

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1: Should the scope of the new food body extend beyond the current scope of the FSA in Scotland? If yes, what specific extensions of scope would you suggest, and why?

- information aimed specifically for allergy and food intolerance sufferers, including multiple chemical sensitivity. The present scope (Annex A) refers to vulnerable groups, but makes no mention of the number of people that have life-changing physical disabilities as a result of the type of food, or the specific ingredients in foods. There does not appear to be any organisation in Scotland that is looking at the needs of allergy sufferers, and this appears to be an opportunity to change this;
- this should extend to considering the elements of normal drinking water, tap and bottled, that some people suffer allergic or intolerant reactions to – ie elements that are not covered by the DWQR – or alternatively extend DWQR’s remit to cover this subject rather than just standard hygiene aspects of water;
- “organic” as regards food is a term defined in European Law but does not appear as an item that is monitored by FSA. “Organic” is referred to both because multiple chemical sensitivity sufferers find it essential, but some of the greater population also wish to eat in a “more healthy” way. A focus on testing for compliance with organic standards would therefore be useful.

2: Should the new food body and the Scottish Government continue the arrangements for independent and partnership work on diet and nutrition set out in Annex A? If not, what changes would you suggest, and why?

- Yes, but in “diet and nutrition” include a wider remit to include research and monitoring of at least the more common allergens and chemicals that a significant proportion of the population can react to. This opens up other organisations with which liaison can take place.

3: Are there any additional roles, responsibilities or functions in respect of diet and nutrition that you think the new food body could take on to help deliver an improvement to the health of the people in Scotland? Please give details and reasons.

- Comments

4: What steps do you think could be taken to ensure the new food body is able to access the best available independent expert advice it needs to underpin its work on food safety and public health nutrition in Scotland? Please give reasons.

- Comments

5: Do you consider that the new food body should focus its research and surveillance activities on issues that are particularly pertinent to Scottish citizens or should it also contribute to science and evidence programmes on wider issues which have relevance to the UK as a whole? Please give reasons.

- I am not sure that Scottish and UK issues will be wildly different and therefore a mechanism must be worked out to share all available information, whether produced in the rest of the UK or in Scotland, so that not just the UK can benefit, but the world.

6: Do you agree that the new food body should be responsible for the coordination of all Scottish Government funded research on food safety and public health nutrition? What steps could be taken to raise the profile of the new food body as a research funder across the UK and beyond? Please give reasons.

- Comments

7: Do you have any further suggestions for how the new food body could establish a strong independent evidence base for food safety, food standards and nutrition policy? Please give reasons.

- Comments

8: Do you consider that the new food body would require any further statutory powers, in addition to those that the FSA already has, to equip it to deal effectively with incidents such as the recent horse meat substitutions, and to prevent such incidents happening? Please give reasons.

- Comments

9: Do you have any further comments about how the new food body might ensure that it can deal effectively with contraventions of food standards and safety law? Please give reasons.

- Comments

10: Should the new food body take on any roles and responsibilities not currently fulfilled by the FSA in Scotland? If yes, please give details and reasons.

- Refer to the response to Question 1

11: Please tell us your views about these suggestions for changes to the delivery of official food and feed controls. Do you think that the new food body should work in a different way with local authorities? Please give reasons.

- Comments

12: Do you have any views on how the new food body should assure delivery of official controls and meet the relevant EU obligations? Please give reasons.

- Comments

13: Are there any additional or alternative relationships that you would suggest that would help the new food body achieve the Scottish Ministers' objective of longer, healthier lives for the people of Scotland? Please give details and reasons.

- Comments

14: Do you have any suggestions about how the new food body can engage effectively with consumers, both in developing policy and providing information and advice?

- At present the FSA has an email system with free registration for circulating information about food incidents, foods that are withdrawn or recalled, etc. This should be repeated by the new organisation in Scotland, but could be widened to also do a newsletter giving results of routine testing etc, to provide confidence to the population that a wide range of checks are being done.

15: Do you agree with the suggested approach to ensuring the new food body's independence from Government and the food industry? Do you have any further suggestions for how the new food body could best establish and maintain its position as an arms length part of Government? Please give reasons.

- Comments

16: Do you have any further comments, or suggestions, on the creation of a new food body for Scotland that are not covered by any of the previous questions?

- Comments