

Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee minute

Friday 09 June 2017: 10:00 for 10:30

Venue: Scottish Government, [Atlantic Quay](#), 5 Atlantic Quay 150 Broomielaw Glasgow G2 8LU. Tel: 0300 244 4000 or 07881 281 206.

Members present

William Hamilton (Chair)	Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee
Catherine Ferro (Secretariat)	Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee
Derek Oliver (DOliver)	Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland
Martin Keeley (MKeeley)	Royal Environment Health Institute of Scotland
Graham Perry (GPerry)	Welsh Local Government Association
Jane Couper (JCouper)	Food Standards Sub-Committee Chair
Helen Henderson (HHenderson)	East of Scotland Food Liaison Group Chair
Jane White (JWhite)	Association of Public Analysts
Jacqui McElhiney (JMcElhiney)	Food Standards Scotland
Kasia Kazimierczak (KKazimierczak)	Food Standards Scotland
Bill Crosson (BCrosson)	Institute of Food Science and Technology
Douglas Scott (DScott)	Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association
Andy Morrison	Food Safety Subcommittee Chair
Paul Bradley (PBradley)	SFELC Honorary Secretary
Craig Smith	Lothian and Borders Food Liaison Group Chair
Joe Harkin (JHarkin)	West of Scotland Food Liaison Group Chair
Lindsay Matthew (LMatthew)	SFELC Vice Chair & Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Andrea Carson (ACarson)	North of Scotland Food Liaison Group Chair
Lorna Murray (LMurray)	Food Standards Scotland

1. Chairman's welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee, speakers and guests to the June 2017 Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) meeting in Glasgow.

Chair ran through the house keeping arrangements and advised the meeting would be recorded only to aid the writing of an accurate minute.

He welcomed speakers; Graham Perry to present under item 4.1, food enforcement landscape in Wales; Jacqui McElhiney and Kasia Kazimierczak to present at item 4.2 on food surveillance strategy in Scotland. Chair also advised Bill Crosson is standing in for Institute of Food Science and Technology.

Apologies were recorded for; Andrea Inchausti, SRC; Andy Paterson, Scottish Government. Cat Hay / Neil Purdom, FDF Scotland; Chris McGuigan, CPHM; Ian McWatt, Food Standards Scotland; Joe O'Connor, Scottish Bakers; John Armour,

NFUS; Keith Dryburgh, CAS; Kevin Matheson, SG; Lisa Ackerley, BHA; Lynda Browning, HPS; Roisin Dillon, Feedingstuffs Subcommittee.

2. Minutes and matters arising

The Chair advised that the draft minutes of the meeting held in Aberdeen on 07 April 2017 had been circulated, and proposed that the Committee go through the minutes page by page, first for accuracy (A) and then matters arising (MA).

There were neither matters for accuracy nor matters arising. The Committee agreed these minutes would be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting held on 07 April 2017.

3. Actions outstanding

- Action 22.2016 – October 2016 – Web update and branding. COMPLETED.
- Action 23.2016 – October 2016 – Visual identity guidelines. COMPLETED.
- Action 03.2017 – February 2017 – Web pages user testing. COMPLETED.
- Action 06.2017 – February 2017 – Sampling and Surveillance – survey monkey questionnaire to lead food officers. COMPLETED.
- Action 09.2017 – February 2017 – Regarding sandwich manufacturers / extended shelf lives – ONGOING.
- Action 13.2017 – April 2017 – SFMTA article, “presence of other species in meat products”. COMPLETED.
- Action 16.2017 – June 2017 – Draft response to FSS Food Surveillance Strategy For Scotland ([link](#)). Deadline 11 August 2017. COMPLETED
- Action 17.2017 – June 2017 – Send SFELC response to the shared scientific services consultation to the appropriate persons. COMPLETED.
- Action 20.2017 – June 2017 – REHIS will e-publish the "Food Law Enforcement in Scotland: Administrative and Enforcement Arrangements" ([link](#)). COMPLETED
- Action 21.2017 – June 2017 – SOCOEHS rep will raise a question - concerning officer authorisations raised by ESFLG - at the SOCOEHS meeting in June 2017. ONGOING.

Full details of all actions completed prior to this meeting are available in the separate actions document, “SFELC - Papers – Action Points – date”.

