

## Open Meeting Of The Northern Ireland Food Advisory Committee On 9 March 2016 at CAFRE, Loughry Campus.





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## OPEN MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH – CAFRE, LOUGHRY CAMPUS.

#### Agenda

1. 1.00pm - Welcome and introductions 2. 1.10pm - Minutes of the meeting of 20 January 2016 3. 1.15pm - Chair's report and Director's update 4. 1.30pm - FSA Innovation Plan - Rod Ainsworth **Stow Project Phase 2 – Sustainable Funding Model Project** 2.00pm -5. Scope - Jason Feeney **Campylobacter Reduction: Update on Progress and Next Steps** - Steve Wearne 6. 2.30pm -7. 3.00pm - Local Authority Team Update - Michael Jackson 8. 3.30pm - AoB 3.35pm - **Close** 9.

## PAPER FOR DISCUSSION Minutes of Open Meeting on 20 January 2016

#### **Executive Summary**

Attached are the minutes of the 20 January NIFAC open meeting.

#### Members are invited to:

• Agree minutes as a true record of proceedings.

FSA Northern Ireland

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# REF NIFAC MINUTES 1/16 OPEN MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NIFAC) ON 20 JANUARY 2016, 10.30AM, AT THE FSA OFFICE, CLARENDON ROAD BELFAST.

Those present:	FSA			
NIFAC members  Henrietta Campbell – Chairman.  Brian Smyth.  Aodhan O'Donnell.  Christine Kennedy.	<ul> <li>Maria Jennings – Director for Northern Ireland and Organisational Development.</li> <li>Michael Jackson –NI Head of Local Authority Policy and Delivery.</li> <li>Seth Chanas – NIFAC Secretariat.</li> </ul>			
Phelim O'Neill.	By Teleconference			
David Lindsay.	Julie Pierce – Director of Openness, Data &     Digital.			
<ul> <li>Elizabeth Mitchell.</li> <li>Apologies</li> <li>Colin Reid.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Sian Thomas – Head of Information Management.</li> <li>Nina Purcell – Director for Wales.</li> <li>Rod Ainsworth – Director Of Regulatory And Legal Strategy.</li> </ul>			

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

1.1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been receive from NIFAC member, Colin Reid. Colin Reid's Comments on the papers were circulated to the Committee and tabled as an insert to the papers.

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2015.

2.1. The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of NIFAC's open meeting on 11 November. The Secretariat explained that two changes to the version of the minutes included in the papers had been suggested prior to the meeting. These had now been incorporated in to the version that would go

for publication. No further changes were requested and the Secretariat agreed to arrange for the publication of the minute.

Action Point – Secretariat to make arrangements for publication of the minutes of the NIFAC meeting on 11 November 2015.

#### 3. Chair's Report and Director's Update

- 3.1. The Chair updated the Committee on a recent meeting she had attended with the FSA Chair, Tim Bennet; deputy Chair, Heather Hancock; Maria Jennings; and Simon Hamilton, the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety. It was explained that it had been a warm and open, introductory discussion, allowing the Minister to meet Heather Hancock, the current FSA deputy Chair who will assume the Chairmanship of the FSA in April.
- 3.2. Maria Jennings then updated the Committee on items from her report contained in the meeting papers, including:
  - the Workshop on Microbiological Analysis of Food;
  - the Food Hygiene Rating Bill; and
  - Nutritional Standards for Health and Social Care (HSC) Catering.
- 3.3. It was explained that the workshop on microbiological testing took place at CAFRE and was arranged by the FSA in NI and **safefood**. It was a helpful meeting with good questions coming from industry representatives that FSA in NI staff were able to answer.
- 3.4. The section about the Food Hygiene Rating Bill had also been included in the Chief Executive's report ahead of the Board meeting as it demonstrates an area where devolution has allowed for Northern Ireland and Wales to move at a pace, appropriate to those jurisdictions and to lead the UK in implementing a mandatory scheme.
- 3.5. On Nutritional Standards for HSC Catering, it was explained that discussions had taken place with the Chief Executives of the Public Health Agency and **safefood** and draft minimum nutritional standards for use by caterers in Health and Social Care organisations had been agreed. These standards would be extended to hospital vending machines and covers food served to HSC staff as well as that available to the public in HSC premises.

