

Issue – Wed 24 March 2021

Scotland's new model for animal feed delivery

From 1 April 2021, Food Standards Scotland (FSS) will take on formal responsibility for making sure feed businesses comply with laws aiming to ensure that feed for animals is safe.

FSS will pick up this role (and become the 'Competent Authority') from Scottish local authorities which have been responsible for delivering the service, delivering official controls (statutory duties with regard to the production of food all along the supply chain) to date.

FSS will provide additional support and funding to organisations involved in this important work and, under new regulations laid in the Scottish Parliament, will be able to delegate functions to other qualified organisations to help with delivery.

FSS intends to delegate routine official controls such as inspections and sampling to local authorities who have capacity to deliver. Confirmation of the participating local authorities and the areas they will cover, are available on the [FSS website](#).

FSS has consulted widely with local authorities and industry stakeholders and there is broad support for this new delegation model, which will help maintain the skills and knowledge of local authority officers and maintain the benefits of local knowledge.

FSS Workstream Manager – Animal Feed Delivery, Jacqui Angus, said:

“The safety and quality of animal feed is vital for preventing hazards from entering the food chain and affecting public health, as well as protecting animal welfare.

“Effective inspections and analysis of feed products and processes, to ensure these requirements are met is therefore paramount.

“The new feed model is designed to optimise the performance of feed enforcement through maintaining local authority experience and skills where appropriate, as well as adding FSS support and funding where needed.

“We would like to thank everyone for their input, which has resulted in the development of the infrastructure necessary to support the roll out of the new model.”

As a result of the transfer of competence, FSS significantly bolstered its animal feed team last year, which has allowed for the roll out of a series of support measures to local authorities in recent months.

Some of this activity includes training events across Scotland covering feed labelling, feed sampling, and hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) Level 3, as well as sampling grants, allowing local authorities to submit samples for analysis, to test for contaminants and undesirable substances.

Scotland has world-leading food and feed standards right along the supply chain and as we move into a post-EU period, FSS is focussed on building on our nation's reputation for excellence in food and feed supply and its assurance

Ends

Notes to editors

[Link to feed webpage](#)

About Food Standards Scotland

- Food Standards Scotland (FSS) was established on 1 April 2015 by the Food (Scotland) Act 2015 as a non-ministerial office, part of the Scottish Administration, alongside, but separate from, the Scottish Government.
- FSS is mainly funded by government, with a budget of £16m agreed within the Budget (Scotland) Act 2020, but also charges fees to recover costs for regulatory functions. To manage the impact of EU Exit, FSS will receive up to an additional £5m of funding in the current financial year.
- The organisation has approximately 250 staff, across its office and field-based operations.
- The primary concern of FSS is consumer protection – making sure that food is safe to eat, ensuring consumers know what they're eating and improving nutrition. FSS's stated vision is to deliver a food and drink environment in Scotland that benefits, protects and is trusted by consumers.
- The objectives of FSS as set out in the Food (Scotland) 2015 Act are to:
 1. protect the public from risks to health which may arise in connection with the consumption of food
 2. improve the extent to which members of the public have diets which are conducive to good health

3. protect the other interests of consumers in relation to food.

- FSS published its five-year strategic plan in August 2016 outlining the way in which the organisation will achieve its vision to create a food and drink environment in Scotland that benefits, protects and is trusted by consumers
- The Strategy sets six core outcomes that are the focus of FSS's activities for the period between 2016-2021:
 1. Food is safe
 2. Food is authentic
 3. Consumers have healthier diets
 4. Responsible food businesses flourish
 5. FSS is a trusted organisation
 6. FSS is efficient and effective.