

Chairs Report

Period of Report – 18 June 2026 to 16 September 2026

External Meetings

Date	Stakeholder	Reason for meeting / outcome
18/06/2026	Gregor Irwin DG Economy Scottish Government	Introductory meeting to discuss change of reporting lines and the interface between food and economy
07/07/2026	Stephen Flynn MSP	Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport following change of reporting lines
14/07/2026	Tilly Robinson-Miles The Living Lab – Good Food Nation	Update on progress and next steps
15/07/2026	Scottish Food Commission	Quarterly meeting with Chair
15/07/2026	Scottish Government	Sponsorship forum meeting to discuss priorities for incoming government
21/07/2026	Paul Johnston, Public Health Scotland	With Ian McWatt. Discussion on future joint working
05/08/2026	Alice Biggins, Deputy Director, Food and Drink, Pamela Kennedy, Head of Food Policy, Scottish Government	Visit to Pilgrim House Introduction of Pamela Kennedy Update on interface between areas of responsibility
11/08/2026	Professor Lesley Anderson, University of Aberdeen Interdisciplinary Director for Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing	Discussion on interdisciplinary research at University of Aberdeen and planned keynote address at forthcoming Conference
19/08/2026	Professor Wendy Russell Rowett Research Institute	Update on current and future proposed research
09/09/2026	Quarterly meeting with FSA Chair and Chief Executive	Topics discussed: Strategic priorities and emerging pressures for both organisations, the future of food regulation, CBD, Market Authorisations, International Heads of Food Agencies Forum (IHFAF) 2027, Joint Board Meeting follow-up

Events/Conferences

Date	Event / conference
18 -19/06/2026	Royal Highland Show - met with various stakeholders
21/08/2026	REHIS Annual Environmental Health Forum, Glasgow
02/09/2026	Digital Leadership Exchange Informatics Forum, Edinburgh University
08/09/2026	Scottish Government Fair Food Summit, the Social Hub, Glasgow
15/09/2026	FDF Scotland Parliamentary Reception 2026 – Meet the Food & Drink Manufacturers

Additional Information

06 July 2026 – Appointment of the new CEO. Catherine Topley joined FSS, concluding the recruitment process.

24 August 2026 – Departure of the founding CEO, Geoff Ogle, left organisation, and we wish him a long and healthy retirement.

31 July 2026 – Board Member end of year appraisals concluded

02 September 2026 – Programme for Government announced by the First Minister, which will have implications for FSS

31 August 2026 – Parliament reconvened. A public affairs and parliamentary engagement plan has been prepared and letters requesting meetings between the Chair, CEO and Ministers, Committee Chairs and party leaders have been issued, reflecting the Board's previous discussions on parliamentary engagement.

For queries contact: FSSPrivate_Office@fss.scot

Heather Kelman,
Board Chair
09 September 2026