



Asiantaeth
Safonau
Bwyd

food.gov.uk

Food
Standards
Agency

WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE PAPERS

OPEN MEETING

14 JUNE 2018

**MEETING OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2018**

**FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY WALES, SOUTHGATE HOUSE, WOOD STREET,
CARDIFF, CF10 1EW**

**AGENDA
OPEN MEETING**

Registration and coffee 09:15 – 09:25

Introductions and apologies 09:25 – 09:30

Preparation for Board discussion items

The development of the National Food Crime Unit 09:30 – 09:50
Paper FSAW 18/06/04

Raw drinking milk controls 09:50 – 10:30
Paper FSAW 18/06/05

A review of cutting plants and cold stores 10:30 – 11:10
Paper FSAW 18/06/06

Comfort Break 11:10 – 11:20

Mid-point programme report – Regulating our Future 11:20 – 11:40
Paper FSAW 18/06/07

The Food Standards Agency's international strategy 11:40 - 12:00
Paper FSAW 18-06-08

Report of the Food Advisory Committees review 12:00 – 12:20
Paper FSAW 18-06-09

Committee issues

Last open meeting and matters arising 12:20 – 12:30
Paper FSAW 18/03/01

Report from Chair 12:30 – 12:40
Paper FSAW 18/03/02

Update from Director 12:40 – 12:50
Paper FSAW 18/03/03

Feedback from Committee Networks 12:50 – 13:00

General question and answer session

13:00 – 13:05

Any other business

13:05

Close of open meeting

13:10

Papers to note – available for viewing on www.food.gov.uk

Schedule of dates for committee meetings

Register of Members' interests

WFAC Biographies

**FSAW 18/06/04
FOR DISCUSSION**

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CRIME UNIT AND THE
DECISION TO PROCEED TO PHASE 2**

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 20 June, provides an update on progress with plans to develop the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) towards having end to end operational capabilities (Phase 2) as discussed by the Board in December 2017. This follows HM Treasury approval of funding following the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) submission in early May of a business case approved by a sub-group of the Board on 18th April.

1.2 Andy Morling will present the paper to the Committee.

1.3 Members are invited to:

1. **consider** the Board paper.
2. **consider** any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

The full paper (FSA 18-06-09) can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

**FSAW 18/06/05
FOR DISCUSSION**

RAW DRINKING MILK CONTROLS

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 20 June, presents conclusions and recommendations from the review of official controls for Raw Drinking Milk.

1.2 Michael Wight will present the paper to the Committee.

1.3 Members are invited to:

1. **consider** the Board paper.
2. **consider** any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

The full paper (FSA 18-06-07) can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

**FSAW 18/06/06
FOR DISCUSSION**

A REVIEW OF CUTTING PLANTS AND COLD STORES (INTERIM UPDATE)

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 20 June, summarises the progress made by the Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) in its UK wide review of cutting plants and cold stores, in the wake of non-compliance issues identified at various cutting plants. The paper also highlights priority areas where review will focus attention in the second phase from June to September.

1.2 Simon Dawson will present the paper to the Committee.

1.3 Members are invited to:

1. **consider** the Board paper.
2. **consider** any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

The full paper (FSA 18-06-08) can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

**FSAW 18/06/07
FOR DISCUSSION**

MID-POINT PROGRAMME REPORT – REGULATING OUR FUTURE

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 20 June, provides an update on progress made across the Regulating Our Future Programme (ROF) since June 2017 when we published our paper on 'Why food regulation needs to change and how we are going to do it'. It describes the key changes that will be made to the regulatory regime in time for the UK leaving the EU. It also outlines work that we are doing on other elements of the new regulatory system that we are developing for delivery post EU exit.

1.2 Catriona Stewart will present the paper to the Committee.

1.3 Members are invited to:

1. **consider** the Board paper.
2. **consider** any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

The full paper (FSA 18-06-06) can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

**FSAW 18/06/08
FOR DISCUSSION**

THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY'S INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 20 June, provides an overall update on the direction and key objectives for the Food Standards Agency's international work.

1.2 Steve Cowperthwaite will present the paper to the Committee.

1.3 Members are invited to:

1. **consider** the Board paper.
2. **consider** any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

The full paper (FSA 18-06-10) can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

**FSAW 18/06/09
FOR DISCUSSION**

REPORT OF THE FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEES REVIEW

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached paper, due to be considered by the Board on 20 June, reports on findings of a review commissioned to consider how the contribution of the FACs could be improved and strengthened, thus ensuring the FSA effectively can harness the potential of the FACs and derive greater value from them, whilst ensuring they remain good value for money and continue to operate in a fully open and transparent manner.

