

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?

We feel the new food body should be set up with a mandate for nutrition across the board, similar to the previous UK Food Standards Agency.

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, nutrition is a much bigger cause of death and disability than food poisoning

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.

The new food body should widen its scope to encompass public health, by introducing more health based schemes to tackle problems like alcohol or obesity, tracking and measuring food poverty, and enhancing consumer information such as advice on health claims in food advertisements. Other suggestions are that its scope should include considerations of environment, provenance, sustainability and food security, but most importantly, the new body should take responsibility for food reformulation to make food more healthy

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.

Collaborate more closely with NGOs both in Scotland and the rest of the UK, and Public Health England

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.

Both. The new food body is being created to help improve public health in Scotland specifically, and therefore their priority should be to concentrate on research focusing on Scotland. However where possible, research should also be able to contribute to the UK as a whole, in order to make the science more robust and relevant to all 4 UK states (Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England). Reformulation work will be most effective across all 4 administrations, due to the nature of large food companies, but

needs robust implementation, which should come from Scotland as the English Responsibility Deal is weak and unlikely to succeed

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.

Yes, should act as an independent arbiter

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.

Collaborate more closely with UK-wide research Centres of Excellence, NICE and Public Health England

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.

Yes, the organisation should have statutory powers to implement strategy where necessary

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.

No

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.

We feel the new food body should take on the additional role and responsibility of food labelling, as this is imperative for increased consumer education and awareness of what is in their food. It's an important public health issue.

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.

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.

No

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.

Additional relationships that would help the new food body would be to work with charities and other NGO's like ourselves, who are health experts in the field, and with Public Health England. We can provide guidance in certain areas of public health. CASH and WASH in particular can provide details on the health implications of excess salt in the diet, and help improve the country's diet. We have a wealth of knowledge and key contacts that can help, with 25 expert scientific members.

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?

- Educational campaigns for different areas of interest e.g. Change for Life in England, to educate consumers on certain areas of public health.
- Local authority led groups to help engage communities
- Transparency or reporting, including published minutes of meetings with food companies
- Spot checking (name and shame surveys), publishing results
- Applying pressure to companies not performing to expected standard
- Consumer friendly website and good customer service to help answer consumer questions

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.

Yes, this is essential and needs to have clear legislation

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?

We feel it is vital that this new food body is:

- 1) Independent from government, with an independent board of experts
- 2) Has the power to enforce where necessary
- 3) Is transparent

