

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

66th Meeting of ACAF on 2 February 2015

Briefing paper on new Food Body for Scotland

**Scottish Government
January 2015**

New Food Body for Scotland - ACAF Briefing - January 2015

The Scudamore Review (2012) recommended that, in Scotland, food safety should not be separated from nutrition and labelling. The report also recommended that advice on food safety, nutrition and labelling should be independent, evidence-based, consumer focused and transparent and provided by an organisation which should remain independent from Central Government.

In response, the Scottish Government initiated the Food (Scotland) Bill to set up Scotland's new food body, Food Standards Scotland (FSS). The Bill received Royal Assent on 13th Jan to become law- the Food (Scotland) Act 2015. FSS will take over functions presently delivered in Scotland by the UK-wide Food Standards Agency on 1 April 2015.

FSS will have a wide role in public health:

- a) to protect the public from risks which may arise in connection with the consumption of food
- b) to improve the extent to which members of the public have diets which are conducive to good health,
- c) to protect the other interests of consumers in relation to food.

FSS will continue the excellent work of the FSA in Scotland and is committed to open and transparent evidence-based policy making. The FSS Board is appointed by Scottish Ministers, reporting directly to the Scottish Parliament. Mr Ross Finnie has been appointed as Chair of FSS and Mr Geoff Ogle has been appointed as Chief Executive.

FSA in Scotland colleagues will become the staff of FSS and the need to maintain strong working arrangements between Scotland and the rest of the UK post-vesting day remains.

The role of the Scientific Advisory Committees in relation to FSS has been agreed at UK Ministerial level. FSS will continue to observe SAC meetings and will continue to use existing channels to engage with Committees agendas and reports. The Scottish Government will shortly write to all Advisory Committee Chairs to formally outline the changes occurring in Scotland and to propose terms of engagement with committees.

ACAF should not expect any major changes in day-to-day contacts with colleagues at FSAS/FSS, once FSS is created. Changes to contact details will be communicated in advance.