

OFFICIAL

Minute

Version: Final

For further information please email the SFELC Mailbox SFELC@fss.scot



Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee Minute

Microsoft Teams
06 September 2024 10:00 – 13:00

Attendees	
Abbie Purkis – Food Standards Scotland	Karen Wardrope – West of Scotland Food Liaison Group Chair
Aileen Brown – Food Standards Scotland Board Member	Kirsty McGuigan – Strategy and Collaborative Working Sub-Committee Chair
Alex Pearson – IFF Research	Kirsty Tinsdale – Food and Drink Federation
Andrea Carson – North of Scotland Food Liaison Group	Lorna McCoull – Co Vice-Chair
Andrew Morrison – Co Vice-Chair	Louise Moar – Shetland Council
Bruce McCall – Scottish Craft Butchers	Lynne Bissett – Food Inspection and Interventions Sub-committee Chair
Chris Seyfried – University of the West of Scotland	Lynsey Glover – Aberdeenshire Council
Devina Sankhla – British Retail Consortium	Margaret Gregory – Angus Council
Eilidh Paton – West Dunbartonshire Council	Marion McArthur – Food Standards Scotland
Emma Timmons – Food Standards Scotland	Nick Noon – Dundee City Council
Emma Vernon – IFF Research	Paul Birkin – Chair
Eva Ablett – Consumer Scotland	Rebecca Callaby – Food Standards Scotland
Hazel Stevenson – COSLA	Russel Anderson – Moray Council Susan Carter – West Dunbartonshire Council
Helen Henderson – East of Scotland Food Liaison Group Chair	Scott Anderson – Scottish Bakers
Irene Morrison – North Lanarkshire Council	Sheena Redmond – REHIS
Izzy Childs – Lothian and Borders Food Liaison Group Chair	Sophie Yule – Secretariat

Jackie McCann – Food Standards Scotland	Stephen French – Institute of Food Science & Technology
Jane Thompson – IFF Research	Susan Bond – Food Standards Scotland
Jane White – Public Analyst	Susan Bond – Food Standards Scotland
Jenny Wares – Consultant at Public Health Medicine	Susan Carter – West Dunbartonshire Council
Jo Rains – Argyll & Bute Council	

Apologies	
Cat Hay – Food & Drink Federation Scotland	Lorna Murray – Food Standards Scotland
Tanja Low – Food Standards Scotland	Paul Bradley – SFELC Honorary Secretary
Rachel Mirfattahi – Institute of Food Science & Technology	

Synopsis

[5.1 FSS Board Member Introduction by Aileen Brown](#)

Aileen Brown introduced her role as an FSS Board member outlining her career background and involvement within FSS.

[5.2 Food Law Rating System Evaluation Presentation by Jane Thompson, Alex Pearson & Emma Vernon](#)

IFF Research presented the key findings on the Food Law Rating Scheme Evaluation.

Agenda Items

Item No.	
1	Chairman's welcome
	<p><u>Guest speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aileen Brown as an FSS Board Member (Item No. 5.1) • Jane Thompson, Alex Pearson & Emma Vernon from IFF Research presenting on the FLRS Evaluation (Item No. 5.2) <p><u>Observers for the FLRS presentation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbie Purkis – FSS • Chris Seyfried – University of the West of Scotland • Eilidh Paton – West Dunbartonshire Council • Emma Timmons – FSS • Gail McElroy – Midlothian Council • Irene Morrison – North Lanarkshire Council • Jo Rains – Argyll & Bute Council • Louise Moar – Shetland Council • Lynsey Glover – Aberdeenshire Council • Margaret Gregory – Angus Council • Marion McArthur – FSS • Nick Glover – Aberdeen City Council • Rebecca Callaby – FSS • Russel Anderson – Moray Council • Susan Bond – FSS • Susan Carter – West Dunbartonshire Council <p><u>Substitutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirsty Tindale from Food & Drink Federation Scotland – Substitute for Cat Hay • Stephen French from IFST – Substitute for Rachel Mirfattahi <p>The Chair recorded the Committees gratitude to Jane Coupar for all her work and support towards SFELC as she steps down from the Committee in preparation for her retirement next year.</p>
2	Declaration of potential conflict of interest
	None
3	Minutes & matters arising
	Correction was made on page 6, then the previous minutes from 08 March 2024 were approved.
4	Actions outstanding
	<p>Actions 7.2019, 4.2022, 5.2023, 1.2024, 2.2024 and 3.2024 were closed.</p> <p>Action 14.2023 remains ongoing.</p> <p>Actions 10.2021, 14.2021, 22.2022 and 23.2022 remain on hold.</p>

