

FOOD STANDARDS SCOTLAND BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

1. 'The Board' is the informal term which designates the collective Members of Food Standards Scotland (FSS), who, in accordance with the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 ("the 2015 Act"), were appointed through the public appointments process by the Scottish Ministers. The Board exists to represent the public interest and ensure consumer focus, to set strategy for FSS, and to take major decisions on policy and key issues of principle, informing advice given to the Scottish Ministers.
2. The Board has overall collective responsibility for the actions and decisions of FSS. It is responsible for ensuring that FSS achieves its statutory objectives to protect and improve public health and consumers' interests in relation to food, and that it carries out its functions effectively, economically and efficiently. The Board is accountable directly to the Scottish Parliament for policy delivery, compliance with statutory duties and performance against agreed strategic objectives.
3. The Board also, through the Chair, appoints the Chief Executive and holds them accountable, and supports the Chief Executive in the discharge of their role as Accountable Officer.

Delegation

4. The Board may delegate to Committees certain functions mainly associated with corporate governance of FSS.

Responsibilities:

5. The Board will:
 - Set the strategic direction for FSS within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enable risk to be assessed and managed;
 - Lay out FSS's standards and values and be responsible for ensuring that FSS's obligations to its stakeholders and the wider community are understood and met;

- Ensure that FSS achieves its statutory objectives to protect and improve public health and consumers' interests in relation to food;
- Take decisions on key issues of principle and policy, including those on which advice is to be given to Ministers;
- Appoint the Chief Executive in line with the relevant Civil Service rules and, through the Chair hold the Chief Executive accountable for FSS's performance;
- Scrutinise the financial and other performance information relating to FSS and advise the Chief Executive in the discharge of the Accountable Officer responsibilities;
- Consider and advise on strategic risks;
- Approve the annual business plan and maintain oversight of major financial decisions in line with that plan;
- Establish such committees as it sees fit. The terms of reference of such Committees will be agreed by the Board and reviewed annually;
- Receive regular reports from its Committees; and
- Approve the Annual Report.