

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?

- Public health messages to educate the public e.g. comparison in calories between ready meal & simply prepared from scratch; physical activity messages how long it takes to burn the additional calories & how

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.

- Work closer with industry to influence product development to make the healthy choice the easy choice

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.

- Power & funding to commission research

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.

- It should be an organisation that shares evidence & likewise maintain that reciprocal arrangements with UK organisations

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.

- New body should be responsible for co-ordination of govt funded research.

- Raise the profile by forging strong links with research organisations; funding research posts in organisations for specific pieces of work

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.

- Working with local enforcement agencies & promoting awards so that the public understand e.g. EHO premises ratings
- Have a strong identifiable brand
- Ensure messages to the public are understood at all levels – interpreting the research so that households understand the key messages

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, more powers to monitor & prevent such incidents e.g. when such practices are identified be able to have an impact & address practices which are either unsafe or misleading to the public much swifter

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.

- Any new regulations around food labelling should aim to make information clearer to consumers both ingredients & nutritional information

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.

- Yes, I think the FSA could take on this role rather than LA, this may ensure a more cohesive service / approach & allow for sharing of best practice nationally. Any incidents picked up locally could be shared swiftly & local officers could inspect in their areas for similar failings

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.

- Comments

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.

- Comments

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.

- VSA perhaps – to ensure better connections with the most vulnerable in society & those in most need

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?

- Working at community level in a more joint up way e.g. we have examples of FSA doing pieces of work in specific communities in isolation if this was joined up with partnership organisation in that locality there may be a better response

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 I agree but who will the governing body be? It needs to be neutral & not have to change each time the govt does.

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