

## Animal Feed Review in Scotland

### 1 Purpose of the paper

- 1.1 This paper provides an update to the Board on the progress made to implement alternative models of delivery for feed official controls following the Board meeting held on 16 September 2015.
- 1.2 The Board is asked to:
  - **Note** the progress made in developing the regional and centralised models,
  - **Note** the progress to extend Earned Recognition in Scotland beyond primary production and,
  - **Agree** the proposal to approach Scottish Ministers to secure agreement to progress a centralised model and associated transfer of funds from the block grant to FSS.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 On 16 September 2015, the Board agreed that the recommended option 3b (A small number of Local Authorities (LAs) (number to be agreed) deliver feed official controls on a regional basis with a number of centralised FSS functions) should be progressed to implement change to the delivery of feed official controls.
- 2.2 The Board will recall that feed delivery is a significant risk and that Scotland needs to reform feed delivery as the rest of the UK have already done so and the current system of controls delivery needs to change.
- 2.3 The Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland (SCOTSS), who developed this model with FSS were asked to secure commitment from local authorities (LAs) to progress a regional model by 1 December 2015. A centralised model was also to be progressed in parallel with an understanding that this could not be implemented before 1 April 2017.
- 2.4 The Board agreed that earned recognition should be extended beyond primary production by 1 April 2016, regardless of the delivery model implemented.

### 3 Update

- 3.1 Extensive engagement with all relevant stakeholders has taken place with the aim of implementing a regional model however, this has not been successful due to a number of factors:
  - SCOTSS has been unable to provide commitment from LAs by 1 December 2015. Discussion with the chair of SCOTSS has confirmed that even where LAs had been nominated and agreed in principle, that there would be no vehicle to guarantee resources being available to deliver feed controls. This is due to the latest budget settlement which has resulted in considerable uncertainty of future resource availability across most LAs.
  - The Cosla Community Well-being Executive Group discussed this issue at their meeting on 3 December. Although they supported the regional delivery model in principle, they were clear that the current Government reviews of trading standards should be taken into account. SCOTSS was asked by the Group to develop a

regional model and secure agreement from the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE). SCOTSS has emphasised the need to ensure commitment from Chief Executives in developing a regional model as this will require cost and resource sharing at a delivery level. On contacting SOLACE, SCOTSS was referred back to Cosla who do not represent all 32 local authorities. The four local authorities that sit outwith Cosla are represented by the Scottish Local Government Partnership (SLGP) and significant effort has been made by FSS to establish contact without success.

- Cosla has advised that they do not foresee a need for the transfer of funds to allow the implementation of a regional model and could not support any change to funding without a detailed model for delivery, which has not been developed. FSS do not accept this argument for two reasons:
  - i) under a regional model, the resource needs to be dedicated to the LAs commissioned to deliver feed and,
  - ii) current performance clearly suggests that feed funding is not being used for the purposes for which it was intended.

3.2 Scottish Government Local Government Finance require confirmation of a transfer of funds no later than 28 January. As we are unable to confirm the commitment of LA participation, we cannot therefore continue to recommend to the Board that we should progress with a regional model and will focus on centralised delivery as per the decision taken during September's Board meeting

3.3 The centralised model requires amendment to legislation and discussions are currently taking place with Scottish Government Legal Directorate with a view to implementing the required changes at the same time as other legislative amendments. Training and recruitment for centralisation are to be further considered in the early part of 2016.

3.4 Work to extend Earned Recognition to feed beyond primary production from April 2016 is progressing. Engagement and agreement with industry has taken place, Memoranda of Understanding with FSA and industry are under review, and guidance materials and training events are being developed for roll-out to local authorities in February 2016.

3.5 We seek agreement from the Board to engage with Scottish Ministers, with the aim of obtaining approval to progress a centralised model and transfer of funds from the block grant to FSS to finance this delivery model.

#### 4 Conclusion/Recommendations

4.1 The Board is asked to:

- **Note** the progress made in developing the regional and centralised models
- **Note** the progress to extend Earned Recognition in Scotland beyond primary production
- **Agree** the proposal to approach Scottish Ministers to obtain agreement to progress a centralised model and associated transfer of funds from the block grant

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