5.1	FSS Board Member – Aileen Brown
	<p>Aileen Brown (FSS Board Member) joined the meeting and expressed her thanks to the Chair and attendees for the invitation to outline her background and roles with FSS. Aileen outlined she is a non-executive board member for FSS meaning her involvement is not day-to-day, but rather involves giving a board / policy level oversight. Aileen also chairs the 'Audit and Risk Committee' within FSS which is a formal subcommittee of the board. Aileen also does some private consulting and enjoys being a volunteer for 'Riding for the Disabled'. Aileen started her career as a chartered accountant dealing with a variety of clients and sectors, before moving to EY – business risk consulting. Aileen then became a finance director undertaking CFO roles overseeing a variety of corporate functions. Aileen joined FSS 2.5 years ago and highly enjoys the experience. Aileen recognises FSS as a highly qualified and talented organisation and enjoys continually learning through the variety of topics that FSS deal with.</p> <p>Presentation slides can be found on the SFELC KHub page (link)</p>
5.2	FLRS Evaluation
	<p>At the end of 2023, Food Standards Scotland (FSS) commissioned IFF Research to conduct an evaluation of the Food Law Rating System (FLRS) with the intent to look at how the intervention regime was implemented, assess whether the regime has achieved it's intended outcomes, and to provide further insights into future developments of the food law delivery model. IFF Research presented the key findings to the SFELC Committee, the research was also overseen by an internal FSS advisory group.</p> <p>The key findings can be found in the presentation slides (link below). This is a high-level overview of the findings and there will be a more detailed written report circulated in due course.</p> <p><u>Question, Answers & Observations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the consensus from businesses on the pilot? <p>Businesses were not spoken to directly as part of the evaluation, their views were fed back through industry representatives. There was not much feedback, which gave the indication there were no major issues. Scott Anderson from Scottish Bakers expressed interest in giving their business view on future research.</p> <p>Some industry members on SFELC were contacted as part of the consultation, and the feedback was that most industry reps didn't know enough about the scheme to respond to the designed question set.</p> <p>FSS will take the written report and make changes to FLRS to reduce additional resource requirements impact. FSS will also look at a longer-term review in terms of the SAFER programme to ensure any changes are being done according to current groups and bandings.</p> <p>Presentation slides and key findings can be found on the SFELC KHub</p>
6	Intelligence gathering – Consultations, Horizon Scanning and Safe spaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil.

