

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FOOD STANDARDS SCOTLAND BOARD HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 FROM 13.00 PM TO 14.20 PM AT PILGRIM HOUSE, ABERDEEN****Present:****FSS Board**

Louise Welsh, Deputy Chair  
George Brechin  
Marieke Dwarshuis  
Heather Kelman  
Carrie Ruxton  
Sue Walker  
Anne Maree Wallace

**FSS Executive**

Geoff Ogle, Chief Executive  
Elspeth MacDonald, Deputy Chief Executive  
Ian McWatt, Director of Operations  
Garry Mournian, Head of Corporate Services  
Katherine Goodwin, Head of Communications and Marketing (via Teleconference)  
Karen McCallum-Smith, Head of Private Office  
Norval Strachan, Chief Scientific Advisor  
Hazel Stead, Board Secretary

**1 Introduction, Apologies**

- 1.1 The Deputy Chair, Louise Welsh welcomed everyone to the Food Standards Scotland (FSS) Board meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Ross Finnie, Chair.

**2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

- 2.1 The Deputy Chair asked for any conflicts of interest to be declared. None were declared.

**3 Chair's Report**

- 3.1 The Deputy Chair had nothing to report.

**4 Chief Executive's Oral Report**

- 4.1 The Deputy Chair invited Geoff Ogle, Chief Executive (CE) to provide an oral update on a number of topics. He advised that the Fipronil incident is ongoing. The Chief Executive explained that the Executive are in the process of business planning for 2018. He attended a Regulating our Future programme board meeting at Food Standards Agency (FSA) and noted the ongoing work to identify synergies between Food Standards Scotland and FSA Regulatory Strategies.
- 4.2 He gave an update that he had met with the editors of Scottish Daily Mail and the Herald. He met the Soil Association to discuss the Food for Life programme.
- 4.3 With regards to the Errington Cheese incident, Ian McWatt, Director of Operations advised that a court case is expected to commence in January 2018.

**5 Decision**

- 5.1 The Deputy Chair sought agreement from Board members to carry forward the minutes from the Board meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

The Board :

- **Agreed** to carry forward minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 board meeting to be tabled at the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 board meeting

## 6 Review of the Food Withdrawal and Recall System in the UK Food Retail Sector – 17/09/01

- 6.1 The Deputy Chair welcomed Richard Hoskins, Head of Incidents and Resilience from the FSA. She invited Ian McWatt, Director of Operations to introduce the paper. Ian thanked Richard for attending the board meeting at Pilgrim House in Aberdeen, and the teams involved in the paper.
- 6.2 Richard explained that the project was initiated in July 2016 and extensive research and consultation had been completed on the withdrawal and recall system involving industry, stakeholders and consumers to identify improvements to enhance the withdrawal and recall system.
- 6.3 In discussion, board members sought and received clarification on a number of points; it was confirmed that there had been an increase in the number of food alerts and the main reason for the increase was related to the number of recalls because of allergen alerts; there was no current evidence to suggest weaknesses in the recall system were having an adverse impact on consumers; the Board agreed it was important to clarify roles and responsibilities of the regulator and food business operators and to include this in the guidance; FSS confirmed there were regular discussions on the recall process at the Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee. Board members were keen to see what success indicators of the withdrawal and recall system would look like.
- 6.4 At this point, attendees viewed the Food Standards Agency board meeting in Belfast to listen to the board members and executive discussion on the paper, Review of the Food Withdrawal and Recall System in the UK Food Retail Sector - FSA 17/09/04.
- 6.5 The Chief Executive raised a concern with the Board with regards to the suggestion that there should be a target to reduce the volume of recalls. He felt that would be inappropriate and expressed concerns that a target could drive the wrong behaviours. Improvements in the process of recalls, if done correctly should reduce the numbers, but recalls had to be issued if they were necessary. The Board concurred with this view. The Chief Executive agreed that he would send a formal response on the outcome of the board discussion on this paper to the Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency.
- 6.6 The Board:
- **Noted** the findings from the research phase of the project; and;
  - **Discussed** and **Confirmed** the proposed outcomes and the high level delivery plan for this work

## 7 Question and Answers

- 7.1 There were no questions from members of the audience. The Deputy Chair closed the meeting.