

**MINUTES OF THE FOOD STANDARDS SCOTLAND (FSS) BOARD MEETING
HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER 2020 FROM 10:30 AM TO 11:45 AM VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE**

Present:

FSS Board

Ross Finnie, Chair
Louise Welsh, Deputy Chair
Heather Kelman
Marieke Dwarshuis
Carrie Ruxton
Sue Walker
Anne Maree Wallace

FSS Executive

Geoff Ogle, Chief Executive
Ian McWatt, Deputy Chief Executive
Julie Hesketh-Laird, Director of Strategy,
Communications and Programmes
Garry Mournian, Interim Director of Policy, Science
Finance and Human Resources
Diane Strachan, Head of Private Office
Hazel Stead, Board Secretary

1. Welcome, Apologies

- 1.1. Ross Finnie, Chair welcomed everyone to the intersessional Board meeting. He thanked everyone for their attendance at short notice.
- 1.2 There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- 2.1 The Chair asked for declarations of conflict of interest, none were declared.

3. Motion

- 3.1. The Chair proposed a motion to move the meeting into closed session as the board paper and discussion constitutes confidential advice to the Government and Scottish Ministers.

- 3.2 The Board :

- **Agreed** to move the meeting into closed session

4. European Union Exit : Common Frameworks for Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene and Food Labelling, Composition and Standards and Nutrition Labelling, Composition and Standards – Progress update on Proposals

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed Jennifer Howie, Head of UK Frameworks to introduce the paper. Jennifer explained that the paper provides an update on the progress of the Common Frameworks. She explained that the Nutrition framework was the most advanced and that it and the Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene framework will both be submitted for parliamentary scrutiny in December 2020. These frameworks will be implemented across the UK in early 2021. She explained that the Food Labelling, Composition and Standards framework, is the least developed but is being progressed with a number of statutory instruments being laid. She explained that the common frameworks respect devolution and support the function of the UK Internal market legislation and allow for divergence by the devolved administrations where appropriate.

4.2 In discussion, Board members noted that the frameworks were at different stages and that the UK Internal Market Bill sits across all of the frameworks.

Board members sought further clarification from the executive on the mechanism for dispute prevention, resolution and that no issues were envisaged from parliamentary scrutiny of the frameworks.

4.3 Board members noted that there was potential for FSS's reputation to be damaged if stakeholders were not content with the outcomes of the frameworks. Jennifer explained that the policy making processes need to be understood by stakeholders and that we need to consider how best to communicate this. Jennifer explained that divergences are possible and that we will consider all the evidence before an outcome is reached.

4.4 The Chair noted that the Trade Bill and Trade and Agriculture Commission are a more of a threat to FSS acting independently than the Common Frameworks.

4.5. The Board :

- **Noted** progress to date across frameworks as a whole;
- **Agreed** the level of board engagement in each of the framework areas;
and
- **Agreed** that the arrangements respect Board accountability for the policy matters covered.