

**PAPER FSAW 16/03/03
FOR DISCUSSION
UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

Executive Summary

1. The attached paper provides a brief summary of issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held in January 2016. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/>. This paper also provides an update on issues of relevance to Wales and forms the basis of the update to the Welsh Food Advisory Committee.
2. The Director will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.
3. Members are invited to:
 - **note** the Board discussions
 - **invite** the Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

FSA Wales Contact: Rachael Fergusson
Rachael.Fergusson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Tel 02920 678910

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1. Summary of Chief Executive's report to open Board meeting 28 January 2016.

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 16/01/28) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160103.pdf>

2. Director for Wales report on matters pertaining to Wales

External engagement

2.1 I have been involved in the following engagement opportunities since WFAC last met on 21 January 2016:-

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- 10 February, Future Delivery Model Summit meeting, St David's Hotel, Cardiff
- 22 February, meeting with the Welsh Food Fraud Coordination Unit Governance Group.

Report for the National Assembly for Wales on the Review of the Operation of the Appeals System of the Statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in Wales

2.2 The FSA reviews the operation of the FHRs appeals system annually. The latest report was laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 25 February 2016 and reviews the period 28 Nov 2014 – 27 Nov 2015. Findings show that appeals were fair and in accordance with Statutory Guidance. The number of appeals has increased since the first year of the scheme, of 104 appeals 15 resulted in changes to the food hygiene rating. It was clear that not all Local Authorities were clear on how to appeal, and some felt that an appeal system carried out by the same authority was not independent.

2.3 As a result of the review, three recommendations have been made:

- That the current system is maintained for another 12 months, and then reviewed;
- That all officers rating food businesses continue to engage in activities that promote consistency, including the determination of appeals; and
- That Local Authorities and the FSA should work collaboratively to help food business operators obtain information on the safeguards available to them if they're not satisfied with the food hygiene rating issued to their businesses. This should include details of how to appeal.

Links to the report are below:

- English - <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/gen-ld10597/gen-ld10597-e.pdf>
- Welsh - <http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/gen-ld10597/gen-ld10597-w.pdf>

Welsh Food Fraud Co-ordination Unit (WFFCU)

2.4 I have recently met with the Wales Food Fraud Co-ordination Governance Group (WFFCGG) to assess the WFFCU's role and how it could align itself to the established National Food Crime Unit (NFCU). The WFFCGG noted that the operational role of the WFFCU has evolved and it was agreed that further work is required to understand what is now needed to support Local Authorities in tackling food fraud across Wales. The WFFCGG agreed that FSA Wales would take forward the review that will map the new delivery landscape, the relationships with Local Authorities and propose a model which protects consumers from food fraud and which complements the establishment of the NFCU.

Regulating our Future

2.5 The achievement of the FSA's strategic goal of 'Food We Can Trust' will require a fundamental redesign of the FSA's regulatory role and of the way regulation is delivered for the benefit of consumers. The success of any future, sustainable regulatory delivery model depends on gaining buy-in and commitment from key stakeholders and partners. I am therefore delighted to report that we gained widespread support from over 70 key industry bodies, consumer representatives and other regulators from across the UK at the launch event held on the 10 February in Cardiff. The FSA shared our five overarching principles that will underpin the first phase of an extensive and structured consultation with external stakeholders.

2.6 I was particularly pleased that FSA Board members, Roland Salmon and Ram Gidoomal, could attend to observe at first hand the lively discussions and ideas generated on the day; and it was very clear from listening to our stakeholders that we were not the only ones thinking about change. International speakers from Nestle Switzerland and the New Zealand Government provided much food for thought as evidenced by the analysis of the feedback to date. We are still assimilating this information which will help us identify the key emerging themes. This will then inform future engagement discussions going forward. Meanwhile, consultation continues with local enforcement partners across England, Wales and Northern Ireland at 10 regional events as part of our commitment to work in collaboration with our regulatory partners, who will have an important role to play as this work develops. The Welsh regional event is being held in Llandrindod Wells on Friday 18 March.

Engagement – Cookin Castle

2.7 On 15 March the FSA in Wales will launch Cookin Castle, a new online interactive website intended to teach and promote healthier eating and good food hygiene practices to children aged 8 – 11 years old. This new educational online resource www.cookincastlewales.co.uk was originally developed by Food Standards Scotland. The Scottish version has been adapted to support the Welsh curriculum by introducing and reinforcing key messages on healthy eating and food hygiene practices. The resource for Wales has been developed in collaboration with Welsh Government. The learning outcomes of Cookin Castle include:

- to develop knowledge of kitchen hygiene, food storage and personal hygiene;
- to identify the correct sequence for hand washing; and
- to identify a range of healthy food options to make a meal and to plan a healthy menu for a week.

Enforcement

2.8 Details of recent successful food standards, food hygiene and food safety related prosecutions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found at:-

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2015/14644/food-standards-agency-publishes-food-law-prosecutions-database>

FSA website: 'Report a food problem' update and 'Find a local food safety team'
Report a food problem

2.9 The Committee will be pleased to learn that we have been undertaking some improvement work to enable the consumer to easily report a food problem. This is, I know an area which WFAC have advocated previously. As from February, consumers are able to submit, and local authorities to receive, more easily information and issues regarding food businesses in their area. The new system improves the consumer journey and this gives a more seamless route to reporting a food issue, rather than being given the telephone number of the relevant food safety team. This service can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/report-problem>

3. Forward Look

3.1 Between now and the next meeting of the WFAC on 12 May 2016, I have a number of business as usual appointments in relation to issues of interest for Wales.

Nina Purcell
Director, FSA Wales
March 2016