

Chairs Report

Period of Report – 25 March 2026 – 12 June 2026

External Meetings

Date	Stakeholder	Reason for meeting / outcome
31 March 2026	Scottish Food Commission	Quarterly meeting with Chairs and CEO
17 April 2026	Selena Kearvell, Marsh Teams Meeting	To explore ideas to work together on risk mitigation in food businesses.
29 April 2026	Food Standards Agency	Quarterly FSA/FSS meeting. Agenda included the upcoming joint FSA/FSS workshop in June, SPS and market authorisations.
28 May 2026	Threehills Community Supermarket and Café, Nitshill, Glasgow With Ian McWatt	A joint site visit with Scottish Food Commission. Operated by Good Food Scotland, the supermarket aims to provide affordable food with dignity. In addition to the Supermarket, Good Food Scotland operates a number of community shops located in affordable housing locations and a Food Larder.
1 June 2026	BBC, Aberdeen Town House	To celebrate the 50 th anniversary of BBC's rural affairs programme "Landward"
2 June 2026	Food Standards Agency	FSA Summer Parliamentary reception, House of Commons, London - World Food Safety Day.
9 June 2026	Food and Drink Federation	FDf Parliamentary Event – Shaping a healthier Future. Tasting event with food industry.
10 June 2026	The Food Foundation	The Broken Plate launch – House of Commons, London. Presentations on the 7 th Annual Broken Plate Report The Broken Plate 2026 DIGITAL 0.pdf

Events/Conferences

Date	Event / conference
19 th May	FSS Allergens Consumer Qualitative Research – Presentation of Findings Susan Bond

Miscellaneous activity:

Recruitment of CEO - Interviews were held on the 23rd April in St Andrew's House, Edinburgh. The panel selected a candidate, subject to Ministerial approval. Due to the dissolution of Parliament of 9th April 2026 the post could not be submitted to the Minister until after the election and new Ministerial appointments. Approval was received on 9th June and the post offered to and accepted by Catherine Topley on 10th June 2026.

Interviews for Deputy Chair: Following the decision by Alban Denton to step down as FSS Deputy Chair, expressions of interest were sought from Board Members. I am very grateful to all who applied, and confirm that Christina Bichan has accepted the position with immediate effect.

Board Member Annual Appraisals: I am grateful to all Board members for the submission of their annual appraisal summaries and for their participation in the appraisal discussions.

Geoff Ogle Retirement

This will be Geoff's final Board Meeting as Chief Executive and Accountable Officer of FSS.

Geoff has led FSS since founding in April 2015 and it is only appropriate that I record the Board's appreciation for his excellent leadership throughout this time. Establishing a new public body can be a daunting task, and although many of the staff were previously employed by the Food Standards Agency in Scotland there was a significant challenge to guide the organisation through transition to establish the organisation as a non-ministerial public body alongside the Scottish Government. Geoff successfully rose to the challenge and established the organisation and culture that we benefit from today.

Geoff's career in the Civil Service commenced in 1984. He joined the Food Standards Agency in 2008 as Head of GB Field Operations, and has remained in the food arena since then, a total of 18 years dedicated to ensuring food is safe and authentic for the benefit of the health of the public. He is widely acknowledged both at home and internationally as an expert leader in the field of food policy.

For queries contact: FSSPrivate_Office@fss.scot

Heather Kelman,
Board Chair
15 June 2026