



Open meeting of the Northern Ireland Food Advisory Committee On 29 November at the FSA Offices, Belfast



Contents

Agenda.....	1
Minutes of the OPEN MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NIFAC) ON 13 September 2017	2
Update from Director for NI and Organisational Development to NIFAC 29 November 2017.....	7
Introduction to the FSA Deputy Chair.....	13
Regulating Our Future – The Food Standards Agency’s Role as a Supporting Regulator under Primary Authority	15
Regulating Our Future – Development of the Assurance Framework for the Target Operating model.....	16
Update on FSA’s Activities Concerning Antimicrobial Resistance.....	17
Strategic Surveillance Update	18
Understanding People: Social Science In The Food Standards Agency	19

**OPEN MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY 29 NOVEMBER – FSA OFFICE,
CLARENDON ROAD, BELFAST.**

Agenda

- 10.30am – **Welcome and introductions**
- 10.35am – Minutes of the Open meeting of 13 September 2017.
- 10.40am – Chair's report and Director's Update
- 10.55am – Introduction to the FSA Deputy Chair - **Laura Sandys**
- 11.10am – Regulating Our Future – The Food Standards Agency's Role as a Supporting Regulator under Primary Authority - **Nina Purcell**
- 11.45am – Regulating Our Future – Development of the Assurance Framework for the Target Operating model - **Nina Purcell**
- 12.10pm – Update on FSA's Activities Concerning Antimicrobial Resistance – **Paul Cook**
- 12.40pm – Strategic Surveillance Update – **Javier Dominguez**
- 1.00pm – Understanding People: Social Science In The Food Standards Agency - **Julie Pierce**
- 1.20pm – **AOB**
- 1.25pm – **Close**

**NIFAC MINUTES
 OPEN MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NIFAC)
 ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2017, 1.00PM, AT LOUGH NEAGH EEL FISHERMEN'S
 COOPERATIVE, TOOME.**

Those present:	FSA
<p><u>NIFAC members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colm McKenna – Chairman. • Christine Kennedy. • Phelim O’Neill. • Elizabeth Mitchell. • Colin Reid. • Sara McCracken. • Fiona Hanna. <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aodhan O’Donnell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Jenning – Director for Northern Ireland, People and Organisational Change. • Roberta Ferson – NI Head of Finance Business Support and Communications. • Seth Chanas – NIFAC Secretariat. • Debbie Sharpe – FSA in NI Local Authority Policy and Delivery team. <p><u>By Teleconference</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Williamson – Director of Policy. • Rod Ainsworth – Director of Regulatory and Legal Strategy.

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1. The Chair welcomed all NIFAC members to the meeting, noting an apology from Aodhan O’Donnell. The Chair welcomed Sara McCracken and Fiona Hanna to their first meeting as members of NIFAC.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 14 June 2017.

2.1. The members were content with the minutes from the previous meeting and it was noted that the actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

Action Point – Secretariat to arrange for the publication of the minutes of the NIFAC Open meeting of the 14 June 2017.

3. Shellfish

3.1. The Chair welcomed Debbie Sharpe of the FSA in NI's Food Hygiene Policy & Operations team to the meeting to deliver a presentation on the work carried in NI around shellfish controls. The presentation covered:

- EU Food Hygiene Regulations;
- the NI shellfish industry;
- shellfish production areas in NI;
- FSA official controls;
- regulators responsibilities to protect public health;
- classification process;
- sanitary surveys;
- FSA monitoring programmes; and
- food business responsibilities;

3.2. There then followed a brief discussion, in which the following points were made:

- This was a very interesting presentation on a subject that NIFAC has not previously heard a great deal about.
- While collection by individuals for personal consumption is generally permitted in most areas, we are dependent on reporting for large scale collection by unregistered individuals or groups. It was reassuring to hear that the FSA in NI's Food Fraud Liaison Officer continues to liaise with the Gangmasters' Association to counter coordinated efforts to bypass regulation.
- The UK's exit from the EU will present a challenge for the regulation of beds in the two cross-border loughs: Carlingford and Foyle. It is unclear exactly where an eventual border will fall across the waters of these loughs as the current situation is already contested between the UK and the Republic of Ireland. This could create opportunities for fishermen to land their catch on whichever side of the lough proves more commercially advantageous irrespective of where in the lough they came from.
- Consideration should be given to the impact of microplastics on filter feeding bivalve molluscs and the potential impact on the food chain.

