

**PAPER FSAW 16/05/03
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 March 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

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1. Summary of Chief Executive's report to open Board meeting 16 March 2016.

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 16/03/16) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160303.pdf>

2. Director for Wales report on matters pertaining to Wales

Elections in Wales

2.1 Elections took place on Thursday 5 May 2016 for: the National Assembly for Wales, alongside the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament, some local authorities in England, Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), and mayors in London, Bristol, Liverpool and Salford. Particular care was taken with regard to public activities undertaken by the FSA during the sensitive period. The pre-election sensitive period in relation to the National Assembly for Wales began on 6 April.

Update on Welsh Food Fraud Coordinating Unit (WFFCU)

2.2 FSA Wales has now taken key steps to proceed with the review agreed with the Welsh Food Fraud Coordination Governance Group (WFFCGG). The scope to undertake the review of the food fraud delivery model in Wales has now been agreed and work will commence by engaging with Local Authorities in Wales to assess the nature and extent of the food fraud demand within Wales. The review will take account of what the food fraud threat and response looks like in Wales and where the gaps are. While this review is underway, and to ensure a fully coordinated response to food fraud between the operations conducted by WFFCU and those of the National Food Crime Unit, FSA Wales remains acting as the key link and conduit for the operational, tactical and strategic engagement between both units. This approach ensures that intelligence is shared across the border and that maximum efficiency is achieved when tackling and disrupting food fraud in Wales.

Update on Official Feed Controls in Wales

2.3 A new feed delivery model was introduced on 1st April 2015, which included a risk-based inspections programme for Wales. Local authorities are now working collaboratively to deliver feed inspections on a regional basis. The 22 Welsh local authorities have been divided into six feed regions, each with a regional lead feed officer. The six feed regions are:

- North Wales
- Mid and West Wales
Neath Port Talbot and Swansea
- Bridgend, Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan
- Gwent

- Cwm Taf

2.4 The work programme in Wales for 2015/16 consisted of a target of 2386 inspections with 2431 (102%) reported as completed. In addition to this, there were also 235 interventions that resulted in the discovery of feed establishments no longer trading, thereby improving the accuracy of animal feed establishment registers. A risk based all Wales feed sampling plan was developed and agreed by the six regions. The number of samples taken has been reported as 163 out of a target of 166 (98.2%). The returns demonstrate a huge improvement in the delivery of animal feed official controls in Wales and also indicate that feed inspections are being carried out across all feed regions and in all local authority areas. I am pleased to report that a full spend against the budget of £490,000 has been reported.

2.5 An All Wales Feed Service Plan was developed which discharges the duty for each individual local authority in Wales to produce a plan. The plan outlines how local authorities in Wales intend to fulfil their statutory obligations to enforce standards for animal feedingstuffs. It is acknowledged that the plan will evolve and improve in future years. The regions are using model inspection documents and have met to discuss the consistency of information recorded during official controls. Feedback from animal feed training in 2015/16 has been positive, with training on feed enforcement, feed sampling and a consistent approach to animal feed official controls. Mentoring visits have also been conducted with a feed expert. A governance group has now been established to oversee the delivery of animal feed official controls in Wales, including adherence to the terms of a memorandum of understanding, which has been drafted for agreement at the next Welsh Heads of Trading Standards (WHoTS) Regional Feed Group meeting. The governance group consists of a representative from Directors of Public Protection Wales, WHoTS, Welsh Local Government Association and FSA. The group will monitor the work programme and give direction where necessary.

2.6 It is important to recognise that there have been many improvements in feed delivery in Wales in the short period of time since the new delivery model has been established. There is still much to be done and £490,000 has been made available, on a recurring basis, to the FSA in Wales to direct and support local authorities in the delivery of animal feed official controls. A modelling exercise has been undertaken to develop an inspection programme in accordance with the Feed Law Code of Practice for 2016/17. The inspection programme aims to ensure the optimal use of the funds available to protect animal and human health. The Feed Law Code of Practice Guidance is currently being developed for Wales, which will be comparable to that in England. The guidance will implement earned recognition in Wales for animal feed. Further plans and ideas to strengthen the feed service in Wales include the development of a feed incident plan, updating and developing model policies and procedures, improving model inspection forms, developing a Safer Feed Better Business pack, developing standard paragraphs, developing a HACCP guide for small bakers and establishing an all Wales feed database. The priority afforded to these will be agreed with Regional Lead Feed Officers over the coming months.

Engagement programme

2.7 FSA Wales have developed a comprehensive programme of engagement activities across Wales throughout summer 2016. There will be a presence at the following summer

shows, where there will be an FSA information stand, an interactive food safety pantomime and various activities targeted at younger consumers:

- Urdd Eisteddfod : 30 May – 4 June
- Royal Welsh: 18 – 21 July
- Caerphilly Big Cheese: 30 - 31 July
- Pembrokeshire County Show: 16 - 18 August
- Anglesey County show: 9 - 10 August
- National Eisteddfod: 30 July – 6 August

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>

3. Forward Look

3.1 Between now and the next meeting of the WFAC on 7 July 2016, I have a number of business as usual appointments in relation to issues of interest for Wales.

Nina Purcell
Director, FSA Wales
May 2016