#### 4. A Data Driven FSA

4.1. The Chair welcomed Julie Pierce, the FSA's Director of Openness, Data and Digital and Sian Thomas, FSA Head of Information Management, to deliver a presentation by video conference from the FSA's office at Aviation House in London, giving a proposed approach to systematically make the best use of data. The presentation covered:

- the volume and complexity of the data within the food system;
- data currently held by the FSA;
- Norovirus predictive modelling;
- extending the use of social media data including coverage and the ethics of data collection;
- prosecution data from Local Authorities;
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme data;
- the internet of things and data from sensors in appliances;
- partnership working;
- openness and transparency; and
- opportunities for the use of data.
- 4.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:
  - This paper covers a wide scope and, accordingly, engages with the topic at a high level. It was interesting to hear about the large number of information assets the FSA currently has. Information Asset Registers tend not to be particularly descriptive. Until the range of data already possessed by the FSA can be known, it will be difficult to know which assets are the more useful. An audit of this information might prove to be valuable.
  - Much of the information relevant to the work of the FSA in NI is held at NI executive and local government level and assurance Northern Ireland will benefit proportionately from the FSA's data analysis expertise would be welcomed.
  - Greater emphasis could also be placed on how the FSA might be able to make best use of industry data. We have already seen some of the good work done by large businesses in this area.
  - Care should also be taken to consider the necessary human dimension required in data handling, which cannot be replaced by technology. A fuller description of how this aspect of information management will be handled.
  - Issues around Cyber Security are an increasing risk for organisations seeking to store and utilise data effectively. How this can be best ensured is something the FSA will need to consider with care.
- 4.3. The Chair thanked Julie Pierce and Sian Thomas for bringing this paper to NIFAC for consideration.

#### 5. UK Local Authority Food Law Enforcement Annual Report 2014/15.

- 5.1. The Chair welcomed Nina Purcell, the FSA Director for Wales, to deliver a presentation, by video conference, from Southgate House in Cardiff outlining the above paper. The presentation covered:
  - the annual report in line with regulations;
  - the overall UK position;
  - the difference between the current NI situation and that of the UK as a whole:
  - difficulties in inputting data reported by Local Authorities; and
  - an attempt to understand resources.
- 5.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:
  - This is an interesting and important paper. Local Authority information is key for the FSA to benchmark areas of the strategy.
  - Though Northern Ireland appears to be well placed compared to the UK overall, it is concerning to note that the overall position is not good. Nevertheless, there are aspects of the information, which do appear positive. The picture appears to be a complex one and could be interpreted as representing an improvement in enforcement. It would be interesting to see if there was any significant read across to incidents of food borne disease. It should also be noted that the figures for Northern Ireland relate to a 9 month period rather than a full year and will not be directly comparable.
  - The Committee however expressed some concerns. The focus on higher risk establishments is legitimate, but this should not take away from the need to be watchful of those establishments deemed to be of lower risk. Also, the decrease in the number of samples is of concern, particularly so if this is as a result of financial pressures. The decrease in the number of FTE Environmental Health Officers particularly in England is significant and suggests stress in the system. These factors point to the need for a more fundamental review of delivery.
- 5.3. The Chair thanked Nina Purcell for assisting the Committee's consideration of this subject.

