**Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee minute**Friday 11 December 2015: 10:00 for 10:30  
Venue: Novotel Glasgow Centre, Glasgow, 181 Pitt Street, G2 4DT. Tel: 0141 222 2775.

**Members present**

Craig Brown (Chair) Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee, Chair

Catherine Ferro (Secretariat) Food Standards Scotland, Secretariat

Craig Smith (CSmith) Lothian and Borders Food Liaison Group

Andrea Carson (ACarson) North of Scotland Food Liaison Group

Sally Laing (SLaing) Perth and Kinross Council (speaker)

Ian McWatt (IMcWatt) Food Standards Scotland

David Thomson (DThomson) Scottish Food and Drink Federation

Peter Faassen de Heer (PFdHeer) Scottish Government (guest)

Lindsay Matthew (LMatthew) Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

Cat Hay (CHay) Scottish Food and Drink Federation

Douglas Scott (DScott) Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association

Joe Harkin (JHarkin) West of Scotland Food Liaison Group

Jane White (JWhite) Association of Public Analysts

William Hamilton (WHamilton) Food Safety Sub Committee Chair

Eilidh Paton (EPaton) Glasgow City Council (speaker)

Lynne Reid (LReid) Food Standards Scotland (guest) (from item 5)

Grainne Gilson (GGilson) Food Standards Scotland (guest)

Lorna Murray (LMurray) Food Standards Scotland

John Sleith (JSleith) Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

Brian Serivce (BService) Scottish Government

Paul Bradley (PBradley) SFELC Vice-Chair &

Food Standards Subcommittee Chair

Derek Oliver (DOliver) Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland

1. **Chaiman’s welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee, speakers and guests to this December 2015 Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) meeting in Glasgow.

He introduced; Sally Laing, Eilidh Paton, Peter Faassen de Heer and Grainne Gilson who were all invited as part of the Nutrition themed meeting (agenda item 4); David Thomson (Chief Executive of Scottish Food and Drink Federation) and Jane White who was standing in for Jane Couper (APAS).

He also noted the changes in REHIS and The Society representatives. George Fairgrieve bowed out of the Committee after serving for many years in many roles most recently including REHIS representative (2012-15) and Chair (2009-12). John Sleith now took his place, who in turn had ended his term as Society representative to SFELC now covered by Derek Oliver.

He then covered the housekeeping arrangements and data protection aspects of tape recording the meeting for minute purposes.

Apologies were recorded for; Chris McGuigan CPHM; Craig Easson ESFLG; Jane Couper APAS; Joe O’Connor Scottish Bakers; Lynda Browning and Mary Locking Health Protection Scotland and Roisin Dillon Feed sub committee.

1. **Minutes and matters arising**

The Chair advised that the draft minutes of the last meeting held in Aberdeen on 8 October 2015 had been circulated, and proposed that the Committee go through the minutes page by page, first for accuracy (A) and then matters arising (MA).

1. **Actions outstanding**

The Secretariat ran through the outstanding actions;

* 10.2015 – Secretariat to invite Ron McNaughton to attend December 2015 Resources Working Group meeting (10 December 2015) – Completed.
* 11.2015 – RWG to discuss setting up a food crime working group – Completed & will be discussed further under agenda item 8.
* 12.2015 – Secretariat to circulate PowerPoint slides from speakers at SFELC October 2015 – Completed.
* 13.2015 – All to submit nomination forms detailing Officer Bearers – Completed & will be discussed further under agenda item 6.

1. **Presentations**

Chair then introduced Sally Laing and Eilidh Paton to give their respective presentations under the Nutrition theme.

**4.1 Update on nutrition initiatives Perth and Kinross Council**

SLaing introduced herself and spoke about the Perth and Kinross council nutrition programme as it progressed over the last year, including target premises, methods and results. Chair then opened the meeting for questions and comments;

* WHamilton gave positive feedback on the programme adding Glasgow and Perth & Kinross council have covered similar ground and noted similar difficulties.
* IMcWatt commended the success of the programme and that giving an award appears to boost participation. He asked two questions (1) whether the premises in which dishes had reduced salt and sugar but had increased saturated fats yet still obtained the certificate, was misleading to the consumer and (2) if the sampling had been in a planned budget or whether it was at the cost of some other council service.
* SLaing responded, regarding potentially misleading the consumer this is an ongoing consideration she is committed to resolving and that the budget was planned for the duration of the nutrition programme.
* DOliver echoed the certificate appears to be beneficial in this scheme.
* Peter Faassen de Heer (PFdH) also noted this point, and expressed concern that the issuing of certificates may devalue the Healthy Living award certificate.
* SLaing noted she would take this concern back to her council for discussion.
* IMcWatt positively noted the nutrition initiative could be just an additional 10 minute bolt on to a regular inspection and that it did not appear too onerous for either FBO or Enforcement officer.
* LMurray added it is good that there has been such a positive level of engagement.

