

# Operations Performance Reporting

## 1 Purpose of the paper

- 1.1 The paper provides a six monthly update for the Board on FSS Performance delivering key activities and provides additional context in support of the metrics detailed in Annex A.
- 1.2 The Board is asked to:
  - **Discuss and provide a view on** the reported operations performance metrics
  - **Note** the new format for presentation of the metrics in a dashboard layout.

## 2 Strategic aims

- 2.1 This work supports the FSS Strategic Outcome 2 - Consumers have healthier diets.

## 3 Background

- 3.1 The FSS Board Terms of Reference (ToR) confirm that the Board has overall responsibility for the actions and decisions of FSS, and is ultimately accountable to the Scottish Parliament for policy delivery, compliance with statutory duties and performance against agreed strategic objectives.

## 4 Discussion Areas

### 4.1 **Animal Welfare**

A key function of FSS is to ensure that animal welfare is protected by Food Business Operators (FBOs) during slaughter/ killing and associated operations. FBOs have a duty to safeguard animal welfare under the Retained Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (WATOK) Regulations 2012 . Animal welfare controls in approved slaughterhouses are delivered by the FSS veterinary and inspection personnel on behalf of Scottish Government (SG), via a Service Level Agreement. FSS also plays an important role in relation to assisting the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Local Authorities (LAs) through providing information relating to suspicion of poor animal welfare on farm and/or transport. All cases of welfare breaches attributable to slaughterhouses were responded to with swift and proportionate action by FSS Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors. All case attributed to on-farm and transport were reported to APHA and LAs as respective competent authorities.

#### 4.2 Shellfish Sample Compliance

FSS carries out an annual review of all Scotland's shellfish production area classifications using the previous three year data-set, or less if not available, from the production areas to inform classification award decisions for the coming classification year. This process is carried out in accordance with post Brexit guidance FSS monitors these classified production areas for the presence of marine biotoxin producing phytoplankton in waters and marine biotoxins and E.coli in shellfish flesh.

#### 4.3 Visible Contamination recorded on carcasses at slaughter

Incidence of visual contamination presented at the final carcase inspection point has been recorded since 2013 and are taken as a proxy measure of hygienic production. Scotland has historically recorded lower contamination levels than other UK countries through an active programme of industry and individual plant engagement and ensuring consistency and accuracy of recording through regular assessment and monitoring of the FSS systems applied. The Board previously noted that the FSS use of a Scottish average by which to measure performance may give the impression of this being an acceptable target. However, plant level management of contamination monitors trends in daily contamination as the primary means of control rather than performance against a Scottish average.

#### 4.4 Veterinary Audit

Veterinary audits of approved meat establishments are part of a suite of official controls carried out by FSS. The audit arrangements apply to all approved meat establishments under veterinary control in Scotland and include:

- Red meat / farmed game slaughterhouses
- Poultry meat slaughterhouses
- Cutting plants
- Wild game handling establishments
- Minced meat, meat preparations and mechanically separated meat plants co-located with slaughterhouses or cutting plants
- Meat product plants co-located with slaughterhouses and cutting plants co-located cold stores

#### 4.5 Local Authority Audits

The power to set standards, monitor and audit the performance of enforcement authorities was conferred on Food Standards Scotland by Sections 3 and 25 of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 and Regulation 7 of The Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009. Similar functions are also contained within section 7 of The Official Feed and Food Controls (Scotland) Regulations 2009 as amended in 2019 which implement the requirements of Regulation (EU2017/625).

## 5 Identification of risks and issues

- 5.1 All animal welfare issues are rigorously enforced where required following identification.

## 6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The Board is asked to:

- **Discuss and provide a view on** the reported operations performance metrics
- **Note** the new format for presentation of the metrics in a dashboard layout.

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