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**Steps taken to promote and increase sustainable economic growth and to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in 2016/17**

Under Section 32(1)(a) and (b) of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2000, public bodies have a duty to publish a statement of the steps they have taken during the financial year, through the exercise of their functions, to:

1. promote and increase sustainable growth; and
2. improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy.

**(a) Sustainable economic growth**

Food Standards Scotland’s primary concern is consumer protection – making sure that food is safe to eat, ensuring consumers know what they are eating and improving nutrition. With that in mind, our vision is to create a food and drink environment in Scotland that benefits, protects and is trusted by consumers.

In the course of doing this, we aim to ensure that responsible businesses flourish.

During 2016/17 we consulted on, finalised, and published our regulatory strategy. In pursuance of this, we piloted a revised risk scoring matrix based on best practice outlined in the Scottish Regulators Strategic Code of Practice. We also developed a Scottish National Database which will collect and analyse all enforcement activity undertaken by local authorities (LAs) directly from source, providing FSS and LAs with real time datasets without increasing the administrative workload.

This year we supported exports to third countries by providing expert assistance for a Chinese delegation visiting to inspect official controls within the salmon and trout industries. We also supported LAs and industry with respect to a number of United States Food and Drug Administration audits of food businesses that are exporting, or wish to export, to the USA. We continued to work with Scottish Government and Defra on export certification procedures.

**(b) Efficiency, effectiveness and economy**

We aim to be efficient and effective in all that we do. For us this means being an organisation of well-motivated and appropriately skilled people committed to carrying out all our duties in a responsible way. Our resources are focused on doing the right things, and doing them in ways that are most effective for achieving our objectives.

**Doing the right things**

In 2016/17 the Board reviewed its Scheme of Delegation in order to clarify the responsibilities of the Board and the Executive. Over the year we have developed and refined financial and operational performance reports for the Board, and a working group with membership from Board and Executive has worked on the development of strategic performance indicators. We have also developed an assurance mapping process which has been shared with other public bodies as an example of good practice. We published our first Mainstreaming Equality Report under the specific duties of the Equality Act in April 2016, setting out our commitment to fully embed equality as a key component of our business, both as a consumer protection body and as an employer, and staff have undertaken training on compliance with the Equalities Duty.

**Focusing our resources**

We have published our Science, Evidence and Information Strategy, accompanied by a Governance Statement and checklist. The Strategy underpins how we identify and prioritise our evidence needs to support our strategic priorities, and our governance system helps to ensure that we are transparent in how we deal with uncertainty in our science, evidence and information, and will support risk management.

To develop our digital capability, this year FSS has worked in collaboration with the Scottish Government’s Digital Transformation Service to deliver 4 foundation workstrands: Process Mapping, a Digital Maturity Model, User Research, and a Technical Architecture Review.

During the year, we also worked to identify financial savings from across our business in order to reinvest this money in other key parts of our work. In 2016/17 we estimate those savings to be approximately £276,000 and have come from reducing our hotel and travel costs, securing savings through the use of the Scottish Government’s procurement shared services and associated frameworks and through

a reduction in overtime costs across the business. These savings have been used to extend the delivery of our healthy eating campaign and provide additional food hygiene training to school pupils and environmental health enforcement officers

**Our people**

The 2016 FSS staff survey showed a positive picture of staff engagement across the organisation, with FSS ranked as 25thout of 98 highest performing Civil Service organisations. In January 2017, we also achieved the Bronze Award of the Healthy Working Lives programme, which demonstrates our on-going commitment to ensuring the health and wellbeing of our staff.

More information about how we contribute to the Scottish Government’s

purpose and the National Performance Framework can be found in our [Strategy to 2021 and Corporate Plan 2016-2019](http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/publications-and-research/shaping-scotlands-food-future-our-strategy-to-2021-1), and more information on our income and expenditure can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts [Annual Report and Accounts](http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/publications-and-research/annual-report-and-accounts-2016-17).