

Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22

I'd like to present the audited FSS annual report and accounts for 2021/22 to the Board, so that members can review and subject to their consideration, approve the annual report and accounts and authorise their issue by myself as Chief Executive and the FSS Accountable Officer.

The Board will be aware that the annual report and accounts have to be prepared in accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) and to meet the requirements of Section 15 of the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Accounts Direction given by Scottish Ministers.

As such, I believe I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the preparation of the 21/22 annual report and accounts with regards to both financial regularity and the organisations corporate governance arrangements.

All accounting records, documentation and other matters which I am aware are relevant to the preparation of the annual report and accounts have been made available to Audit Scotland for the purposes of their audit.

All transactions undertaken by Food Standards Scotland have been recorded in the accounting records and properly reflected in the financial statements.

As a result I can confirm that, in all material aspects, expenditure was incurred and income applied in accordance with the applicable enactments and guidance issued by the Scottish Ministers.

Additional details with regards to the production of the annual report and accounts, and how I have met my specific responsibilities as Accountable Officer, are further explained in my letter of representation to Audit Scotland dated 9 September.

As such, Audit Scotland have confirmed they anticipate being able to issue an unqualified auditor's report at the meeting of the Board.

The Board will be aware of the requirement for the annual report and accounts to consist of three separate sections:

- Performance Report
- Accountability Report
- Financial Statements

The Performance Report includes both a Summary and Analysis section and continues to report a consolidated view of our outcome reporting to the Board over the year, with the analysis section providing some additional detail on those, and other areas, of performance over the reporting period.

Overview

- Developed a framework to monitor changes to EU food regulation.
- Worked across government to ensure that food law, food regulation and key functions have been appropriately transferred into UK law.
- Appointed an Agricultural Analyst and finalised arrangements for official control sampling regimes for feed.
- Publication of the FSS Strategy for 2021 – 2026 Healthy, Safe, Sustainable: Driving Scotland's Food Future and our Corporate Plan for 2021-24.

On nutrition:

- Launched a new dietary guidance resource Eat Well, Your Way.
- Ran a vitamin D campaign through the winter months to promote awareness and uptake of our recommendations.
- Published healthier catering guides for industry and promoted uptake of MenuCal to support calorie labelling.

On food safety:

- Published the final report of FSS's microbiological survey of minced beef on retail sale in Scotland.
- Established a structured risk analysis function within FSS to assess, manage and communicate food and animal feed safety risks.
- Implemented legal requirements for allergen and ingredient labelling on food sold for Pre-Packed for Direct Sale (PPDS) in Scotland.

The Accountability Report has remained largely the same in terms of content and format and continues to reflect the role and responsibilities of both the Chair and the Board and these sections are contained within the Corporate Governance Report.

The Financial Statements within the annual report are confirmation of our financial performance for 2021/22. The section on financial performance within the Performance Analysis section of the annual report outlines our financial outturn against budget. For the year ended 31 March 2022:

- Total resource expenditure was £20.8m compared to a Departmental Expenditure Limit budget of £21.7m, resulting in an underspend of £0.9m.
- Non-Cash Annually Managed Expenditure (AME) was £0.4m compared to a budget of £0.4
- FSS drew down £21.2 in cash terms to cover its capital and net operating costs.

The annual report and accounts have also been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and recommend that the Board approve the annual report and accounts and their issue by myself as Chief Executive and the FSS Accountable Officer.

The Board are also asked to note the positive statements made by Audit Scotland in their audit report, which will be discussed later in the agenda, specifically around internal controls and governance and the open and transparent way in which we conduct our business.

We also accept the recommendations made by Audit Scotland and have already begun implementation. Thanks to our auditors for their work over the past year.

I therefore ask that the Board consider the points raised at paragraph 1.4 within the cover paper and request that the Board approve the 2021/22 annual report and accounts and authorise their issue by me as and the FSS Accountable Officer.

Finally, I want to place on record my thanks to all FSS staff who participated in producing the Annual Report and Accounts and also to all FSS staff who have throughout this year continued to ensure that public health is protected. Last year was as challenging as many of the previous years and once again FSS staff rose to the challenge.

Geoff Ogle
Chief Executive
Date: 22 September 2022