



The Chief Scientific Advisor position at Food Standards Scotland

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My perception of the FSS Chief Scientific Advisor post

- **Legitimacy of FSS:** assurance of the science that underpins FSS information, regulation, communication, **trust & influence**
- **Challenge** within the organization of strategy and approaches
- **What works:** wider scientific connectivity for information and approaches
- **Mentorship** for FSS scientists
- **Public communication**
- **Targeted 'projects'**



How to develop legitimacy of FSS

- Help FSS use its science budget and staff to **leverage** more science and information, building trust and influence
- Identify areas that need **additional capacity** and contribute to **gap** analysis, helping build knowledge, skills and information within FSS
- Help identify possible '**pathways to impact**'; interactions with experts on how FSS can enable and influence in its key areas
- **Promote FSS identity** and purpose through professional and media interactions
- Contribute to '**thought leadership**' of FSS; ideas that enable FSS to be considered a trustworthy authority in food safety and diet & nutrition
- Participate in specific projects that are advancing areas to drive recognition and engage FSS (and other) scientists



Main internal & external interactions

- ELT strategy meetings, Board meetings & Seminars, Science Delivery and Research, Nutrition Board & Nutrition Steering Group, Regulatory Strategy Programme Board, Allergen Working Group.....
- Review of business cases, strategy documents and reports
- Science Leadership Network
- Chief Scientific Advisors (CSA) for the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Network (ENRA)
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the Environment Policy Group
- Wastewater Epidemiology Group
- Path-Safe Programme and Strategy Board



Moving forward – some examples

- **Oversight of the FSS research ‘portfolio’:** now assigned a yearly budget. Enable ‘added value’, balancing existing & emerging needs. Awareness of research spend in allied areas in Scotland & UK
- **FSS surveillance:** help develop sampling & surveillance strategy. Analytical laboratories, opportunity to build national capability, training and develop research whilst providing high quality data for analysis & collaboration
- **Path-Safe:** UK-wide food-borne pathogen & AMR Programme
- **Help develop our digital strategy:** some data linked to statutory functions and have confidential elements. Central to our identity and need to review how to make best use of these assets
- **What works in ‘diet and nutrition’:** there is an ongoing need to evaluate how FSS can best contribute our science in this critical area. Engage with stakeholders to define our USP in this space



An ask of the Board

- **Why does FSS have a semi-independent scientific advisor?**
Have outlined my thoughts as regards the CSA as a ‘symbolic’ role for the credibility & legitimacy of FSS – I would value your thoughts on the role
- **What do we need to measure to strengthen our legitimacy?**
We ‘monitor’ in many areas, but do we need to shift to effecting change (in partnership) and evidence of this?