**4.2 Update on nutrition initiatives Glasgow City Council**

EPaton then updated on the Glasgow saturated fat project one year on. The principles used in the Perth initiative could be used on salt and sugar initiatives too. In her conclusion she mentioned they have made a difference and referenced the new, “[FSS The Scottish Diet: It has to change](http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/scottish-diet-it-needs-change)”. The Chair the asked for comments and questions, which were as follows;

* CSmith noted the nutrition benefit and asked has there been an economic benefit to the businesses when providing healthier food? EPaton explained the LA had looked at the cost of various frying oils. As part of their initiative they carried out a survey of consumers which showed the public want healthier products, going forward this should be a motivation for the FBOs to use healthier products.
* LMurray suggested this should be advertised somehow, perhaps “you said - we did” adverts in the premises.
* GGilson noted the FBOs serving Chinese foods appeared to have the best reduction in saturated fat levels and asked how might this be transferrable to reducing other high fat salt and sugar (HFSS) products. EPaton explained there was a positive change when FBOs did not use the deep frying oils in stir-fry food.
* PBradley asked about portion sizes, customers would expect a full container of HFSS product, would it be possible to source smaller take away containers from packaging suppliers?
* LMatthew asked if there were any particular concerns with the rapeseed oil used in the initiative. EPaton noted FBOs considered the oil pale and tasteless, but the frying temperature was not an issue.
* DScott asked did some businesses use animal fats and whether there was a preference by FBOs? EPaton noted that FSS has takeaway guidance which recommends liquid and not solid fats, going forward their LA would use this advice only.
* PFdHeer asked what next, how do we use these initiatives to take forward the health of FBO products? EPaton answered with their report being finalised in January 2016 and the Diet Nutrition and Health working group being set up, this would give a starter to work with.
* IMcWatt asked if the businesses involved in the scheme were broadly compliant, and if not was the nutrition bolt on survey undertaken? EPaton answered that when the businesses were compliant the nutrition questionnaire was carried out. And conversely was not carried out when the FBO was not compliant as it was priority to get the business compliant in terms of food safety and standards first. This was a decision for the officer to make during the visit.

Chair thanked the SLaing and EPaton for their presentations and answering the questions. He then moved the discussion on to agenda item 4.3.

**4.3 Set up of Diet Nutrition and Health working group**

PBradley began by noting the Diet, Nutrition and Health Working group would be beneficial evidenced by the above presentations and discussions. He asked if the terms of reference could be approved by the committee. This was agreed pending a few minor changes suggested by GGilson.

**18 ACTION FSS to provide amended wording to PBradley for the Diet nutrition and health working group terms of reference.**

* PFDHeer noted SSG are keen to support this working group where they can.
* Chair / LMurray / PFdHeer all mentioned it would be worthwhile SG and FSS to liaise with academics to do research into the use of oils by FBOs.

Chair wishes the group every success for the future and segues onto agenda item 5.

1. **UK FSS report**

Lynne Reid (LReid) introduced herself and explained in some detail the key features of this years report. Regarding taking samples for the year 2016-2017 she asked for authorities to confirm roughly how many samples they could take which would help the team work out what is practicable and what is statistically viable.

**19 ACTION FLGs to contact LReid / PBradley with numbers of samples they could accommodate for the year 2016-2017, by January 2016.**

PBradlely and LReid noted that there have been an increase in numbers of samples taken this last year due to a large authority now taking part. It was also agreed that FSS would consider paying for some samples for some tests on a case by case basis. Finally it was reiterated that the UK FSS report is aimed at specific persons, an infographic could be created to interpret the data for lay persons.

**6.1 Election of office bearers**

Chair introduced this section of the meeting by repeating the announcement he would not stand for office of Chair. Between the October 2015 meeting and the 30 November deadline for nominations, the following had been received.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| * **Position** | **Previously held by** | **Now held by** |
| * Chair | Craig Brown | William Hamilton |
| * Vice Chair | Paul Bradley | Lindsay Matthew |
| * Honorary Secretary | - | Paul Bradley |
| * Food Safety Chair | William Hamilton | Andrew Morrison |
| * Food Standards Chair | Paul Bradley | Jane Couper |
| Any other posts would remain unchanged | | |
| Roles would begin from the next meeting (February 2016) | | |
| Although not by election, Chair noted changes in REHIS and Society representatives | | |
| * REHIS representative | George Fairgrieve | John Sleith |
| * Society representative | John Sleith | Derek Oliver |

**20 ACTION Subcommittee chairs to hand over to the new incumbents.**

* WHamilton noted his thanks for the work Chair had carried out for SFELC over the last 3 years that he was a well-respected Chair and the role would be daunting to take forward, yet is looking forward to the challenge.
* IMcWatt also noted his thanks for all the work carried out behind the scenes, that Craig Brown joined SFELC in 2004 as a member and then the Chair of the Food Safety subcommittee, then since 2012 Chair of the SFELC Committee. During which time he had been a key contributor to the Scudamore report and in turn the creation of FSS. Both FSA and FSS have appreciated this greatly. Indeed Chair had raised the profile of SFELC with Ministers and had helped FSS whilst moving forward into the new organisation.
* On behalf of the whole Committee a gift was presented as note of thanks.
* Chair expressed his thanks for the kind words and noted the team effort involved behind SFELC.

