

OFFICIAL

Minute

Version 3 28.02.23

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



Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee Minute

Microsoft Teams
02 December 2022 10:30 – 13:30

Attendees	
Andy Morrison – The Chair	Paul Bradley - Honorary Secretary
Tanja Low - Secretariat	
Andrea Carson - North of Scotland Food Liaison Group	Andy MacLeod - OCV Methods & Techniques WG and Seafood Official Control WG
Brian Lawrie - Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health in Scotland (SoCOEHS)	Bruce McCall - Scottish Craft Butchers
Denis Treacy - Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST)	Devina Sankhla - British Retail Consortium
Eva Brahim - Consumer Scotland	Helen Henderson - East of Scotland Food Liaison Group
Jane Couper – Food Standards Sub-Committee Chair	Jane White - Association of Public Analysts in Scotland and Sampling and Surveillance WG
Lorna Murray - Food Standards Scotland	Rachel Ward - Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST)
Ruth Birt - Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST)	Sheena Redmond - REHIS
Sophie Yule - Food Standards Scotland	Stephen French - Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST)
William Hamilton – Food Standards Scotland	

Apologies	
Cat Hay - Food and Drink Federation Scotland	Hamid Gazem - Food Standards Scotland
Iain McCluskey – Lothian & Borders Food Liaison Group	Ian McWatt - Food Standards Scotland
Julie Hesketh-Laird - Food Standards Scotland	Karen Wardrope - West of Scotland Food Liaison Group and Specialist Cheesemakers Guidance WG Chair
Rachel Mirfattahi - Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST)	

Synopsis

Chairman's welcome

- The Chair welcomed the following new SFELC members to the Committee:
 - Devina Sankhla - British Retail Consortium
 - Eva Brahim and Tracey Reilly – Consumer Scotland

IFST's Food Safety Governance for FBOs report by Denis Treacy, Rachel Ward & Stephen French

- The guidance document helps business leaders understand the importance of food safety governance, their key legal responsibilities in respect of it, and their role in assuring food safety performance
- A generic directors' food safety checklist summarises the tools to monitor and verify food safety system performance and the essentials of good food safety governance
- The guide covers how to reduce the costs of recalls, waste and insurance premiums. It can also be used as a discrimination tool to assess good and bad governance

Scottish Authority Food Enforcement Rebuild (SAFER) by Andrew Morrison

- The SAFER programme will reduce demand, increase resources and improve efficiencies within Local Authorities
- SAFER will be a collaborative programme with input from stakeholders to help shape the enforcement regime of the future

SFELC Office Bearer Elections

- Paul Birkin was elected as SFELC Chair
- Lorna McCoull and Andrew Morrison were elected as joint SFELC co Vice-Chairs
- Paul Bradley was re-elected as Honorary Secretary

Dates for 2023 SFELC meetings

- The dates for 2023 SFELC meetings were agreed to be:
 - 03 March 2023
 - 02 June 2023
 - 08 September 2023
 - 08 December 2023

The SFELC Executive update

- Two supermarket websites are potentially providing inaccurate and misleading information about products compared to the product labels in relation to country of origin and meat content
- The Care Inspectorate may have banned the use of reusable spray bottles for cleaning disinfection products
- The LA Food Sampling in Scotland Annual Report 2021/22 has been released

Food Standards Scotland update

- 4 new FSS board members have been appointed

Sub – Committees: including working groups

- Andy MacLeod will be The Chair of the new Listeria in smoked salmon Working Group. Membership for the working group is being sought.

Update by Non-Enforcement Members

- Consumer Scotland are continuing stakeholder engagement and investigation to explore how they will take statutory functions, such as investigation and recall of goods, forward