#### 6. Delivering the Food Standards Agency's Regulatory Strategy.

- 6.1. The Chair welcomed Rod Ainsworth, FSA Director Of Regulatory And Legal Strategy to the meeting to introduce a paper, by video conference, from Aviation House in London, outlining the above paper. The presentation covered:
  - the consideration given to appropriate key feature of the regulatory

strategy;

- engagement with partner agencies; and
- resourcing required for delivery.
- 6.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:
  - Overall, this is an interesting paper. Some Committee members felt that more detail would have been welcomed, drilling down more into the evidence of inspection.
  - A suggested drafting change at the eighth bullet point in paragraph 2.3 to "intervention by governments across the UK" was raised by one member in order to better reflect devolution.
  - The Committee noted that much regulation is determined at EU level and queried how much room there was for change. It was suggested that there may be much more room for manoeuvre than had been traditionally considered and that the flexibility inherent within the rules could be better exploited. Work was also being undertaken at EU level to push for innovation and modernisation.
  - In discussing the principles which should underlie the work to be taken forward the Committee welcomed the focus on outcomes rather than process. It also welcomed the assurances that there would be consumer engagement, and suggested that these two principles should be included in the list.
  - The Committee noted the interconnectedness of the themes and direction in all three papers and the need for integration of the forward work plans.
- 6.3. The Chair thanked Rod Ainsworth for assisting the Committee's consideration of this subject.

#### **Any Other Business**

6.4. The next meeting will be on 9 March 2016. A venue is currently being considered for the meeting and members will be updated on progress. No further business was raised and the meeting was closed.

#### **TABLE OF ACTION POINTS**

No	Action	To be actioned by	To be completed by
1.	To make arrangements for publication of the minutes of the NIFAC meeting on 11 November 2015.	Secretariat	09/03/2016

#### ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

No.	Date of	Action	Target Owner	Target Completion	Position	Complete
	meeting			Date		
1.	20/01/2016	To make arrangements for publication of the minutes of the NIFAC meeting on 11 November 2015.	Secretariat	09/03/2016	Minutes published on NIFAC pages of the FSA website	Complete

#### PAPER FOR INFORMATION

### Update from Director for NI and Organisational Development to NIFAC 9 March 2016

#### **Executive Summary**

Attached is the FSA in NI Director's update to the Committee for March 2016. This report covers the period from 14 January to 2 March.

• No action by members is necessary.

FSA Northern Ireland

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#### Food is Safe

#### Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) slaughter hygiene project

During the week commencing 8 February the FSA in NI and DARD Veterinary Public Health Program (VPHP) hosted a study visit as part of the EU Commission's Food & Veterinary Office project "Share of Best Practice in Slaughter Hygiene". This project has adopted a slightly different approach to slaughter hygiene. Rather than following the formal environment associated with a Food and Veterinary Office Mission, the study visits are intended to focus on site visits where Food Business Operators (FBOs), Competent authorities and National Experts had the opportunity to share their experiences in slaughter hygiene in an informal environment. Three NI slaughterhouses were visited during the week. In all three establishments, compliments were paid by the National Experts to the FBOs on the open and positive way in which they engaged and also the good working relationships with the competent authorities. DARD and FSA in NI were also complimented on their arrangement of official controls. The National Experts were confident that a number of NI experiences can be shared with other Member States.

#### Campylobacter consumer focus groups

During February, Campylobacter consumer focus groups were held across the UK by market research company TNS-BMRB (Taylor Nelson Sofres – British Market Research Bureau. An independent research company). These were designed to research consumer attitudes toward the handling of chicken. FSA in NI attended the two events held in Belfast. Each event consisted of two group sessions involving participants who had been selected on a risk-conscious basis. Both groups were given information on the FSA Campylobacter strategy, the results of retails surveys and the various interventions that have been employed at all stages of the food supply chain. The findings will be collated to inform future FSA work in this area.

#### **DARD VPHP seminar**

FSA was well-represented at the annual DARD VPHP seminar on 20 February. The seminar updated DARD Official Veterinarians and Inspectors on a wide range of technical and other related subjects. Presentations were delivered on such diverse topics as FSA Operations in England and Wales, future proofing the NI delivery model, slaughter hygiene verification, Hepatitis E, the Food Crime Unit and TB pathology. There was also a presentation on official controls carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in the Republic of Ireland. The event provided an excellent networking opportunity for those involved in meat hygiene official controls across the British Isles.

