

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?

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's 'A Healthier Scotland : Consultation on Creating a New Food Body'

The RSC is the largest organisation in Europe for advancing the chemical sciences. Supported by a network of over 48,000 members worldwide and an internationally acclaimed publishing business, its activities span education and training, conferences and science policy, and the promotion of the chemical sciences to the public. This document represents the views of the RSC. The RSC has a duty under its Royal Charter 'to serve the public interest' by acting in an independent advisory capacity and it is in this spirit that this submission is made

The RSC awards the Mastership in Chemical Analysis (MChemA) which is the statutory qualification for practice as a Public Analyst and Agriculture Analyst (www.rsc.org/MChemA). The RSC works closely with the Association of Public Analysts (APA) and its Training Committee to ensure that candidates have the appropriate skills and knowledge to qualify.

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) welcomes the proposal for the New Food Body (NFB) to be independent, transparent and at arm's length from Government to better serve the people of Scotland.

Even though we welcome the NFB being at arm's length from Government, there will need to be clear routes of communication with the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates and the Government's Minister for Health and Wellbeing.

In principle, expanding the role of the NFB to address public health problems in Scotland is welcomed as long as the necessary scientific and technical expertise is sufficiently provisioned and adequately resourced.

With this in mind the role of Public Analysts would be of paramount importance.

The NFB needs to interface well with all relevant organizations and will also need to be adequately funded with appropriately-trained staff.

attendance at scientific meetings, participation on committees and the development of appropriate links with relevant researchers and others in the UK and overseas will be required.

These measures would help to establish access to the expert advice both within the UK and internationally and also help raise the profile of the NFB.

The recent horsemeat scandal has highlighted the sustained decrease in the number of Public Analysts within the UK over the past four decades and the resources available to them to undertake their job. **The NFB should ensure that there are enough Public Analysts available in Scotland and ensure that they are properly resourced.**

This would allow Public Analysts to provide a more centrally coordinated, planned and proactive approach to ensuring the safety of food in Scotland, rather than the current reactive risk based system that operates at present.

Whilst this would incur a cost, it would offer a far greater assurance of food safety and issues relating to food safety and adulteration

within Scotland and the rest of the UK to ensure that the NFB, as a funder, can offer programmes that complement and enhance the research landscape in this area.

By co-ordinating research across the food safety landscape, this body could ensure that research is being funded to cover all aspects of food science and food safety appropriately. This would also allow

No comment

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.

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.

 No comment

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.

- An important aspect in assuring delivery of official controls, as required

independence from Government and the Food 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 further comments