

## 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?

- Comments

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?

- Nutritional labelling clarification on food packaging. To provide consistent, clear information for the customers.
- Schools Nutrition - Restrictions on retail/takeaway premises in close proximity to secondary schools targeting school pupils with food of a poor nutritional quality. (I am currently involved with the Scottish Government "Beyond The School Gate" working group and the aims of this group could be achieved by investigating the restrictions further).
- Clarification on nutritional/allergy information provided by caterers (restaurants/takeaways) for customers.

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.

- Comments

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.

- Improvement on intelligence dissemination between LA's/FSA. The LA liaison groups are not appropriate for this. It could be along similar lines to the food fraud database – but specific to LA's – This could be used to provide information on complaints against manufacturers. For example sandwich manufacturers selling produce outside the LA boundary. All LA's could input information and periodically the system could send on info to the relevant LA's. This would be administered by the FSA.

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.

- More streamlined seizure and detention powers.
- Extend Seizure and Detention powers to Food Standards issues e.g. labelling, contamination, adulteration.

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.

- Tightening up the food registration process – There should be tighter controls on registration, this could be linked in with the FHIS scheme. Fixed Penalty Notices could also be considered for food businesses opening that have not registered.
- A Stand alone Food Service within Local Authorities reporting directly to the Chief Executive funded by the Scottish Government and the money ring fenced. The funding could be calculated according to the number and type of food businesses per authority. This will enable adequate funding for all Local Authority Food Services.
- FSA to act as a “home authority” channel for LA businesses. Problems with SME businesses are communicated to the FSA who will inform LA's periodically of problem businesses in their area.
- Clearer rules on approval requirements – there is a lot of ambiguity and inconsistency, particularly with the types of exemptions available. I also have concerns with approved meat product/preparations premises being solely inspected for hygiene by the FSA if there is also meat cutting. Could LA's not continue to enforce in these premises? LA's are better placed to regulate for ready to eat foods (meat/fishery products) and cross

contamination issues.

- Procurator Fiscal specialising in food enforcement to encourage more prosecutions. Also the legal process should be speeded up for food offences. With improved communication between the fiscal service and reporting officers. The fines issued by the courts should also be scrutinised as there is a tendency for Sheriff Courts to be lenient when penalising food businesses – the seriousness of the offences needs to be given greater consideration. The current system is too bureaucratic, the time involved is too long and the penalties awarded by the courts are insignificant.
- Increased powers to regulate traceability / product recall procedures in businesses. If a food business is required to instigate a recall following the production of unfit food. Currently the regulatory controls are limited if the food business is uncooperative.
- Increased powers for the regulation of food standards offences – misleading/provenance/description/allergens etc
- Review of the Food Law Code of Practice – The food industry and regulation has changed substantially since the last CoP was published. This is also reflected in LA audit findings.

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.

- Comments

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.

- Introduce a Designated Port of Entry in Scotland for food imports

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?

- Comments

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