3.3. The Chair thanked Debbie Sharpe for bringing this item for the Committee's consideration.

4. Chair's Report and Director's Update.

- 4.1. The Chair updated the members on a recent visit to a poultry and a beef abattoir facilitated by Billy Armstrong of the FSA in NI's Operational policy and Delivery team and accompanied by Dr Colin Sullivan, the FSA's recently appointed Director of Operations.
- 4.2. The Committee were also updated on recent appointments to the FSA Board. It was explained that it was not yet possible to reveal the names of the new Board members but that it was expected that this would soon be confirmed and the new members would be in place for the Open meeting of the FSA Board on 20 September.
- 4.3. Maria Jennings then updated the Committee on items from the Director's report contained in the meeting papers, including:
 - BSE Negligible Risk Status;
 - Fipronil in Eggs; and
 - Launch of 'Eating Well Choosing Better'.
- 4.4. It was explained that there was work underway to put guidance together following World Organisation for Animal Health's ratification process and the unanimous EU vote on 4 July, for the inclusion of NI and Scotland as BSE Negligible Risk regions.
- 4.5. On the Fipronil in eggs incident, it was noted that there were some effected eggs in Northern Ireland but, given the very low levels of the contaminant, there was no risk to public health from consumption.
- 4.6. The Director also thanked NIFAC members for assisting with the 'Eating Well Choosing Better' event emphasising the scale of the work programme for the team within the NI office and its importance to the FSA in NI.

5. Animal Welfare

- 5.1. The Chair welcomed Julia Williams, the FSA's Animal Welfare & Delivery Assurance Lead to the meeting by teleconference to present a paper due to be discussed at the FSA Board meeting on activities in England and Wales on the FSA "Deter, Prevent, Detect, Enforce" programme to drive improvements in animal welfare standards in slaughterhouses. The presentation covered:
 - the "Deter, Prevent, Detect, Enforce" programme;
 - establishing a central hub of welfare personnel;
 - welfare assurance scheme;
 - profile of the sector's examined;
 - work with DAERA staff in NI to develop best practice; and
 - the voluntary CCTV protocol.
- 5.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- It is welcome that there does not appear to be to be any slow-down in the voluntary adoption of CCTV prior to mandation.
- Collaboration with the poultry sector and the approach proposed in the paper for clarifying the funding position in relation to the cost of delivering animal welfare policy in slaughterhouses in England and Wales, in advance of EU exit is also supported.
- A good starting point could be to look at the costs to DAERA for implementing their policy in NI and scaling that up to give an approximate figure for funding in England and Wales.

5.3. The Chair thanked Julia Williams for this update.

6. Exiting the EU

6.1. The FSA's Director of Regulatory and Legal Strategy Rod Ainsworth joined the meeting by teleconference to present a paper due to be considered at the upcoming Board meeting on the UK's exit from the EU. The presentation covered:

- the unusual nature of the Board paper;
- input of the Department for Exiting the EU into the paper;
- status of the paper as FSA proposals, not UK government policy; and
- the absence of detail on the issue of the border with the Republic of Ireland and the reason for that not being addressed in the paper.

6.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- It is welcome to see a paper on this subject being brought to the FSA Board for discussion in Open Session as it is an issue the will impact greatly on the work of the FSA.
- It is noted that where a border exists between two jurisdictions with differing trading arrangements, differentials are established that will encourage food crime that can exploit these differences. It is welcome that the FSA is seeking an expansion of its powers in relation to tackling food crime but it would be advised to seek the resources necessary for implementing these powers prior to getting them to avoid a situation where the FSA is granted the powers but not the resource.
- A high proportion of the FSA's veterinary staff are non-UK, EU citizens. While it is reassuring to hear anecdotally that there does not seem to be evidence of these staff seeking to leave the UK, an observer from the British Veterinary Association mentioned that they had seen a slowing of applications from other EU member states since last year. The idea of the establishment of a contingency fund offering enticements for qualified vets to work for the FSA is welcome.