7	The SFELC Executive update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane White provided an update on the current sampling surveys advising these are going to plan and discussed the situation with appointment of public health analysts following Jane Couper's retirement. Sheena Redmond updated on REHIS activity advising on the number of EHOs and FSOs presenting for the professional exams between 1st – 3rd October and advised the next dates which are between 18th – 20th March 2025. Sheena updated on the current position with degree and MSc courses and the number of enquiries coming through the alternative route and highlighted the date for the environmental health update and AGM which is 22nd November. Stephen Hendry and Calum Yule from FSS presented on the bread and flour regulations amendments. There is currently a UK wide consultation on proposed amendments.
8	Committee work plan
	<p><u>Main SFELC Committee Workplan</u></p> <p><u>06 December 2024 – Microsoft Teams</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSS Board Member (Kate Richards) REHIS Training opportunities (Sandra Williamson) <p>Please send in any suggestions for the SFELC Committee work plan to SFELC@fss.scot</p>
9	SAFER Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the last Committee, FSS were planning for a risk summit with relevant stakeholders, this has been postponed until a funding position is established. Positive dialogue has taken place with SG regarding resourcing for SAFER, however the finance ministers' recent statement in relation to SG finances will impact this. Positive discussions have taken place with SG digital and their contractors. FSS are working with them under the CivTech programme where SG contracts private industry to look at finding digital solutions to government difficulties, currently working to develop a prototype digital solution for SAFER. FSS are working closely with FSA who have piloted a database approach to national regulation of major retailers. FSS are meeting with FSA to look at the data they are getting so FSS are informed in relation to SAFER. Andy Morrison thanked authorities who provided data on the Time Measurement Exercise. This data is currently being analysed.
10	Food Standards Scotland Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Morrison raised the recent issues regarding counterfeit Glen's vodka. A food alert for action has been issued. Communication has been issued from the FSS Food Crime unit to Local Authorities highlighting an update on the situation and a request for authorities to get hold of relevant CCTV to assist with any investigations. Colleagues in FSS science have been working on guidance for shelf-life determination in relation to listeria. Currently looking for review from Enforcement Officers, this will be passed to the Approved Establishments WG to work on with the intention that guidance will be available for industry to use soon.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSS are working on guidance in relation the grey imports of American candy (containing non-permitted ingredients and inappropriate labelling) which has become an issue again. Guidance will be available on this soon. • Food Law Code of Practice is sitting with SG legal team who are still looking at this guidance. FSS are also soon to submit a revised food law guide in Scotland with the anticipation for this to be available early 2025. • SG recently consulted on price promotions for foods high in fat and sugar. Following this they are keen to reform the enforcement considerations group to look at how these proposals can be implemented. There will be a request for SFELC to provide enforcement resource towards this group. • SG are working on a proposal in relation to single use cups and are keen to work with SFELC in relation to any issues associated with reusable cup hygiene. • Exports – have incoming missions over the coming months. Canada are coming to Scotland to look at meat and are going to some Scottish LA's to look at local authority enforced establishments as well as ops establishments. • Imports – UK Government is looking to work with the EU to revise the systems for controls. • Following the incident relating to glycerol in slush ice drinks raised at the last Committee, there was a Code of Practice agreed with industry which only applied to the retail sale of these, subsequently there has been a case where a child has become ill following use of a 'make at home' kit. FSS are currently working with industry to revise the Code of Practice to ensure it covers all circumstances where slush ice drinks are available.
11	Sub-Committee Chair Updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request for volunteers went out in March and a further request went out in May. Considering LA resourcing, there has been a fortunate outcome of volunteers with almost every group having a Chair. • The Novel Foods group didn't receive enough volunteers, so it was decided this could potentially be covered by the Food Information and Composition Technical WG. There were also not enough volunteers for the Food Safety Technical WG this is an important group to look to obtain volunteers for in future. • Previously the Working Groups and Task Groups provided highlight reports which has now been changed so that each group keeps an action and summary log which is completed after each meeting. • The terms of references are currently being reviewed for each group. There is a standard template available, and each group is looking at their individual ToR. • Each group should also have a secretary for admin duties where available. • There is a new Knowledge Hub group for all the Working Groups and Task Groups, and everybody who is a member of any group has been asked to join this. The page contains all relevant documentation for each group and their meetings. • Kirsty and Lynne have pulled together a report with an overview of the different groups. This can be found on the SFELC KHub page (link).
12	Food Liaison Group Chair Updates
	<u>Lothian and Borders Food Liaison Group</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions were BAU. <u>North of Scotland Food Liaison Group</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions were BAU. <u>West of Scotland Food Liaison Group</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions took place on the new guidance for nurseries who use flour to make play-doh etc., FSA have changed the guidance to remove the cooking requirements. There were discussions on the fishery industry sharing information on testing for shellfish toxins and will keep up to date with FSS when there are new kits available. An issue was raised regarding an LA receiving microbiological failures from a baker who was making cakes, this was the result of an aerated mixer where the dishwasher was not cleaning the product properly. A solution was reached, and Karen / Irene will share the type of equipment used with Scott at Scottish Bakers. <p><u>East of Scotland Food Liaison Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
13	Update by Non-Enforcement Members
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruce from Scottish Craft Butchers thanked the Committee following the issue of the Food Standards guidance for butchers and noted this was well received by members. Stephen noted that IFST are running student launchpads at a few universities talking about careers in the food industry etc, the proposal is for 2 of these to take place in Scotland in February, so is anybody is interested to come along to talk about food industry experience then to contact Robin or Rachel at IFST. IFST have an autumn conference taking place in October being held at Leeds University. Secretariat will share details to the Committee. Sheena raised the suggestion of co-working with REHIS on the above events. Andy Morrison noted there is a healthier food service fund available to help manufacturers look at how to make their foods healthier and asked the Committee to share this with members and businesses this may be of use to. A communication has already gone out on this with the details.
14	AOCB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil.
15	Review of Action Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSS to share the FLRS report from IFF research to the Committee once available. Secretariat to share Scott Anderson from Scottish Bakers contact details with Irene Morrison. Irene Morrison / Karen Wardrope to share guidance/information on equipment type for cleaning with Scott Anderson at Scottish Bakers. If anyone would like to volunteer for the IFST student sessions in February to contact Robin or Rachel at IFST. Secretariat to share IFST contact information to SFELC Committee members. Stephen French & Sheena Redmond to exchange contact information to discuss possible overlaps in student routes into career. Secretariat to share IFST Autumn Conference to the Committee.
16	Meeting Dates
	<p>Date of next meeting: 06 December 2024</p> <p>Venue: Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Then:</p>

	TBC at next meeting
--	---------------------