

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?

- Yes, clearer consumer labelling detailing the origin and production method in relation to livestock.
- There are many assurance schemes for livestock that can lead to a commercial advantage; however, these are not always seen as transparent. The Scottish SPCA currently works with QMS on their pig assurance scheme, all pig producers in the scheme are independently inspected by the Scottish SPCA to verify the welfare status of the pigs produced. This scheme extends to pig transportation and slaughter.
- The Scottish SPCA would recommend a similar scheme for all red meat production in Scotland.

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

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.

- Further emphasis on the value of education

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.

- The new food body must be properly funded and resourced.

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.

- Given that Scottish produce is a UK and global commodity the new food body should not solely concentrate on the needs of Scottish citizens.

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.

- The new body should be responsible for the coordination of research.

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.

- No

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.

- There are existing statutory powers, however, the provision of more testing is required.

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.

- Current enforcement is not always backed up by the actions of the Court system.

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.

The new food body should play an active part in the standard setting for welfare assured schemes.

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.

- Any function of the new food body should not be detrimental to current environmental health services. Many of the suggestions are valid as long as the resource is properly funded.

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.

- As suggested, by establishing a clear standard for local authorities with Ministerial backing. One aspect the new food standard body should address is the lack of consistency between Scottish local authorities.

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.

- Develop a relationship with the Scottish SPCA to identify and tackle animal health and welfare problems at source. Assist in the creation of a welfare scheme for all red meat in Scotland.

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?

- Through involvement with recognised welfare assured schemes.

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.

- Public confidence could be gained if the new food body is seen to be truly independent of both government and the industry.

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?

- No