultation paper were strong enough on their own. An enhancement of options was needed before an agreement could be made. Members agreed with the SACN recommendation to control voluntary fortification and they recognised there was a need to encourage young women to take folic acid. Existing powers such as GP's should be used more efficiently. Members also stated that the benefits of folic acid and the appropriate target groups should be high on the agenda of the Public Health campaign. This topic will return to the SFAC agenda after Board discussions in May 2007 where SFAC's points would be heard.

#### ***Review of the Scottish Diet Action Plan (SDAP)***

3. Members of the Committee endorsed and agreed the Agency's recommendations of the Review of the SDAP however felt that a change in the language and terminology used was needed to allow all stakeholders to have a full understanding of the themes set out within the Review. Members commented that it was vital for FSA to engage with all stakeholders effectively and to assist them with their understanding of sustainability. They recognised there was a link with all four themes and that education at all levels was crucial. This topic will return to the SFAC agenda in July 2007.

#### ***Report from the EU Labelling Forum***

4. Members of the Committee agreed in general to the four key principals set out within the framework of the EU Food Labelling Review. They recognised that there was an overlap with the four principals and were content with FSA's present approach in relation to loose foods. This subject will return to the SFAC agenda once the key principals have been agreed.

### Meetings with Others

5. The Chair and members of SFAC attended the Holyrood Obesity Conference in Edinburgh on the 11 December 2006. This was an all day event with Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer Scotland as the key speaker.

6. The Chair, Deputy Chair and members of SFAC attended Food Standards Agency Scotland's fifth Stakeholder Forum in Edinburgh on 12 December. The event was attended by over 20 stakeholders covering industry, consumers and local authority.
7. The Chair, along with other members of SFAC, attended a Folate sub group meeting on 18 January. Alison Tedstone, FSA and Dr Paul Haggarty (member of Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)) also attended allowing sub group members to ask questions relating to the FSA's consultation currently in the public domain. This assisted with the discussions which took place at the January SFAC Open Meeting (See 2.)
8. The Chair attended a Scottish council for Development & Industry (SCDI) dinner on 18 January in Aberdeen. The keynote speaker at this event was Jack Perry, Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise.
9. The Chair, Deputy Chair and members of SFAC met with all FSAS officials in St Magnus House, Aberdeen on 23 January.
10. The Chair and Deputy Chair attended a MSP reception hosted by FSAS on 24 January at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The aim of this event was to promote the Agency's work in Scotland in a number of high profile areas including signposting, salt and the Food Hygiene Information Scheme. The event was well attended with key stakeholders including Marks & Spencer, Scottish Food & Drink, Tesco and Which?.

### **Reappointment**

11. Professor. Brain Ratcliffe and Dr David Cameron have been re appointed to SFAC for a further two year period as of 15 March 2007.

### **Future SFAC Meetings**

12. The next SFAC Open meetings are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Potential Topics</b>
28 February 2007	Glasgow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSA Scotland Events 2007/2008</li> </ul>
23 May 2007	Edinburgh	
4 July 2007	Aberdeen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSA Scotland Diet &amp; Nutrition Agenda</li> </ul>