Food (Scotland) Bill

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

I refer to Draft Call for Evidence in relation to the Stage 1 consideration of the Food (Scotland) Bill and now provide comments on behalf of NHS Ayrshire and Arran as detailed below.

The Health Board understands that the Bill seeks to:

- Establish Food Standards Scotland (FSS) to replace the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in Scotland
- Allow the scope of FSS’s functions to be wider than that of FSA, with three key objectives:
  i. To protect the public from health risks associated with food consumption
  ii. To improve diets
  iii. To protect other interests of consumers related to food
- Establish new food law provisions designed to protect and improve public health

The Health Board is supportive of the Bill in relation to:

1. The merits of creating a stand-alone body rather than enhancing the current FSA Scotland arrangements
2. The scope of the objectives and functions of the FSS
3. The proposed administrative and governance arrangements for the FSS
4. The proposed powers of the FSS
5. The likely efficacy of the new provisions related to food information to prevent food fraud (such as the recent horsemeat incident).
6. The provisions set out in the Bill for non-compliance with food safety and standards.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran
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