6.3. The Chair thanked Rod Ainsworth for this update.

7. Annual update to the FSA Board from the Director for NI, People and Organisational Change.

7.1. The Chair the asked Maria Jennings, the FSA’s Director for Northern Ireland, People and Organisational Change to deliver her update to members on the content of her annual report to the Board. The presentation covered:

- an outline of key activities;
- current priorities;
- nutrition and reformulation work;
- FHRS madation and doing the day-job; and
- food crime.

7.2. There then followed a discussion, during which the following points were made:

- This is an excellent summary of the work carried out throughout the year. It could have been even stronger in honouring the work done by the FSA’s NI staff. This is especially true in the area of dietary health where Northern Ireland remains the only jurisdiction where the FSA retains responsibility and carries it out in an exemplary manner.
- A mention of the Menucal scheme could also be included.

7.3. The Chair thanked Maria Jennings for the presentation.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

8.1. Members were asked to note the 26 October for a retreat session. No further business was raised and the meeting was closed. The next Open meeting will be on 29 November.

TABLE OF ACTION POINTS

No	Action	To be actioned by	To be completed by
1.	To arrange for the publication of the minutes of the NIFAC Open meeting of the 14 June 2017	Secretariat	29 November

PAPER FOR INFORMATION

**Update from Director for NI and Organisational Development to NIFAC
29 November 2017.**

Executive Summary

Attached is the FSA in NI Director's update to the Committee for November 2017.
This report covers the period from 13 September to 22 November.

- No action by members is necessary.

FSA Northern Ireland

Contact	Seth Chanas
Tel	028 9041 7762
Email	seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Food Is Safe

Campylobacter Process Hygiene Criterion.

The FSA in NI's Food Hygiene Policy and Operations (FHP&O) team have been liaising with FSA colleagues; Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA); and industry on the implementation of changes to European Union (EU) legislation with the introduction of a process hygiene criterion for Campylobacter in broiler carcasses. This was published in the Official Journal in August 2017 and will come into force on 1 January 2018 across all Member States. The process hygiene criterion requires all poultry slaughterhouses to take samples for Campylobacter analysis and includes small UK slaughterhouses which may not have been included in earlier FSA Campylobacter initiatives.

Materials and Articles in Contact with Food

The Materials and Articles in Contact with Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 were made on 9 August 2017 and came into operation 14th September 2017.

Compulsory and Voluntary Meat Country Of Origin Training For EHOs

On 7 November, the Standards and Dietary Health team in collaboration with the DAERA and District Councils held a training day for Environmental Health Officers in Northern Ireland on compulsory and voluntary beef and other species country of origin labelling (CoOL) legal requirements, and various other related topics including seasonal poultry slaughter, farm quality assured scheme and EU Exit. With over eighty EHOs in attendance this was a great opportunity to build on and continue communication and intelligence between FSA, DAERA and district councils with regard to ongoing developments in relation to CoOL.

To provide practical application of the training a follow up targeted enforcement initiative will be conducted over the next three months by district councils in retail including butchers' premises checking compliance with compulsory and voluntary beef and other species CoOL legal requirements.

Gathering and Using Science, Evidence and Information

Requirements for the Transport of Meat.

The FHP&O team have been closely involved with FSA colleagues in the implementation of revised requirements for the transport of meat. Following European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinions, a derogation will come into force on 21 November to permit the transport of meat of domestic ungulates above the required core temperature of 7°C. This is only permitted following authorisation from the competent authority but nevertheless represents a significant shift in EU policy resulting from science and evidence.

New Approach for Managing Shellfish Water Quality Issues.

A member of the FSA in NI's Local Authority Policy and Delivery (LAPD) team has succeeded in introducing a new cross government/industry approach to actively manage an intermittent water quality issue impacting on one of NI's shellfish production sites. The approach, negotiated in partnership with DAERA, the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI), and NI Water, aims to achieve more effective recording and reporting of all relevant data, to enable food businesses to make evidence based decisions regarding harvesting activities (e.g. restrictions during unsuitable periods).

Kantar Worldpanel Food and Drink Purchasing Data

As part of the FSA's Routine dietary surveillance programme, Kantar Worldpanel provided household food and drink purchasing data for 15/16. Outlined below are a summary of some of the key trends for Northern Ireland.