#### Taking the Food Safety Message to CAFRE Agriculture Students

FSA has continued to take its message on food hygiene to a range of agricultural students at CAFRE Greenmount campus. The students are given information on food safety and hygiene from farm to fork, the role of the FSA, specific requirements for primary producers and practical advice on complying with relevant regulations. As part of this initiative and to reinforce our message FSA runs a student competition with a top prize of an IPad. The IPad was won by

Laura Hawkes who is studying for Foundation Degree in Agriculture and has a background in beef and sheep farming on the family farm near Omagh.

#### Food we can Trust - Regulating the Future

On 26 February a workshop was held with district councils, DARD and DHSSPS colleagues to discuss the principles underpinning the development of future delivery models. This event followed on from the high level stakeholder event held in Cardiff on 10 February 2016, at which industry and district councils in Northern Ireland were represented, and is one of a series also being held across England and Wales. There was broad support for the principles, however, as with the high level event there was agreement that the challenge will be in how these will be translated into practical solutions. The findings from all of the regional events will be used to shape and inform our thinking on development of our models for future delivery.

#### Food is What it Says it is

#### **Intellectual Property Crime Group NI**

The Intellectual Property Crime Group operates under the Organised Crime Taskforce in NI and within the Department of Justice. On 15 January 2016, Kathryn Baker, the FSA in NI's head of Consumer Protection, represented the FSA in NI at this group's meeting. The group is chaired by the PSNI with members representing HMRC, Intellectual Property Office, National Crime Agency, Borders Force, Trading Standards and various industry organisations. Kathryn Baker took the opportunity to update members on findings during the month of action under OPSON to target counterfeit and illicit alcohol.

#### Gathering and Using Science, Evidence and Information

#### Kantar Worldpanel data

The Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland has commissioned annual take home food and drink data from 2006 to 2014 to provide insight into NI shopping baskets. FSA in NI identified 32 main food and drink categories which encompass take home food and drink purchasing of NI consumers and captures some information on the "marker foods" as set out in the DHSSPS Fitter Future For All Obesity Prevention Framework, as well as the overall diet in Northern Ireland. A report on the key findings has now been published, with a summary available on our website -

http://www.food.gov.uk/northern-ireland/researchni/ni-consumers-shopping-habits-revealed.

The Standards and Dietary Health Team is currently exploring the robust data from the official statistic of National Diet and Nutrition survey on food consumption and nutritional status with the retail purchasing data available from Kantar Worldpanel to obtain a holistic picture of the Northern Ireland consumer. This information, along with Food and You survey findings on consumers understanding of nutrition

will provide a sound evidence base to steer policy priorities and share with key stakeholders.

#### **Cost of a Healthy Food Basket Study**

The Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland, safefood and the Consumer Council Northern Ireland in association with the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice, are further collaborating to extend and update research on the cost of a healthy food basket in Northern Ireland. It will further develop existing robust information on two household types as well as establishing the cost of a healthy food basket for two additional household types.

#### **Northern Ireland Consumer Food Labelling Research**

On behalf of FSA in NI, TNS-BMRB is conducting Northern Ireland specific research to gather evidence around consumer understanding and use of retail food labelling information, how this influences their behaviour, and their concerns and priorities around labelling information. In order to achieve the aims of the research a mixed-method research approach will be used comprising of qualitative research to explore current knowledge, attitudes and perceptions in detail, and quantitative research to establish measures for each of the objectives with a larger sample of consumers.

As part of the qualitative research 8 focus groups and accompanied shop visits took place across 4 locations in Northern Ireland (Belfast, Portrush, Glengormley and Londonderry) on 15 and 16 February with FSA in NI representation at each group. The findings of the research will be available May 2016.

#### Going for Growth Food/Agri strategy

The Agri-food Strategy Board, published its ""Going for Growth - A Strategic action plan in support of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Industry" report in May 2013. It contains 118 recommendations, two related specifically to healthy eating.

- Recommendation 21: Research Centres must develop the capability to support: development of healthy eating alternatives to processed food ingredients and the R&D necessary to deliver improved human health through improvements in animal nutrition.
- Recommendation 27: The Agri-food industry must grasp the opportunities that healthy eating offers and work with public health nutritionists, policy makers and the local research base for healthier, moderate portion size products that respond to consumers' demand for healthy eating.