Agenda Items

Item No.	
1	Chairman's welcome
	<p><u>Guest speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denis Treacy, Rachel Ward & Stephen French – IFST's Food Safety Governance for FBOs report (Item No. 4.1) • Andrew Morrison – SAFER (Item No. 4.2) • The Chair welcomed the following new SFELC members to the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Devina Sankhla - British Retail Consortium ○ Eva Brahim and Tracey Reilly – Consumer Scotland
2	Minutes & matters arising
	Previous minutes from 07 October 2022 were approved
3	Actions outstanding
	<p>Actions 09.2022, 10.2022, 11.2022, 12.2022, 13.2022, 14.2022, 17.2022, 18.2022 and 19.2022 were closed</p> <p>Actions 10.2021, 17.2021, 03.2022, 15.2022 and 16.2022 remain ongoing</p> <p>Actions 07.2019, 14.2019, 14.2021 and 04.2022 remain on hold</p>
4.1	IFST's Food Safety Governance for FBOs report by Denis Treacy, Rachel Ward & Stephen French
	<p>The Institute of Food Science and Technology is the UK's leading professional membership for food science and technology that aims to advance the application of food science and technology for the benefit, safety and health of the public, and support the development and maintenance of professional standards and science-based food standards. IFST developed the Food Safety Guidance for Directors to help business leaders understand the importance of food safety governance, their key legal responsibilities in respect of it, and their role in assuring food safety performance, a critical measure of business performance. It also discusses the tools to monitor and verify food safety system performance and the essentials of good food safety governance, and these themes are summarised with a generic directors' food safety checklist.</p> <p>The document highlights the competitive advantage that can be created through good governance of food safety through quality, consumer trust, supplier confidence etc. It also emphasises the opportunity to reduce costs of recalls, waste and insurance premiums. There is also an opportunity to use this guide as a discrimination tool to assess good and bad governance, and for SFELC members to promote this best practice to drive strategic advantage for Scottish food producers.</p> <p>The document can be downloaded via https://www.ifst.org/resources-policy/ifst-policy/ifst-food-safety-guidance-directors</p> <p>The authors have also published an article in Food Science and Technology comparing and contrasting the management of Health and Safety vs. Food Safety, concluding that health & safety management is usually a business-wide activity</p>

driven by legislation and regulators, which is not always true of food safety. This article can be downloaded via https://doi.org/10.1002/fsat.3504_4.x

Question, Answers & Observations

- Frequently, there is a significant amount of allergy recalls from significantly big businesses. It is the hope that this report will allow a reduction in these
- Although the report will have been read by the bigger industry businesses, it is believed that the smaller ones, as well as new businesses will not be aware of its existence. Local Authority colleagues will disseminate the document to suitable businesses.
- The auditing process needs to be assessed as risk assessing skills are suffering

Actions

- **Action 20.2022 – Secretariat to share the IFST links supplied by Stephen French to the Committee**
- **Action 21.2022 – Secretariat to circulate the IFST report to FLGs for disseminating to the wider Local Authority community**

4.2 Scottish Authority Food Enforcement Rebuild (SAFER) by Andrew Morrison

There is a significant misalignment between the demands placed on LAs associated with delivering a food law enforcement regime and the resources available to deliver it.

FSS has launched the Scottish Authorities Food Enforcement Rebuild (SAFER) programme, to reduce demand, increase resources and improve efficiencies. SAFER incorporates work streams across the themes of:

- Resourcing: focused on increasing the staff available, and the financial resources to support food law enforcement
- Digitisation: focused on increased use of technology and intelligence to target enforcement and increase efficiencies
- Food law Delivery: focused on introducing a suite of interventions

FSS intends SAFER to be a collaborative programme with input from stakeholders to help shape the enforcement regime of the future

Question, Answers & Observations

- Caution is needed when digitalising a system.
 - There has been a lot of success with a digital system within the feed sector
- Methods and techniques needs further careful consideration
 - Further discussions will occur
- Specialist recruitment rather than generalists are needed for this project.
 - A competency based organisation who will facilitate candidates who already have the necessary competencies will be used for recruitment
- Denis Treacy has been through a similar process and has offered his expertise and assistance
- A practical understanding of the food system is needed
- The Government could be an accrediting body for audits to ensure transparency and confidence

