

WELSH FOOD ADVISORY

COMMITTEE PAPERS

OPEN MEETING

14 SEPTEMBER 2017

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**MEETING OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**14 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**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**

EU Exit 09:30 – 10:00

Paper FSAW 17/09/04

Animal Welfare Update 10:00 – 10:30

Paper FSAW 17/09/05

Comfort Break 10:30 – 10:45

**Committee issues**

Last Open Meeting and Matters Arising 10:45 – 11:00

Paper FSAW 17/09/01

Report from Chair 11:00 – 11:15

Paper FSAW 17/09/02

Update from Director 11:15 – 11:35

Paper FSAW 17/09/03

Feedback from Committee Networks 11:35 – 11:55

**General Question and Answer Session** 11:55 – 12:10

Any other business 12:10

Close of open meeting 12:25

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

Schedule of Dates for Committee Meetings

Register of Members’ Interests

WFAC Biographies

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| **FSAW 17/09/04**  **EU EXIT**  **Executive Summary**  This paper sets out the proposed approach of the Food Standards Agency (FSA), an independent non-ministerial department, to prepare for the UK’s departure from the European Union (EU) in 2019. The full paper can be found on <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa170904.pdf> |
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**FSAW 17/09/05**

**ANIMAL WELFARE UPDATE**

**Executive Summary**

This paper gives an update on activities in England and Wales on the FSA “Deter, Prevent, Detect, Enforce” programme to drive improvements in animal welfare standards in slaughterhouses. The full paper can be found on <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa170905.pdf>

**FSAW 17/09/02**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Executive Summary**

The attached report provides a brief summary of matters introduced by the Board Chairman at the Board meeting held in June 2017 and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA's website at <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa170901.pdf>

**Contact: Helen George**

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**FSAW 17/09/02**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**WFAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2017**

**1. Board Chair's Report to the June 2017 Board meeting**

**1.1** The Board Chair provided an update on recent engagements and Ministerial meetings which had been limited given General Election and Purdah restrictions. The Chair informed that she had held meetings with the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Veterinary Officer in the Department of Health to discuss issues on animal welfare, the delivery of official controls, and the veterinary workforce both within the FSA and in the wider food industry. The Chair also informed of meetings held on regulatory reform with the Chairman of UKAS and with Cabinet Office. Other key engagements by the Chair included the delivery of a speech at the Walker Morris annual food industry dinner, attendance at the FDF annual dinner, and the delivery of a key note speech at the 39th annual Campden BRI lecture.

**2. Summary of Main Discussion Items**

**2.1** At the June 2017 meeting the Board considered the following papers:-

* **Chemical Contaminants Strategy**

The paper provided an update on the Agency’s approach to managing chemical contaminant risks in food and the main risks they pose to the consumer and trade. The paper also set out principles to be used to guide activity on managing chemical contamination risks.

* **Well–Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The paper described actions taken by Welsh Government, through the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The paper also set out options for an approach that would direct FSA business to make a quantifiable contribution to the requirements of the legislation.

* **Developing our Approach to Identifying Risks and Issues Across the Food System**

The paper set out current and developing areas of surveillance and horizon scanning in delivering an informed and integrated view of the global food system and of systemic risks and issues over the next five to ten years.

**2.2** The draft minutes from the June 2017 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/our-board/meetings>

**Other Matters**

**3.1** I have been extensively involved in the recruitment process to appoint two new members to the WFAC. Interviews were held in June and I am delighted with the decision by Rebecca Evans AM, the Minister for Social Services and Public Health to appoint Alan Gardner and James Wilson to the WFAC. These are both three year appointments which commenced on 1 September. I warmly welcome both members to the committee and look forward to their contributions.

**3.2** I am pleased to report that members of the WFAC have been extensively involved in the FSA in Wales’ summer engagement programme with representation at the Urdd Eisteddfod, the Royal Welsh Agricultural show, the Pembrokeshire County show and the National Eisteddfod. The Committee’s involvement at these events provided excellent opportunities to informally engage with consumers and will help inform future consumer insight work in Wales.

**3.3** I have been copied into correspondence between the FSA and the Director ofthe Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) in Wales in relation to concerns associated with a recent broadcast on BBC Radio 2 on summer barbequing. CIEH had concerns about the messaging which was detailed in the broadcast in relation to the safe cooking of burgers in the home and the possibility that this was getting confused with separate messaging in relation to burgers which are served less than thoroughly cooked from certain food businesses. The FSA has responded to the CIEH confirming that the BBC Radio 2 producers have been asked to inform its listeners of the FSA position in relation to the cooking of burgers within the home as opposed to businesses which can, if appropriate measures are in place, serve burgers which are less than thoroughly cooked. This reply reinforced that the FSA’s advice to consumers producing burgers within the home has not changed and consumers are advised to ensure burgers are thoroughly cooked. This message has been reinforced through recent summer consumer awareness activity.