- In 2016, take home food and drink purchases alone equated to 2,050kcal, 113g of sugar, 31g of saturated fat and 6.3g of salt per person per day. Most of these figures are lower compared to 2012 however they remain above the recommended daily intake (RDI) levels of 2,000kcal, 90g sugar, 20g saturated fat, 6g of salt (based on an average adult female, government guidelines)
- Within sugar – the overall volume of sugar purchased in take home food and drink has remained almost stable with an increase of just 0.1% between 2012 and 2016. Within sugar there are several categories that have seen significant reductions of sugar purchased, with sugar volumes in Plain Bread down -12.7%, Breakfast Cereals down -16.1%, Regular Soft Drinks down -20.2% and Cakes and Pastries down -4.1%. These volume reductions are ahead of the change in overall volume for these categories.
- In 2016 lower socio-economic groups (C2DE) accounted for 59.1% of take home food and drink volume (kgs, litres, servings). They over index in their share of Confectionery (60.6%), Regular Soft Drinks (63.1%), Biscuits (59.6%) and Cakes & Pastries (61.7) and have a lower share of Vegetables (55.7%) and Diet Carbonates (51.9%)

Empowering Consumers

FHRS On-line Display Regulations.

The FSA in NI's LAPD team has completed a review of the responses received to the consultation on Online display of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS). The response has been published on the FSA website www.food.gov.uk and draft regulations have been amended accordingly. Due to the lack of NI Executive no

further progress can be made with the finalisation of the FHRIS On-line Display Regulations.

Launch of Calorie Wise scheme with out of home businesses.

On Friday 27 October 2017 Compass Catering became the first business to be awarded with the new Calorie Wise scheme in Northern Ireland. The premises at Parliament Buildings currently displays energy values at point of choice for their consumers to enable them to easily make healthier choices. The Calorie Wise scheme is awarded to businesses who provide this energy information at point of choice according to 4 Key Principles detailed in the Technical Guidance document. This scheme is being taken forward in NI by the FSA in partnership with the 11 District Councils as a key strand of the Eating Well Choosing Better programme under the draft NI Programme for Government. The launch was well attended by industry, dietetic, District Council and Department of Health colleagues and Dr McBride, NI Chief Medical Officer, supported the event with a call to action for businesses across NI to join the scheme. Several other large multinational food chains, contract caterers, health trusts and local businesses have indicated their support to join the scheme in the coming months and Compass Catering intend to roll the scheme out across their other outlets.

Aligning Incentives

Retail Sector Update

The FSA held its second update for the Retail sector operating in Northern Ireland on the 24 October 2017, with representation from large multinational retailers and local independent retailers present. The agenda covered the “Eating Well Choosing Better” programme, Regulating Our Future, Food Crime and Food Recalls. The communications team provided an update on the planned consumer messaging in 2018 and scoped opportunities for sharing messages. The meeting provided the retail sector with a chance to hear more about the key workstreams in NI and gave an opportunity for engagement and follow up 1:1 discussions. The next update is planned for late spring 2018.

Veterinary Public Health Trade Programme Stakeholder Event and Annual Meat Hygiene Seminar.

The FHP&O team provided a meat hygiene policy update at a DAERA Veterinary Public Health Trade Programme (VPHTP) stakeholder event. Attendees heard updates on a variety of policy areas including the transport of meat above temperature, delayed and partial evisceration of poultry and the Campylobacter process hygiene criterion. Clarification was also provided on FSA policy regarding fifth quarter offal, the Statement of Resources guidance and the identification and traceability of cattle.

The FHP&O team also supported DAERA VPHTP in their annual meat hygiene seminar which was held on 21 October. FHP&O played an integral part in the organisation of the event, the provision of speakers and chairing the afternoon session. I delivered a presentation at this event - an opportunity to thank meat inspection staff for their valuable contribution to achieving FSA objectives.

Trade Visits from South Korea and Taiwan.

The FHP&O team continued to contribute to opening new markets by providing vital policy support to DAERA during recent inward trade visits from South Korea and Taiwan. This included presentations at opening meetings, accompaniment during site visits and attendance and participation in closing meetings. FHP&O also played an essential role in maintaining existing markets through similar support and involvement in a USDA inspection visit.

Event For A-Level Home Economics Teachers.