1.2 Laura Eden and Zoe Bond will present the paper to the Committee.

1.3 Members are invited to:

1. **consider** the Board paper.
2. **consider** any advice the WFAC wishes the Board to consider as part of its deliberations.

The full paper (FSA 18-06-11) can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

**FSAW 18/06/02
FOR DISCUSSION**

**WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WFAC) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON
ISSUES RAISED AT LAST OPEN BOARD MEETING**

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached report provides a brief summary of matters introduced by the Board Chairman at the Board meeting held in March 2018 and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales. The complete minutes (FSA 18-06-01) from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

2.1 Members of the Committee are invited to:

1. **note** the Board discussions
2. **invite** the Chairman to expand on any issues for further discussion.

**FSAW 18/06/02
FOR DISCUSSION**

WFAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JUNE 2018

1. Board Chair's Report to the March 2018 Board meeting

1.1 The Board Chair provided an update on recent engagements, including a meeting she had held with Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government and Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs in Welsh Government. I accompanied the Board Chair to these meetings which were both constructive in enabling us to share perspectives on EU exit, FSA planning, and the implications that EU Exit has in terms of FSA responsibilities in Wales.

1.2 At this meeting the Board Chair informed that a review of meat cutting plants had been announced, to be carried out jointly with Food Standards Scotland. The Board contributed by correspondence to the terms of reference for the review and was informed that it will have a first opportunity to feed into the review in June. At this meeting, the Board Chair also informed that she was pleased to report that the FSA had secured Ministerial support for moving forward with phase two of the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU).

2. Summary of Main Discussion Items

2.1 At the March 2018 meeting the Board considered the following papers:

- **Science Update and Update from the Chair of the FSA's Science Council**
The first paper provided a personal view from Professor Guy Poppy, the FSA's Chief Scientific Adviser on his view of FSA's science and the opportunities and challenges ahead. The second paper provided a personal view from the Chair

of the FSA's Science Council on each of the three workstreams of the Council (science capability and assurance, risk and uncertainty and horizon scanning).

- **Raw Drinking Milk**

This interim paper provided an overview of current arrangements for the delivery of official controls on raw drinking milk. It also considered some of the options which would need to be explored when considering and future arrangements.

- **International Strategy**

The paper set out the work being undertaken on the review of the FSA's existing international strategy and options for delivering a more strategic and coherent approach to future international engagement.

- 2.2 The draft minutes (FSA 18-06-01) from the March 2018 Board meeting, which provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the above papers, can be found at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>

3. Other Matters

- 3.1 On 16 April, the Board Chair, the interim Director in Wales, and I met with Vaughan Gething the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services where we took the opportunity to discuss a number of issues but primarily focussed on issues relating to EU exit. This was a very useful meeting.
- 3.2 On 11 May, I hosted a closed business meeting of the WFAC. This meeting was devoted to providing further input, from members, into the review of Food Advisory Committees (FACs) in Wales and Northern Ireland. At this meeting WFAC members provided more detailed comments on the current and potential contribution and impact of the FACs on the FSA Board's decision making, through their direct advice and through the support they provide for the country Board members. These discussions were informed and will contribute to the direction of the review, particularly in relation to improving and enhancing the contribution of the FACs. This review is now progressing well and I fully anticipate that the report emanating from it will be considered by the Board at its meeting on 20 June.
- 3.3 In May, I also met with Dave Thompson the newly elected Chair of Directors for Public Protection Wales to discuss Welsh perspectives on EU exit and the ROF programme.
- 3.4 Since the last meeting, I have been extensively involved in a recruitment process to appoint two new members to the WFAC. An initial sift has taken place and I am hoping to interview on 26 June. Subject to confirmation by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, any new appointments will commence in August/September.

Dr Ruth Hussey CB, OBE
Chair of Welsh Food Advisory Committee
June 2018

**PAPER FSAW 18/06/03
FOR DISCUSSION**

UPDATE FROM INTERIM DIRECTOR

Executive Summary

1.1 The attached paper signposts to issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held on 14 March 2018.

The complete minutes (FSA 18-06-01) from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-june-2018>.

The paper also provides an update on issues of relevance to Wales and forms the basis of the update to the Welsh Food Advisory Committee.

