

**WFAC 20/11/02  
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 that were discussed at the Board meeting on 18 November 2020. This was a procedural meeting with no requirement for input from the advisory committees.
2. It also reports the Chair's other relevant activities since the last meeting of this Committee.
3. 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 20/11/02  
FOR DISCUSSION  
WFAC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2020**

**1. Board Meeting**

1.1 The last Board meeting was a procedural meeting held on 18 November 2020. There was no requirement for input from the Food Advisory Committees in Wales or Northern Ireland. The Board considered the following matters:-

- **Annual Surveillance Report:** This detailed paper provided a complete update on the surveillance activities undertaken by the FSA. It showed challenges and new developments in each segment of the work, which is driven by data and predictive analytics. The FSA has established a flexible, responsive data-enabled Strategic Surveillance service to harness the power of data science to identify emerging risks before they become risks to public health, using a variety of data sources. It continues to develop and integrate capability and operationalise new services.
- **FSA Sampling Framework: Our Future Approach to Sampling:** This paper provided an update on work implementing the FSA's sampling strategy. There are three main types of sampling: sampling for official controls; sampling as a means of testing hypotheses; and sampling as a source of intelligence data. The paper also described plans for implementation of phase 2 of the sampling framework within the wider FSA approach to surveillance.
- **Annual Report from the Advisory Committee on Social Science:** This paper discussed the recent work of the ACSS and highlighted areas where the ACSS has or could add value. For example, it is establishing two new Working Groups: (a) Climate change and consumer behaviour – exploring continuing and emerging trends in consumer behaviour, including perceptions and attitudes to relevant climate issues and food. (b) Kitchen behaviour - providing advice, steering and peer review of a large programme of social science to better understand actual kitchen behaviours.
- **EU and International Strategy:** This paper provided the annual update on the FSA's progress against its International Strategy. It discussed how circumstances are changing, and how we are preparing to use international engagement to achieve our ambitions at the end of the Transition Period. The impacts of COVID-19 were also explored. The paper highlighted the direction of the FSA's international work in the context of its future priorities.

1.2 The minutes of the Board's meeting on 18 November and a video of the full proceedings, which provide more context and the Board's conclusions on the above papers, are available at <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/our-board>

## **2. Other Matters**

2.1 As part of my induction as the new Board member for Wales and Chair of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee I am continuing to meet with a range of key stakeholders. Since my last report to the Committee I have met with Tim Render, Lead Director for the Environment and Rural Affairs, Welsh Government. I have also met with, Peter Jones, Deputy Director of Operations, Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government and his team. I will continue to meet with other key stakeholders over the coming months.

2.2 In order to gain a wider perspective of food industries in Wales, I also logged into most sessions of the virtual Annual Conference of Wales's red meat body Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales (HCC), held on 10-12 November. It highlighted the many ways in which the industry is widening its promotional activities but the event's scope did not include food safety.

2.3 Eluned Morgan (MS), now the Minister to whom FSA reports, has approved the commencement of a recruitment campaign for four new committee members. An extensive publicity campaign is proposed with advertisements in both paid for and free publications, combined with social media. I will be involved in the selection process and I would be grateful if members could publicise the advertisement within their own networks. The closing date is 14 December 2020. Subject to Ministerial approval, appointees are due to commence their roles on 1 April 2021. Please see the link:  
<https://cymru-wales.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-3/brand-2/xf-9101194278d9/candidate/so/pm/1/pl/8/opp/6938-Members-Welsh-Food-Advisory-Committee/en-GB>

Peter Price

Board Member for Wales and Chair of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee  
20 November 2020