Dr Ruth Hussey CB, OBE

Chair of Welsh Food Advisory Committee

September 2017

**PAPER FSAW 17/09/03**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**UPDATE FROM INTERIM DIRECTOR**

**Executive Summary**

The attached paper signposts to issues introduced by the Chief Executive at the last Board meeting which was held on 15 June 2017. The complete minutes from the Board meeting are available on the FSA’s website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/>. 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.

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

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**PAPER FSA 17/09/03**

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**UPDATE FROM DIRECTOR**

1. **Summary of Chief Executive’s Report to Open Board Meeting 21 June 2017.**
   1. The Board received the written report (FSA 17/06/03) of the Chief Executive (CE) as at https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa170603.pdf

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| **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 15 June 2017:-   * 11 July – Local Authority stakeholder meeting to discuss the Regulating Our Future programme * 24 and 25 July – attendance at Royal Welsh Agricultural Society show * 7 and 10 August – attendance at National Eisteddfod * 16 August – attendance at Pembrokeshire County agricultural show   Regulating Our Future (ROF)  **2.3** In my last report I informed of representations made toRebecca Evans AM, Minister for Health and Social Services about the direction of travel of the FSA’s ROF programme. The Welsh Local Government Association and Directors of Public Protection Wales have expressed concerns relating to the engagement process and concerns about possible implications they foresee for the cohesive and robust regulatory regime which exists in Wales. As a consequence of these concerns, and mindful of Welsh Government’s position statement of December 2016 on the ROF proposals, the Minister commissioned a new working group to consider wider engagement with the ROF programme, particularly in respect of the Welsh Local Government landscape and local authority updates and consultations. The terms of reference and proposed membership of the group are currently with the Minister for consideration. The working group will be led by the Chief Environmental Health Officer for the Welsh Government. The FSA will be an integral part of the group. It is expected that the first meeting of the working group will, take place before the end of September.  Outbreak of Campylobacter Associated with Raw Drinking Milk  **2.4** The FSA in Wales has been involved in recent investigations following the declaration of an outbreak of Campylobacter associated with the consumption of raw drinking milk supplied from Penlan Y Môr Farm Llanarth, Ceredigion. The milk was sold from the farm gate including to visitors of a caravan park at the farm, through local deliveries and at a local farmers market. The raw milk was also sold and provided as samples for tasting, and also in the form of milkshakes at the Royal Welsh Show on 26 July.  As of 31 August there were 18 cases of Campylobacter associated with raw cow’s drinking milk from this supplier.  The FSA and Ceredigion County Council have shared enforcement responsibility for the production and sale of raw milk at the establishment. Action has been taken to prohibit the sale of raw milk from the farm.  **2.5** The FSA and Ceredigion County Council are continuing to work with the Food Business Operator to identify and remedy any possible sources of contamination of the milk.   The outbreak has been declared over by the Outbreak Control Team who will now produce a report of the outbreak which will be published by Public Health Wales.  Revised Statutory Guidance for the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme  **2.6** Following a 10 week consultation earlier this year on the Statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Guidance and a post-consultation exercise with local authority representatives, I am pleased to inform that the updates to the guidance have now been finalised. Initial guidance on the Scheme was published in 2014 and this provides advice to local authorities on how the statutory food hygiene rating scheme should operate and sets-out the technical requirements of the Scheme. The guidance has been revised to take account of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Rating (Promotion of Food Hygiene Rating) (Wales) Regulations 2016, which place requirements on takeaway businesses to include a bilingual statement on defined hard copy publicity materials. In addition, the guidance has been updated to provide further clarification on interpretation of some of the technical details of the scheme. A section that dealt with transition arrangements during the establishment of the statutory scheme has been removed.  **2.7** The revised guidance has been approved by the Minister for Social Services and Public Health and I am anticipating that this will be published by the end of September.  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 open meeting of the WFAC on 30 November, I have made the following commitments of relevance to the FSA in Wales:-   * 21 September - catch up meeting with Christianne Glossop – Chief Veterinary Officer * 27 September – accompanying Chair, Chief Executive, WFAC chair to ministerial meeting with Rebecca Evans, Minister for Public Health * 23 October – meeting with Andrew Slade, Director Environmental and Rural Affairs, Welsh Government * 16 November – Heads of Government in Wales meeting   Richard Bowen |
| Interim Director, FSA Wales  September 2017 |