1.2 The interim Director for FSA Wales will supplement the information provided in this report with an oral update where necessary.

1.3 Members are invited to:

1. **note** the Board discussion
2. **invite** the interim Director to expand on any issues for further discussion

**PAPER FSAW 18/06/03
FOR DISCUSSION
UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

1. Summary of Chief Executive's Report to Open Board Meeting 14 March 2018.

1.1 The Board received the written report (FSA 18/03/04) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/fsa-board-meeting-march-2018>

2. Interim 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 8 March 2018:

- 12 April - FSA/WG liaison meeting
- 16 April – meeting with the Chair of the FSA Board, WFAC Chair and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services
- 30 April – meeting with the Welsh Food Fraud Co-ordination Unit (WFFCU)
- 1 May - attended NFU Cymru 'Celebration of Welsh Food' event
- 2 May – attended Welsh Government Health Protection Advisory Group meeting
- 18 May – meeting with new Chair of the Directors for Public Protection Wales

- 21 May – meeting with Gwynedd Council
- 7 June – meeting with Ceredigion Council and the WFFCU

EU Exit

- 2.2 FSA Wales' EU exit work has focused on imported food over the last few months while we wait for the Withdrawal Bill to pass and amending the legislation can begin. Imports pose a challenge for Wales as it does not have the inspection facilities such as Border Inspection Posts or Designated Points of Entry that are required to undertake checks on imported high risk food from third countries. For FSA Wales to work with and assist ports where potential problems or pinch points may arise, it is essential that we understand the current picture of trade in food from the EU through UK ports. However, this data is simply not available in the same way that HMRC published trade statistics are on third country imports.
- 2.3 To inform our work in this area we have organised visits to a number of key ports across Wales, to understand more about the volume and type of food that comes through those ports and what resources may be needed in the future to undertake risk based proportionate checks. This has included Holyhead, Fishguard, Pembroke Dock and Newport. A significant amount of food from Ireland passes through Welsh ports as the main point of entry onto the UK market. The data we have obtained so far from these ports has been shared with our Analytics team and is helping to inform our contingency planning. In addition to the port visits we have also secured representation on the Wales Border Planning Steering Group which brings together Welsh Government, DExEU, HMRC, Defra and industry representatives such as Stena Lines, Cardiff Airport and Association of British Ports.

Food Supplements

- 2.4 As part of the food supplements policy work FSA Wales leads on behalf of the FSA as a whole we have completed consumer insight and an enforcement toolkit. The consumer insight was commissioned to inform the development of the FSA's work on food supplements over the next few years including identifying any emerging risks, and to support more targeted and effective enforcement by Local Authorities and the National Food Crime Unit. The insight consisted of a short consumer survey, focus groups and in-depth interviews. Overall the research found that consumers are taking food supplements safely and buy from credible mainstream retailers. However, it also revealed more 'niche' food supplement usage particularly for specific purposes such as losing weight or sports nutrition. As more niche products are less widely available, many are pushed to purchase online; it can be easy to then move to the more extreme end of the market.
- 2.5 We have also produced an enforcement toolkit for local authorities to assist them with planning and undertaking inspections of FBOs selling food supplements. The toolkit sets out issues to consider, relevant powers and offences, and action to take if non-compliant products are found. Different versions have been produced for Wales, England and Northern Ireland to reflect different legislation and enforcement bodies, in addition to a Welsh language version.

Both the consumer insight and toolkit will be published imminently.

EU Exit: Additional funding

2.6 I am pleased to announce that the FSA in Wales has been successful in a bid to obtain additional funding from Welsh Government for EU Exit which will enable us to acquire additional resource to support future work.

Engagement Strategy

2.7 Following research that identified that Assembly Members weren't familiar with the work of the FSA, I have undertaken to refresh our stakeholder engagement plan. A first step in this, will be an early communication to Assembly Members drawing attention to our role. I am then proposing to follow up this initial engagement with a regular newsletter which will keep Members informed on key issues.

3. Forward Look

3.1 Between now and the next open meeting of the WFAC on 13 September, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:

- 19 June – FSA/WG liaison meeting
- 19 June – FSA/ Welsh Local Government Association meeting
- 19 July – WG Health Protection Advisory Group meeting
- 23 & 24 July – attending various meetings and events at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show
- 16 August – FSA/WG liaison meeting

Richard Bowen
Interim Director, FSA Wales
June 2018