

Heads of Service.  
Lead Food Officers.  
REHIS  
SFELC

2 March 2017

ENF/17/007

Dear Colleague

### **Scottish National Database Project.**

I am writing to provide an overview and update on the work of the Scottish National Database (SND) Project.

#### **Background**

In December 2015, Food Standards Scotland (FSS) undertook an options analysis exercise as part of a strategic commitment to address recommendations of the Scudamore Expert Advisory Group which was established by Scottish Ministers in February 2013, to review the lessons learned from the Horsemeat incident.

In particular, this project has its origins in recommendations 25 and 26 of the report which stated the following:

#### **Recommendation 25**

*“The New Food Body should ensure that integrated IT systems are in place for recording data relating to official controls and other interventions at food businesses. These systems should be mandated for use by all competent authorities in Scotland”.*

## Recommendation 26

*“FSA Scotland should assess whether it was feasible and economic to develop a common database language to enable more effective interrogation and provision of results from the main IT systems”.*

In February 2016, following a detailed evaluation of the available options, the senior management team at FSS approved the development of a national database, with the purpose of capturing all of the Food Law enforcement activities undertaken in Scotland.

Since that time FSS have procured the services of McLaren West Ltd, to provide the necessary technical expertise and have had an extensive period of negotiations with the 3 Management Information software (MIS) providers who operate in Scotland, Civica, Idox, and Northgate Public Services, to scope and implement the necessary development works for the SND.

### **Implementation**

The SND will replace the 2 current IT platforms which collect Food Law enforcement activity in Scotland i.e LAEMS and FHIS UK, but will also collect further food business information, including Registration and Approval details. In addition, all sampling data inputted onto UKFSS will also be incorporated into the SND, hence providing a national profile by Local Authority, of all Food Law enforcement activity in Scotland.

Each Local Authority will be able to access the SND via a secure portal. This will contain a dashboard and a suite of reports, which can be used to assist with service planning, operational delivery, internal monitoring and many other aspects of Food Law enforcement delivery.

### **Pilot and Next steps**

We have already received 6 expressions of interest to participate in a short Local Authority pilot, which will mainly involve testing of the delivery of data to the SND and addressing any other initial coding issues that may arise.

Once the pilot process is completed each of the 3 MIS providers will launch a new version of their respective systems, i.e APP, Uniform and Assure, which will allow each Local Authority to transfer their data to the SND as a weekly automated process.

For the present reporting year 2016/17 each Local Authority will still require to complete their LAEMS return and thereafter will move onto the SND in a phased roll out. Further information on the timescale for transition from the FHIS UK Platform will be given in due course.

FSS are also intending to establish a Development Group, consisting of Local Authority representatives, with the function of governance of the SND and further assessing how the data can be used to influence performance standards and Food Law enforcement activity.

### **Stakeholder Event**

In preparation for the implementation of the SND and to inform our Local Authority partners further, we intend to hold a stakeholder event on the 4 May 2017 at the Apex Hotel in Dundee. Further details on the event will be provided shortly. If this date is unsuitable, please advise as soon as possible, otherwise I would ask that you add this date to your calendar.

In the meantime, should you wish any further information regarding the Scottish National Database, the Local Authority pilot, or the forthcoming stakeholder event, please contact me or my colleague Robin White, Project Manager.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Campbell  
Senior Enforcement Manager