

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD – THRESHOLDS FOR ACTION AND FOR REPORTING

### 1 Purpose of the paper

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to inform the Board that the respective Executives of FSS and the Food Standards Agency have agreed arrangements for working jointly on any analytical thresholds for action in response to food adulteration incidents.
- 1.2 On 18 November 2015, the Board of the Food Standards Agency agreed an approach to identifying thresholds for action in response to food adulteration incidents. The approach is in line with that adopted across the UK for undeclared meat species in response to the horsemeat incident.
- 1.3 Prior to the FSA Board discussion, the Executives of FSS and the FSA agreed that:
  - a) Any such thresholds should be agreed on a UK-wide basis
  - b) The principles set out the FSA Board paper<sup>1</sup> were in line with previously established UK-wide practice and therefore equally applicable in Scotland.
  - c) It would be appropriate for the consultation on these principles to be mirrored in Scotland.

### 2 Identification of risks and issues

- 2.1 The action agreed with FSA will ensure consistent interpretation of criteria having regard to risk to: risks to consumers, the views of consumers, analytical methods available and consistency with good industry practice.
- 2.2 This paper is relevant to Recommendations 31<sup>2</sup> and 38<sup>3</sup> of the Scudamore Expert Advisory Group.

### 3 The Board is asked to:

- 3.1 **Note** the agreement between the Executives of FSS and the FSA to work jointly to ensure that thresholds for action in response to food adulteration incidents are developed on a UK-wide basis.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fsa151106.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation 31: The New Food Body should continue to participate actively in groups established by Defra and FSA to develop methods for testing food for authenticity.

<sup>3</sup> Recommendation 38: FSA Scotland should work with FSA and the EU to investigate and set clear thresholds for the levels of DNA that constitutes a potential issue of authenticity taking into account consumer acceptability.