

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?

Scottish Water believes that there remains the need for a strong independent regulator for drinking water in Scotland to ensure that the focus on drinking water issues is maintained, while being aware of the unique challenges of providing safe clean drinking water across the whole of Scotland. We consider that the role of the Drinking Water Quality Regulator would be undermined if the role and function were to be subsumed into the FSA.

We believe that the current regulatory framework within the Water Industry in Scotland provides the correct balance. The lines of responsibility are clear with each of the quality regulators, DWQR and SEPA, setting their respective priorities and the Water Industry Commission for Scotland (WICS) providing the financial scrutiny to determine the cost of providing the required levels of service. Any alternative options could potentially devalue this current dynamic without adding any additional benefit for customers.

Customers and Government should be assured that their interests in respect of drinking water quality are effectively served for a relatively low cost by the current set-up, when compared with other areas of regulation.

In conclusion Scottish Water supports the need for a strong independent drinking water regulator and that change to the current set-up would neither be in the interests of, or provide any benefit for our customers.

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?

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

Scottish Water considers that the role of the Drinking Water Quality Regulator should not be subsumed into the FSA.

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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?

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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.

- Scottish Water has no comment to make on this question

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?

- Scottish Water has no further comments