

**PAPER FSAW 16/07/03
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 May 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: Lucy Edwards
Lucy.Edwards@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Tel 02920 678957

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1. Summary of Chief Executive's report to open Board meeting 18 May 2016.

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 18/05/16) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160503.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 12 May 2016:-

- 19 May, FSA and Welsh Government liaison meeting.
- 20 May, meeting with Directors of Public Protection Wales.
- 8 June, meeting with Robert Hartshorn, Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Elections in Wales

2.2 Following the May elections, the new Welsh Ministers of relevance to the remit of the FSA are:

- Rebecca Evans is Minister with responsibility for Social Services and Public Health, and
- Lesley Griffiths is Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for Environment and Rural Affairs.

2.3 Heather Hancock and Tim Bennett met with both Ministers on Tuesday 21 June for an introductory meeting and to discuss the current and upcoming work for the FSA. Issues discussed with Rebecca Evans included Regulating our Future, the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, the review of the Food Crime Unit, funding for food sampling and burgers served less than thoroughly cooked. Issues discussed with Lesley Griffiths included Regulating our Future, the Welsh Food and Drink action plan, food waste and FSA Wales' summer 2016 engagement programme.

FHRS in Wales

2.4 In November 2016 new regulations will come into force requiring takeaway food businesses in Wales to display a bilingual statement on defined hard copy materials (essentially those advertising food for sale) directing the consumer to the food hygiene ratings website and encouraging the consumer to ask the food business for their rating, with the creation of an offence for non-display of the statement). The introduction of a statutory

food hygiene rating scheme has been a big success story for Wales, helping to drive up hygiene standards in restaurants, pubs, cafes and other food businesses across the country. Consideration will now be given to introducing further regulations to require the promotion of food hygiene ratings on food businesses' websites.

Successful prosecution for Food Safety Offences

2.5 Newport City Council brought a successful prosecution against Severnside Provisions at the end of last month. The company were ordered to pay a total of £400,000 in at the city's crown court in fines, proceeds of crime applications and costs to Newport City Council. Two senior directors at the firm were each given 24 week prison sentences. This was the result of an investigation launched in December 2013, after concerns from the council going back to 2010 that the company was carrying out turkey processing without the correct licences. The Food Standards Agency was involved in the investigation to ensure the safe recall of turkey butterflies following their illegal production after finding that the butterflies had been sold to butchers and restaurants across the UK. This is the first use of the new sentencing guidelines in Wales for food offences of this nature, and will send a clear warning to other businesses. Catherine Brown, FSA Chief Executive wrote to the Chief Executive of the authority to congratulate them on an excellent result.

2.6 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 15 September 2016, I have made the following commitments if relevance to the FSA in Wales:-

- 30 June, a meeting of Welsh Government's Food and Drink Industry Board
- 8 August, a meeting with Christianne Glossop the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales
- 9/10 August, I will be attending the Anglesey Show where I will be meeting with a number of key stakeholders.

Nina Purcell
Director, FSA Wales
July 2016