4. Presentations & Current Items

4.1 The food enforcement landscape in Wales – Graham Perry

Graham introduced his presentation by explaining the political, health and environmental health situation currently in Wales, and added his presentation would be approached from a strategic angle.

He noted the 2005 *E. coli* incident in Wales then added the Food Hygiene Rating Schemes (FHRS) were operated from 2007 and were then made mandatory in 2013 because of the desire to inform share information with the public. Now following the introduction of the mandatory scheme, though not necessarily because of it, there has been a year-on-year improvement in business compliance. Additionally in the years 2012 to 2017 there has been an increase in percentage of businesses with five (5) star ratings beginning at 37% and increasing to 64%. It appears FBOs are concluding good food safety is good economical business sense. Chair thanked Graham for his presentation noting it was an extremely positive message and, asked if there were any questions.

The first question from *LMurray* was concerning whether Wales are considering extending the mandatory scheme beyond sale to final consumer, eg, to business-to-business sales. *GPerry* answered yes this has already started from 2016.

AMorrison asked about the finance and resources for inspections. *GPerry* explained that re-rating has a £160 charge which covers costs and noted there has been no obvious resource implication.

JHarkin noted the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) has fewer outcomes; improvement required, pass and fail, as opposed to the zero (0) to five (5) star scheme of FHRS and asked about how consistency is applied. *GPerry* answered their officers carry out robust consistency exercises to ensure equal application of the scores and, therefore, credibility. *DScott* then asked how many stars a premises requires to be broadly compliant and further questions on statistics of re-rating premises? The first answer being three (3) stars is considered broadly compliant and 95% of FBOs have achieved that level other answers *GPerry* would look up and respond to the Committee by email.

Further discussion included; whether the FHRS was tied into any other schemes (BRC, SALSA etc); whether mandatory publication of inspection reports was required; whether there had been a shift in consumer expectation over the years of the scheme and; that the scope of neither the FHRS nor FHIS schemes include allergens or standards despite research showing this is what consumers want. Thus a potential way forward for the schemes.

4.2 New food surveillance strategy in Scotland – Jacqui McElhiney & Kasia Kazimierczak

Chair introduced the next speakers. *JMcElhiney* began the piece explaining how surveillance is now a regular activity and FSS are seeking to improve their method of information gathering specifically, how can they work more closely with enforcement and other partners to target and prioritise future work and, streamline data/data sharing. *KKazimierczak* continued her piece by speaking through key aspects of the FSS food surveillance strategy for Scotland consultation and, requesting SFELC and individual partners within SFELC provide their responses to the FSS consultation. The concluding message being the need to pool resources together.

Chair opened the questions by asking how FSS would like to receive feedback from partners. *JMcElhiney* responded feedback could be individual to either of the speakers or, could be through the consultation portal ([link](#)).

Discussion in the group followed that sampling and surveillance had become the poor relation and something was needed to be done to counteract the downward trend. It was considered an honest conversation on resourcing would help, the Subcommittees and Working Groups would appreciate being involved in this consultation and re-engaged on this topic and, adding the data gathered needs to be in a meaningful and retrievable form. *BCrosson* gave an example where a specific sampling campaign made a proven difference and was then applauded for its work which in turn led to positive interest and further campaigns being launched. *LMatthew* and *JMcElhiney* then discussed a University of Aberdeen project on how to filter through the mass of data gathered to find useful themes.

ACTION 16.2017: Chair and Food Standards Sub Chair to coordinate with groups and liaise to draft a response to the FSS Food Surveillance Strategy for Scotland consultation, deadline 11 August 2017.

ACTION 15.2017: Secretariat to circulate presentations, slides and handouts from speakers to Committee members.

After the discussions, Chair thanked the speakers and participants then moved onto the next item on the agenda, Intelligence gathering.

5. Intelligence gathering – safe spaces

Chair asked members of the committee if there were any items to be raised under agenda item 5. There were no items raised.

6. Resources Working Group Update

MKeeley gave an update from the previous day's RWG meeting including;

The MSP event on mobile traders on 15 June 2017; a number of items that will be brought forward to future SFELC meetings; a review of the Annex 5 pilot; an input on feed from trading standards colleagues; the Scottish National Database; the Food Crime advisory unit; and actions distributed between FSS, SFELC, Subcommittees and Working groups from the HPS report on the *E. coli* O157 outbreak associated with cheese ([link](#)).

