



# **The Chief Scientific Advisor position at Food Standards Scotland**

Professor David Gally

16<sup>th</sup> March 2022



## 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?