Following discussion between government departments, DARD have agreed to take the lead in responding to the area of healthy eating. CAFRE have formed a Healthy Eating Liaison Group, involving the FSA, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, Agri-Food Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association, DHSSPS and the Agri-Food Quest, NI Competence Centre.

The purpose of the group is to consider opportunities for agri food businesses to maximise the opportunity that healthy eating offers as highlighted in the Agri Food

Strategy "Going for Growth" report. The aim is to have a farm to fork approach ensuring university research priorities are matched to the needs of local industry.

Over the course of the last year there has been a very useful exchange of information to ensure strategic alignment of activities between all organisations. In particular FSA sharing the findings of the National Diet and Nutrition Survey and Kantar Worldpanel data and wider understanding of the DHSSPS policy drivers under the Fitter Future for All obesity prevention strategy have been very valuable.

#### **Empowering Consumers**

#### **Food Hygiene Rating Scheme**

The Food Hygiene Rating Bill received Royal Assent on 29 January 2016 and it will be known as the Food Hygiene rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016. Work is ongoing to develop the draft regulations and orders that will be required to bring the provisions of the Bill into operation, the associated impact assessment and consultation package. We intend to consult separately on the Food Hygiene Ratings Regulations (NI) 2016 and the Food Hygiene Ratings (Online) Regulations 2016. However, we intend both sets of regulations, which are subject to different scrutiny arrangements within the NI Assembly, will come into operation at the same time in October 2016.

The field work element of the TNS research project commissioned to understand consumer needs and expectations in relation to online display of food hygiene ratings commenced on 18 January and this is providing very useful evidence to inform the drafting of the regulations. There are, however, significant challenges around presenting ratings online, particularly on apps and social media sites, where space is limited and at a premium, and for supermarkets where the decision to purchase and fulfilment of the order are not linked to a particular establishment. Meetings with industry representatives took place on 25 February to discuss these challenges and identify potential solutions.

#### Eatwell Calendar 2016

We are approaching the third month of FSA in NI's Eatwell Calendar 2016. 60,000 copies were distributed to consumers. This year's calendar aims to empower the consumer by providing information on what's in the food they eat and how this affects health (sugar, saturated fat, salt, Calories) and by raising awareness and educating them on the information available on food labelling through Regulation (EU) No.1169/2011 Food Information to Consumers which will help enable everyone to make more informed choices about the food they buy. The 2016 calendar has provided the opportunity for FSA in NI to work in a non-resource intensive way with the newly formed 11 councils.

This year's calendar continues to be good platform for FSA in NI to promote our standards and dietary health messages as part of our involvement in the NI Year of Food & Drink steering group. The monthly calendar themes match those of NI Year of Food and Drink and are regularly being promoted via social media and our website.

#### **Aligning Incentives**

#### **Food Law Code of Practice**

The review of the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland), to include the competency and qualifications requirements and improved consistency of approach for registration and inspection of mobile establishments that were introduced in England in April 2015, has been completed and will be sent for Ministerial sign off. This version of the Code will not, however, introduce the flexibility brought into the English Code in April 2015 for a food business operator operating multiple units to be considered as a single establishment when under the management of a "single controlling mind". The decision not to introduce this flexibility was taken having considered the responses to the consultation from LAs, who were not supportive of it, together with the fact that the approach would have resulted in difficulties with implementing the statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme that will be introduced in October 2016.

#### MenuCal Industry Engagement

Following on from the official launch of MenuCal in September 2015, FSA in NI have been engaging with district council Environmental Health officers and the food industry to raise awareness of the tool and its benefits to food businesses. This "industry engagement" phase of the project is anticipated to run over forthcoming months, and during this period FSA in NI will be organising MenuCal workshops for food businesses and maintaining a presence at networking events to promote the tool.