A member of the FHP&O team gave a presentation on food law and official controls at a Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) event which had been arranged for A-level Home Economics teachers. The event also provided an opportunity to explain the work of FSA in NI and the collaborative working relationships with DAERA and District Councils.

Being the Best Organisation We Can Be

EU Exit Preparations.

The negotiations between the UK Government and the European Commission on the terms upon which the UK will leave the EU in March 2019 are ongoing. The FSA is planning to deliver a smooth exit under any scenario, which includes preparing the UK for the future economic partnership we hope to negotiate with the EU as well as the scenario in which no mutually satisfactory agreement can be reached and the UK exits without a deal.

The UK Government plans withdrawal from the EU customs union, but has committed to ensuring new arrangements keep trade with the EU as frictionless as possible and avoids a 'hard border' between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. As part of this planning for the EU Exit, the FSA has identified the safety and authenticity of imported food as one of its key priorities. The land border with another EU member state means Northern Ireland has a particular interest in this matter.

As part of our considerations, FSA in NI organised a stakeholder workshop, on Wednesday 15 November, led by Rod Ainsworth (Director Regulatory & Legal Strategy) and myself, where we reflected on current arrangements for food safety import controls in NI and explored potential options for future food safety import

controls. This was well attended by representatives from industry organisations, DAERA, Department for Economy and the Executive Office's EU Future Relations Division.

Members of the FSA in NI's FHP&O team have also attended a number of meetings with DAERA and Defra to discuss and raise issues in relation to import and export, the UK's forthcoming EU exit and day 1 readiness after EU exit. In particular: clarification of the role of the FSA and Local Authorities (LAs) in relation to exports; certification expectations for LAs and the FSA; and guidance and training for LA officers engaged in certification. FSA in NI's LAPD colleagues have also been instrumental in negotiating the participation of DAERA on the NI District Council Imported Food (exports) subgroup, to promote effective engagement on import and export issues.

M Jennings

Director for NI and Organisational Development.

PAPER FOR DISCUSSION

Introduction to the FSA Deputy Chair

Executive Summary

Laura Sandys was appointed to the Board of the Food Standards Agency as Deputy Chair on 1 September.

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

PAPER FOR DISCUSSION

Regulating Our Future – The Food Standards Agency’s Role as a Supporting Regulator under Primary Authority

Executive Summary

Nina Purcell, the FSA’s Director Regulatory Delivery & Wales and Michael Jackson, FSA Head of Regulatory Standards and Assurance, will introduce the above paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. Nina Purcell will join the meeting by video conference from the FSA’s office at Southgate House in Cardiff.

The full paper can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa171205.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

PAPER FOR DISCUSSION

Regulating Our Future – Development of the Assurance Framework for the Target Operating model

Executive Summary

Nina Purcell, the FSA's Director Regulatory Delivery & Wales and Michael Jackson, FSA Head of Regulatory Standards and Assurance, will introduce the above paper due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. Nina Purcell will join the meeting by video conference from the FSA's office at Southgate House in Cardiff.

The full paper can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa171206.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas
Tel: 028 9041 7762
Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

PAPER FOR DISCUSSION

Update on FSA's Activities Concerning Antimicrobial Resistance

Executive Summary

Paul Cook, of the FSA Outbreaks & Emergencies team, will introduce the above paper, due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. This item will be introduced by video conference from the FSA's office at Aviation House in London.

The full paper can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa171207.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

PAPER FOR DISCUSSION

Strategic Surveillance Update

Executive Summary

Javier Dominguez, FSA Veterinary Director and Head of Science, Evidence and Research, will introduce the above paper, due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. This item will be introduced by video conference from the FSA's office at Aviation House in London.

The full paper can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa171208.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

PAPER FOR DISCUSSION

Social Science Report

Executive Summary

Julie Pierce, FSA Director of Openness, Data and Digital and Michelle Patel, FSA Director of Communications, will introduce the above paper, due to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the FSA Board. This item will be introduced by video conference from the FSA's office at Aviation House in London.

The full paper can be found on the FSA website here:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa171209.pdf>

Members are invited to:

- Consider the presentation.
- Comment and give advice.

Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland

Contact: Seth Chanas

Tel: 028 9041 7762

Email: seth.chanas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk