

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 Open meeting on Wednesday 23 May 2007 at the Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh. Main topics for discussions were:

Review of the Delivery of Official Controls in Approved Meat Plants

2. Geoff Tierney, Programme Manager, FSA HQ informed members of the objective of the review, the work carried out to date and questions that had emerged relevant to possible recommendations from the independent review. Members had a wide ranging discussion focusing on the Scottish elements of this review including funding, remote and small plants and Local Authority issues. Members agreed to submit further comments to the questionnaire by the end of May.

Results of the Scottish Elections

3. The Chair informed members and observers of the results of the Scottish Elections which took place on 3 May 2007. Alex Salmond MSP (Scottish National Party (SNP)) was elected First Minister by the Scottish Parliament. The Permanent Secretary, Sir John Elvidge, took the opportunity presented by the formation of a new government to align the Scottish Executive's management systems and structures more closely with the new administration's objectives. There are six Cabinet Secretaries (Cabinet Ministers) including the First Minister and 10 Ministers who report to a Cabinet Secretary. Including the two Law Officers (Lord Advocate and Solicitor General for Scotland), this makes a total of 18 Ministers - two fewer than the last administration.
4. The new administration has six Cabinet portfolios including First Minister, Finance and Sustainable Growth, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Lifelong Learning, Justice and Communities and Rural Affairs and Environment.
5. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well being is Nicola Sturgeon MSP, however FSAS falls under Shona Robison's MSP folio as she is the Public Health Minister.
6. Members of the Committee noted that the SNP's manifesto highlighted they were keen to have a stronger input with Europe and international negotiations.

Draft Saturated Fat and Energy Intake Programme

7. Members of the Committee were asked for their agreed response to the FSA's consultation '***Draft Saturated Fat and Energy Intake Programme.***' Due to the

complex issues surrounding this consultation the Chair agreed with members that a SFAC Sub Group should be set up to discuss, in detail, their response. The Sub Group will meet on 15 June in St Magnus House, Aberdeen. FSAS officials will attend this meeting also.

8. Members also received a brief overview of the video conference Sat Fats Stakeholder meeting attended by Charlotte Maltin and FSAS Officials on 18 May. This meeting presented the findings of the Consumer Qualitative Research on Fats report which had been commissioned by the FSA to improve the Agency's understanding consumer awareness around fats.

FSA Policy Issue Updates: EU Labelling Regime

9. Members of the Committee were informed that they would be discussing the consultations connected to the EU Labelling Regime, which are due to be released on 4 June, at their next Open meeting on 4 July in Aberdeen. Theresa Ekong will be providing a closed briefing session for the SFAC EU Labelling Sub Group on 15 June.
10. The Agency gave a brief overview of the Better Regulation Agenda and highlighted that members would be discussing Cabinet Office consultation 'Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill' on 4 July and FSAS would provide a covering note asking SFAC to respond on specific items of the consultation relating to Scotland and food issues. This item would also be on the FSA Board meeting on 19 July.

Meetings with Others

11. Prof. Graeme Millar chaired the Nutrition and Health Claims Symposium which was held at Apex Hotel on 15 May in Dundee. The event was hosted by Scottish Food and Drink Federation, Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland and the Scottish branch of the Institute of Food Science and Technology. Speakers at the event included Professor Peter Donnely, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, Julia Clark, Principal Public Affairs Officer for WHICH? and Rosemary Hignett, Head of FSA Nutrition Division.
12. Members of SFAC attended the FSAS Microbiological Safety of Food Research Day which was held in Edinburgh on 17 May.
13. Members of SFAC attended the 'Taste of Grampian' Festival on 2 June at Thainstone Centre, Inverurie. FSAS had a stand at the festival. Other features of this event included food and drink exhibitions, celebrity chef demonstrations and school cookery competitions. The event attracted over 10,000 visitors.
14. The Chair, Deputy Chair and members of SFAC attended the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF) meeting in Edinburgh on 5 June.

This event also included a Stakeholder dinner and a site visit to BioMar and Wellington Pig Farm.

Future SFAC Open Meetings

15. Dates for future SFAC Open meetings as listed below. All items listed are subject to change.

Date	Location	Potential Topics
4 July 2007	Aberdeen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better Regulation Agenda• IRG Report• Shellfish Regime• EU Labelling
29 August 2007	Glasgow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Andrew Wadge, Chief Scientist, FSA• FSAS Diet & Nutrition Agenda