MATTER OF RECORD H.2017 – the draft SFELC letter regarding the proposal to merge Scientific Services across Scotland was discussed and agreed.

ACTION 17.2017: Honorary Secretary to send SFELC approved letter regarding the proposal to merge Scientific Services across Scotland to appropriate persons.

MATTER OF RECORD I.2017 – highlight reports would be used for reporting to SFELC meetings by Subcommittee, FLG and WG Chairs beginning with the October 2017 meeting.

ACTION 19.2017: Secretariat to circulate the highlight report template.

MATTER OF RECORD J.2017 – the, “Food Law Enforcement in Scotland: Administrative and Enforcement Arrangements” document was ratified.

ACTION 20.2017: REHIS representative to have the "Food Law Enforcement in Scotland: Administrative and Enforcement Arrangements" document e-published ([link](#)).

ACTION 18:2017: Secretariat to circulate SSWG sampling questionnaire to lead food officers.

NB. Full details of all RWG actions are recorded in the RWG actions log which are available in the separate actions document, “SFELC - Resources Working Group - Papers - Action points – date”.

7. Committee work plan

Chair summarised a provisional forward work plan for the October (better regulation, annex 5, audit, crime / intelligence) and December (nutrition theme) 2017 meetings and, the February (artisan cheesemakers) 2018 meeting.

8. Food Standards Scotland update

LMurray updated the Committee on;

A feed regional delivery model; the Scottish National Database pilot; annex 5 food law code of practice pilot and implementation strategy; entire code of practice review; the SG / MSP mobile street traders event; cross contamination guidance; scrutiny on exports and their conditions; the LA training programme for 17-18 which will include HACCP in specialist cheese and approved establishments; and finally an update regards;

- the FSS regulatory strategy, specifically that the responses from SFELC, individual bodies and LAs was extremely valuable, has provided a rich pool of information and has led to the final version, revision 3, of the FSS strategy that has been agreed by the FSS Board and will be published now the election “purdah” period is over ([link](#)). And this is the start, from here on, the Committee and the enforcement community will be more and more involved in building the new regulatory landscape.

9. Sub- Committees

Feedingstuffs Subcommittee

Committee Chair announced that Roisin Dillon, Chair of the Feedingstuffs Subcommittee, has formally stepped down and a new Chair for that subcommittee is being sought through Trading Standards.

Food Safety Subcommittee

The Subcommittee Chair gave apologies for there having been no Subcommittee meeting since the last SFELC, however updated on the work of the relevant working groups. Specifically;

- details of the responses to the questionnaire about sandwich shelf life validation and next steps;
- the approved establishments pilot group training / meetings / communication strategy;
- and the dates for both the “artisan cheese” and the reinvigorated “fish and shellfish hygiene” working group meetings.

Food Standards Subcommittee

Chair noted this subcommittee too had not met since the last SFELC meeting, however did update on the progress of the working groups;

- the main focus of the Diet, Nutrition and Health working group is the MenuCal pilot with a report expected to be published around September 2017;
- the Sampling and Surveillance working group has drafted and will issue a survey monkey questionnaire for consideration.

10. Food Liaison Groups

East of Scotland Food Liaison Group

Chair raised a question on the consistency of officer authorisation. The discussion included there should be a position, but it appears is not an agreed position at present.

ACTION 21.2017: SOCOEHS representative to raise at SOCOEHS meeting in June 2017.

Exception reporting

11. Update by Non-Enforcement members

There were no subject matters discussed at this meeting.

Information papers

12. Review of action points

Secretariat ran through the action points and matters of record raised throughout this meeting. Action points are noted in bold red and, matters of record noted with green highlight throughout this document.

Actions for RWG are noted in the RWG actions log which are available in the separate actions document, "SFELC - Resources Working Group - Papers - Action points – date".

13.AOCB

MATTER OF RECORD K.2017 – it was agreed all Food Liaison Groups will have "food crime" as a standing item on their agendae.

- *LMatthew* advised the Committee that Grainne Gilson, FSS project manager of several SFELC working groups, is getting married on 1 July adding the best wishes from the Committee and its working groups.

Chair then advised the next meeting would be held on 6 October 2017 in FSS offices, Pilgrim House in Aberdeen and closed the meeting.