Actions

- **Action 22.2022 - Andrew Morrison to arrange a meeting with Denis Treacy to discuss risk management**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 23.2022 – Andrew Morrison to speak to Stephen French to discuss the potential for IFST to support the development of SAFER including setting up an expert Working Group
4.3	SFELC Office Bearer Elections
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Birkin was elected as SFELC Chair • Lorna McCoull and Andrew Morrison were elected as joint SFELC co Vice-Chairs • Paul Bradley was re-elected as Honorary Secretary <p>Sub-committee chairs will be elected by appointment via the SFELC Committee</p> <p><u>Actions and Matter of Records</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 24.2022 – Office Bearers to arrange a meeting to agree the SFELC structure for sub-committees and the SFELC Working Group structure • Matter of Record 5.2022 – Paul Birkin has been appointed the new Chair of SFELC. Lorna McCoull and Andrew Morrison have been appointed joint SFELC co Vice-Chairs and Paul Bradley has been reappointed as SFELC Honorary Secretary • Matter of Record 6.2022 – The SFELC Committee give their thanks to Andrew Morrison for his hard work and dedication as SFELC Chair, particularly throughout the Covid Pandemic
4.4	Dates for 2023 SFELC meetings
	<p>The dates for 2023 SFELC meetings were agreed to be:</p> <p>03 March 2023 02 June 2023 08 September 2023 08 December 2023</p>
5	Intelligence gathering – Consultations, Horizon Scanning and Safe spaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
6	The SFELC Executive update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office Bearer elections were discussed and the arrangements for implementing the new SFELC Terms of Reference and Committee structure • The Local Authority recovery project in relation to the restart was discussed • The collaborative meeting between REHIS, FSS and the Society regarding SAFER was discussed. Resourcing and qualification pathways was the main focus of discussion • Evonne Bauer has been installed as REHIS’s President • Two supermarket websites are providing inaccurate and potentially misleading information about products compared to the product labels in relation to country of origin and meat content • The Care Inspectorate may have banned the use of reusable spray bottles for cleaning disinfection products • The LA Food Sampling in Scotland Annual Report 2021/22 has been released
7	Committee work plan
	<p><u>03 March 2023 – Microsoft Teams</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPDS Guidance & Allergen video update • CBD Oil / Extract guidance • LA Food Sampling Annual Report • SAFER Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFELC Structure Please send in any suggestions for the SFELC Committee work plan to SFELC@fss.scot <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 25.2022 – Andrew Morrison to meet with the new SFELC Chair to discuss the SFELC workplan and agree March’s agenda
8	Food Standards Scotland update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 new FSS board members have been appointed. The new board members will be invited to attend a SFELC meeting
9	Sub – Committees: including working groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Approved Establishment Working Group continue to meet, focusing on implementing OCV. Andy MacLeod will be The Chair of the new Listeria in smoked salmon Working Group. Membership for the working group is being sought.
10	Food Liaison Group
	<p><u>Lothian and Borders Food Liaison Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil <p><u>North of Scotland Food Liaison Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil <p><u>West of Scotland Food Liaison Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil <p><u>East of Scotland Food Liaison Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
11	Update by Non-Enforcement Members
	<p><u>Consumer Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer Scotland is a statutory body. Consumer Scotland are continuing stakeholder engagement and investigation to explore how they will take statutory functions, such as investigation and recall of goods, forward. There are 3 policy teams within Consumer Scotland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Water & Post Consumer Markets
12	AOCB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
13	Review of Action Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 20.2022 – Secretariat to share the IFST links supplied by Stephen French to the Committee Action 21.2022 – Secretariat to circulate the IFST report to FLGs for disseminating to the wider Local Authority community Action 22.2022 - Andrew Morrison to arrange a meeting with Denis Treacy to discuss risk management

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action 23.2022 – Andrew Morrison to speak to Stephen French to discuss the potential for IFST to support the development of SAFER including setting up an expert Working Group• Action 24.2022 – Office Bearers to arrange a meeting to agree the SFELC structure for sub-committees and the SFELC Working Group structure• Action 25.2022 – Andrew Morrison to meet with the new SFELC Chair to discuss the SFELC workplan and agree March’s agenda• Matter of Record 5.2022 – Paul Birkin has been appointed the new Chair of SFELC. Lorna McCoull and Andrew Morrison have been appointed joint SFELC co Vice-Chairs and Paul Bradley has been reappointed as SFELC Honorary Secretary• Matter of Record 6.2022 – The SFELC Committee give their thanks to Andrew Morrison for his hard work and dedication as SFELC Chair, particularly throughout the Covid Pandemic |
|--|--|