

**PAPER FSAW 16/11/03
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 September 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 21 September 2016.

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 16/09/03) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160903.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 15 September 2016:-

- 22 September – FSA/Welsh Government liaison meeting.
- 26 & 27 September – I joined the BRC International Advisory Board for their familiarisation visit to Brussels.
- 4 October – I presented a Regulating Our Future Update at the BRC Authenticity Conference.
- 20 October – I attended the Regulating Our Future SME Hot House event exploring the views of smaller businesses in relation to the Regulating Our Future programme.
- 24 October – met with representatives from Directors of Public Protection Wales to discuss the Regulating our Future programme.

Feed Official Controls

2.2 The Committee will recall that from April 2015 funding for the delivery of feed official controls was transferred from the local authority revenue support grant to the FSA as funding was not reaching front line services in a number of local authorities. We worked collaboratively with local authorities to put in place a new delivery model which means that now official feed controls are delivered regionally by local authorities with central coordination from the FSA. I am pleased to say that the new delivery model has been a huge success and a report has been produced detailing year 1 activity which has been submitted to Welsh Government officials and also shared with the Wales Feed Governance Group. The table below provides a comparison of the number of inspections carried out in Wales using both models and also highlights the impact of the funding change on the region with the highest number of feed establishments; Mid and West Wales.

	Old Delivery Model - 2014/15 Total Number of Inspections	New Delivery Model - 2015/16 Total Number of Inspections
Wales	1249	2431
Mid and West Wales Region	78	1292

Welsh Food Fraud Coordination Unit

2.3 The FSA in Wales has been carrying out a review of the Welsh Food Fraud Coordination Unit. One of the drivers for the review is the need to ensure the way we deal with food fraud in Wales is aligned to the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU). We have met with the Wales Food Fraud Co-ordination Governance Group (WFFCGG) a number of times to discuss the review. The WFFCGG agreed the need for a review that would map the new delivery landscape, the relationships with local authorities and propose a model which will continue to protect consumers from food fraud and align with the NFCU. Although the scope of the review was agreed in April 2016, in July 2016 plans to review the NFCU were announced. External experts have been engaged to oversee the NFCU's review and ensure it is both rigorous and independent. Stakeholders in Wales have been engaged in the review and the review team is aiming to produce a draft report for discussion at the FSA's Board meeting in November. In light of these developments, we have concluded that it would be appropriate to await the outcome of the review of the NFCU and the Board discussions before making recommendations on the future operation of the WFFCU. We will schedule a further meeting of the WFFCGG to take place following the Board discussions.

School Engagement

2.4 The FSA in Wales has continued with a series of theatre in education workshops in schools in some of Wales' most deprived areas. In September 2015, a new workshop was launched - "*The Ghastly Gravy on the Starship Gastromo*" visits primary schools in North and South Wales. Focusing on introducing 5-11 year olds to the "4C's" – Cooking, Cleaning, Chilling and Cross-Contamination. Using theatre, puppetry and a series of interactive workshops young people learn the importance of food-hygiene and kitchen safety. Since 2015 over 146 schools and 20,000 young people have taken part in the project and a further 180 schools will be involved during this academic year. I am extremely pleased to report that in October 2016, the FSA in Wales and Performance in Education (PiE) was awarded the Gold Award for Innovation at the prestigious EVCOM Clarion Awards for its theatre in education programme. The EVCOM Clarion Awards recognise exceptional performance in Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainability, including environment, diversity, equality, community, charity initiatives, education, ethical, health and welfare issues.

FSA in Wales Budget 2016-17

2.5 Welsh Government issued its draft budget on 18 October 2016, the action tables within the draft budget make reference to the FSA in Wales's budget remaining at £3.156m for the 2017/18 financial year.

Enforcement

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 open meeting of the WFAC on 9 March 2017, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:-

- 17 November – meeting with Welsh Government Policy to discuss EU exit.
- 24 November – FSA/Welsh Government liaison meeting.
- 5 December – meeting with Welsh Government Chief Veterinary Officer.
- 6 December – introductory meeting with Director for Integrated Health Protection, Public Health Wales.
- 11 January – Heather Hancock, Ruth Hussey and myself will be meeting with Rebecca Evans AM Minister for Social Services and Public Health

Nina Purcell
Director, FSA Wales

November 2016