#### Health and Social Care (HSC) Catering

FSA in NI are working in partnership with the PHA and safefood to agree draft minimum nutritional standards, for consultation with, and use by, caterers in HSC organisations. An initial workshop was held on 25 November to progress the first draft of the nutritional standards with a follow up workshop planned to finalise the document and discuss next steps. Discussions are taking place between lead stakeholder organisations to determine the scope of the work.

#### **DARD Governance Meeting**

The Biannual DARD Governance meeting took place on 5 February and was attended by DARD officials including the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to discuss issues relating to the Performance Dashboard, the draft SLA for 2016-2020, the review of Official Auxiliaries and the DARD Management review. The CVO was content with the new approach, moving away from annual reports and towards dashboard returns with meaningful key performance indicators. The new SLA is progressing well. This will either be piloted for one year or have a one year review built into the SLA to align it with the program for government.

The FSA Official Auxiliaries review was discussed and agreement around the recommendations is being progressed by both parties. The agreed recommendations from the report will be implemented by the end of the first quarter of 2016/17. DARD Updated the group on the Review of DARD Management which is currently underway. Other items discussed included the Primary Production inspection review and DARD's better regulation initiative.

#### **Food Poverty**

A Northern Ireland focussed action plan for 16/17 has been agreed by all members of the All Island food poverty network focussing on developing and promoting an effective indicator/ measure, creating sound evidence base, mapping programme to improve co-ordination of existing activities and to promote and enhance community food initiatives. FSA in NI will set up a time limited working group to identify key pieces of evidence in food poverty in NI and assist in an editorial group to create quarterly updates for dissemination to key stakeholders.

FSA in NI are working in partnership with safefood to co-ordinate a second annual conference/workshop in 2016 under the auspices of the All-island food poverty network. Topics and date have been provisionally agreed and invitations will be sent out in due course.

M Jennings

**Director for NI and Organisational Development.** 

#### **FSA Innovation Plan**

#### **Executive Summary**

Rod Ainsworth, the FSA's Director of Regulatory and Legal Strategy, will introduce a paper on the FSA's Innovation Plan, due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. Rod Ainsworth will be joining the meeting by teleconference from the FSA's office at Aviation House in London.

The full paper can be viewed on the FSA website through the following link: http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160304.pdf

#### Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

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Stow Project Phase 2 – Sustainable Funding Model Project Scope

**Executive Summary** 

Jason Feeney, the FSA's Chief Operating Officer, will introduce an item on a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board on Phase 2 of the meat charging Project. Jason Feeney will be joining the meeting by

teleconference.

The full paper can be viewed on the FSA website through the following link:

http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160307.pdf

Members are invited to:

• Consider the presentation.

Comment and give advice.

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Campylobacter Reduction: Update On Progress And Next Steps

#### **Executive Summary**

Steve Wearne, the FSA Director of Policy will introduce a paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board on Campylobacter Reduction. Steve Wearne will join the meeting by teleconference.

The full paper can be viewed on the FSA website through the following link: <a href="http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160306.pdf">http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa160306.pdf</a>

#### Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

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#### Update from the FSA in NI Local Authority Policy and Delivery Team

#### **Executive Summary**

The various teams within the FSA in NI will take turns to provide updates to NIFAC about key activities and work carried out by that team. At this meeting, Michael Jackson, the FSA's Head of Local Authority Policy and Delivery will deliver an update on the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, and the consultation on the regulations.

Please see below to the consultation on the proposed the Food Hygiene Rating (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2016, and associated Orders, and guidance for district councils on operating the statutory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/consultations/2016/fhrs2016ni http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultation/pack/fhrs-consult-pack2016ni.pdf.

The Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 includes a regulation making power regarding the publication of ratings online by food business operators who supply consumers with food that they order using an online facility. This provision was introduced into the Act through an amendment to the Bill during the legislative process so the FSA is currently gathering evidence and information from stakeholders on how this can work in practice before drafting the regulatory measure. This includes research to explore consumer needs and expectations on online display of ratings and engagement with businesses that will be affected. We intend to conduct a separate consultation on these Regulations – the Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

It is our intention that these Regulations will come into force at the same time as the other secondary legislation, or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

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