

Chairs Report

Period of Report – 12 December 2024 to 25 March 2025

External Meetings

| Date | Stakeholder | Reason for meeting / outcome |
|-------------|--|--|
| 08 January | Carol Mochan MSP (Scottish Labour - deputy spokesperson on Public and Women's Health). Geoff also in attendance. | General update on the work of FSS and areas of challenge |
| 23 January | Ariane Burgess MSP (Scottish Green Party – party spokesperson on communities, housing and rural affairs). Geoff also in attendance. | A general update on the work of FSS and areas of challenge |
| 29 January | Tilly Robinson-Miles (University of Edinburgh) | Tilly is the Partner and Stakeholder Engagement lead for the interdisciplinary Living Good Food Nation Lab |
| 04 February | Christian Nissen (Managing Director - Highland Game). Ian McWatt also present. | Wide discussion including the consequences of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy on the future increased availability of venison |
| 14 February | Dennis Overton (Chair of Scottish Food Commission Board). | Initial meeting, to outline the roles and responsibilities of FSS, the challenges in the food system and the forthcoming establishment of the SFC. |
| 27 February | Kate Rowell (Chair QMS) | Quarterly Chairs Meeting |
| 17 March | Susan Jebb (Chair FSA), Katie Pettifer (CEO FSA) Geoff Ogle | Chairs and Chief Execs quarterly meeting. |

Events/Conferences

| Date | Event / conference |
|-------------|---|
| 22 January | Food Navigator Positive Nutrition Interactive Broadcast Series on-line Sugar Reduction Positive Nutrition Summit 2025 - Home Page |
| 12 February | Food Navigator Positive Nutrition Interactive Broadcast Series on-line – Functional Beverages |
| 17 February | Public Service Reform Summit. Attended with Geoff Ogle. |
| 04 March | Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast – Spring Budget, guest of University of Aberdeen. |

Other Relevant Information

14 January to 22 January – midyear reviews with FSS Board members.

Membership of the Audit and Risk Committee and The Finance and Business Committee

When the current members were appointed to ARC and FBC I indicated that we would review this after 2 years. Appointment of members to both ARC and FBC are the responsibility of the Board.

Phillip Couser is our Board Champion for digital and data. Phillip indicated that there may be advantages of connecting this with the development of the strategy which Christina is supporting. I therefore proposed Phillip should join the FBC.

As this would reduce ARC to 3 members, I propose that Paula Charlesworth should transfer to ARC.

Both Phillip and Paula are content with this proposal.

I seek agreement from the Board if they approve these appointments.

Tenth Anniversary of FSS

Today's Board meeting is the final meeting of our initial 10 years of Food Standards Scotland. It is also important to note it also marks 25th Anniversary of the formation of our previous incarnation and now our partner - the Food Standards Agency on 01 April 2000 following the publication of the James Report on the structure and functions of a Food Standards Agency in 1997.

It is our intention to mark this anniversary at the launch of the 4th joint FSS/FSA report on Food Standards at the Scottish Parliament on the 24 June 2025 and also to acknowledge the anniversary throughout the year by reflecting on some of the notable achievements and events from the last 10 years. There are so many things that have been achieved but to mention a few including launching the Scottish Food Crime Hotline and the Eatwell Guide in 2016, direct employment of our Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors in 2019, and the introduction of legislation requiring the fortification of bread and flour with folic acid to prevent birth defects in 2024. I know our

Communications Team will reflect on many more of our achievements over the coming weeks and months so I will not list them all here.

It is also worth reflecting on the significant challenges that we have faced and overcome in the last 10 years. At our founding meeting, I doubt that any of those present could have foreseen the EU exit and the consequences for us with new duties and responsibilities that were previously shared with our European neighbours, or the Covid pandemic in 2020 and the need for us to radically and quickly adapt our organisational delivery model to minimise the impact on food safety and nutritional wellbeing in Scotland. As today's meeting has highlighted, there will continue to be significant challenges for us to face and overcome, not least the impact of forthcoming Government negotiations with our EU neighbours on SPS but I am confident that we have the staff, leadership team, and executive to guide us through this. I also have confidence in the Board members and believe that we have the skills and experience to support the organisation with the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Heather Kelman, Board Chair, 25 March 2025

For queries contact: Board@fss.scot