

**WFAC 20/09/02  
FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides a brief summary of matters introduced by the Board Chair at the last Board meeting which was held on 26 August 2020 and key issues of discussion relating to the FSA remit within Wales. The last Board meeting was a procedural meeting where no input of FACs was required. However, I am providing an overview for full disclosure.
2. Members of the Committee are invited to:
  - **note** the Board discussions
  - **invite** the Chair to expand on any issues for further discussion.

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**WFAC 20/09/02  
FOR DISCUSSION  
WFAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2020**

**1. Board Meetings**

**1.1** The last Board meeting was held on 26 August 2020. At this meeting the Board considered the following procedural matters:

- **Review of the Annual Governance Report:** This paper required the Board to confirm the terms of reference. It also required the Board to agree the terms of reference for the audit and risk assurance committee. Furthermore, the Board was required to recommit to having a common position across the three countries unless there is a material reason not to, and to differentiate advice on public health/consumer interest grounds, from wider political positions that may vary in the three administrations.
- **Annual update on the FSA's Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Programme:** This paper provided an update on the FSA's science activities concerning antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the food chain conducted since the previous paper was presented to the Board in September 2019 and how this is addressing the food safety section within the wider AMR national action plan (NAP).
- **Annual report on Horizon Scanning Programme:** This paper provided an update on the FSA's progress towards implementing the recommendations of the Science Council's Working Group 3 report on horizon scanning published in June 2019. It also detailed how the FSA has used horizon scanning to provide insight during the current Covid-19 pandemic and supported the response to this major incident.
- **Response to Science Council Working Group:** This paper required the Board to consider the final report from the Science Council Working Group on Data Usage and Digital Technology (Working Group 4). It also required the Board to consider and agree the FSA response to the recommendations.
- **ANNEX Report from the Science Council Working Group on Data Usage and Digital Technology:** The working group came up with 6 recommendations; to champion an integrated approach to data standards, grow the FSA's technical leadership for data and champion the principles of permissioned data access/ open data where possible and explore options available to mandate improved data access. The last recommendation was to remain responsive to rapidly emerging opportunities for innovation.
- **ARAC Chair's Annual Report to FSA Board:** This paper provided the Board with a summary of the work undertaken by the FSA Audit and Risk Assurance Committee during 2019/20.

**1.2** The draft minutes from the August 2020 Board meeting, which will provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the above papers, will be posted to the FSA's website shortly at: <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/our-Board#Board-meetings>

## **2. Other Matters**

**2.1** I will be participating in an induction programme which is being developed to assist the new Board member for Wales and Chair of WFAC.

**2.2** I am pleased to announce that Alan Gardner has been reappointed as a member of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee and will be serving a further term until the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2023.

Dr Ruth Hussey CB, OBE, DL  
Caretaker Chair of the WFAC