**6.2 SFELC annual report 2014-2015**

Chair noted that following the change in Office bearers / post holders there would be further amendments to be made. The annual report was submitted for approval. It was approved pending a few minor changes to the flow chart diagrams.

**21 ACTION Secretariat – to send final approved SFELC annual report 2014-2015 to FSS Board and branch heads.**

**6.3 SFELC media brief document updated for 2015**

Chair went on to note that amendments would also have to be made to the SFELC media brief document for the changes to the Office bearers / post holders. This was submitted and approved.

**6.4 SFELC logo**

Finally Chair unveiled the SFELC logo and asked for agreement. On agreement it was noted the logo would be used on SFELC documents, reports and surveys.

**7 Intelligence gathering – safe spaces**

Chair asked members of the committee if there were any items to be raised under agenda item 7. There was nothing raised.

**8. Resources Working Group (RWG) update**

As JSleith is the new REHIS representative he updated the Committee on the updates from RWG. He mentioned;

* Ron McNaughton had attended the meeting to discuss the setting up of a food crime working group that would report to the RWG. It was agreed DOliver would Chair the working group and would start to write its terms of reference.
* The terms of reference for the approved establishments working group was agreed and would continue to operate.
* He mentioned the FSS / Society “Summit report” was discussed to determine what work RWG could take forward for 2016. The Resourcing document was featured, it was also noted that the Food Crime, and the Diet Nutrition and Health working groups would report to RWG.

**9 Committee work plan**

Chair noted that the work plan had been arranged in themes for the year 2015 and had worked well. If any Committee members had items of particular interest for discussion in 2016 to contact Secretariat and WHamilton (incumbent Chair Feb 2016) for creation of 2016 work plan document.

**22 ACTION All to advise Secretariat and incumbent Chair of items for 2016 work plan.**

**10 Regulatory Strategy for Food Standards Scotland development**

LMurray noted there had been little movement since the October 2015 SFELC meeting when Steve Hardie (FSS) gave an update, the time line is still for consultation around spring 2016.

She also asked if there would be interest amongst the Committee members and the parties they represent for the FSS to host a web based tool called “MenuCal” (<https://menucal.fsai.ie>) which has been developed by Food Standards Authority of Ireland for any food businesses that wish to calculate calories and understand the allergens on their menu.

* DScott asked whether this would be similar to the Australia / New Zealand document.
* PBradley noted that some FBOs he represented would appreciate this help.
* DThompson asked if the web tool is reliable, to which LMurray answered yes it is reliable, it should be assumed that the FSS would only advocate a reliable system.
* Chair, in defense, added that as Republic of Ireland and FSA Northern Ireland are already using the system it sounds like a win : win situation.
* Given the support LMurray explained FSS are in the process of submitting the business case. When the system is available FBOs can register and will be issued a user PIN.

**11 Exception Reporting, Sub committees**

WHamilton for the Food Safety subcommittee had no meetings since the last SFELC, but have been busy producing reports for their working groups.

PBradley for the Food standards sub committee advised he would hand over a draft paper on minced meat to the new Chair of this subcommittee who would in due course take this forward to SFELC for approval.

In the absence of RDillon, SFELC Chair advised the FSS Board had supported the paper on Feedingstuffs at the last meeting available on [FSS website at this link](http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/sites/default/files/Board%20Meeting%20-%202015%20September%2016%20-Animal%20feed%20paper%20150905%20Final%2010%20September%202015.pdf).

**12 Exception Reporting, Food Liaison Group**

There were no updates from any of the FLGs.

**13 Review of action points**

The Secretariat ran through the action points raised throughout this meeting.

**14 AOCB**

* DOliver thanked Chair for the good work produced by even during with the current financial situation.
* JSleith thanked GFairgireve for being the existing REHIS representative and helping him to become familiar with all the finer details of the post.
* There was some discussion around the publication of the 2014-2015 LAEMS report. (<http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/monitoring/laems/mondatabyyear/enforcement-data-2014-2015>).
* LMurray advised the Committee that it is now on the FSA website. IMcWatt added that Which?, similar to 2013-2014 LAEMS report, will probably write a piece on this report, and LMatthew suggested giving the LAs a heads up.
* GGilson advised that the review of Scottish Dietary Goals in light of the SACN recommendations on carbohydrates and health is now on our [website](http://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/sites/default/files/Board%20meeting%20-%202015%20December%2009%20Review%20of%20the%20Scottish%20Dietary%20Goals%20-%20Heather%20Peace%20151202.pdf);
* DScott noted that with regard to the recent Scottish beef advertising there have been some issues around compliance.
* DThomson commented it was good to be back around the SFELC table, albeit with a different hat.
* Finally IMcWatt noted the start of the FSS Christmas campaign.

Chair thanked everybody for their contributions at this meeting and all others under his Chairmanship for the last three (3) years and closed the meeting.