

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 7 May 2024
15th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6)

Food Standards Scotland

Note by the clerk

Background

1. The Committee will be holding an evidence session with representatives of Food Standards Scotland (FSS), providing an opportunity for an update and discussion about various topics under its remit.
2. FSS is a non-ministerial public body, reporting directly to the Scottish Parliament and working closely with Scottish Ministers on various areas of its remit. FSS operates independently of Ministers and industry, providing impartial, evidence-based advice. As the public sector food body for Scotland, its remit covers all aspects of the food chain concerning public health, aiming to protect consumers from food safety risks and to promote healthy eating.
3. Under the [Food \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#), FSS has three objectives to protect the health and wellbeing of consumers. These are:
 - To protect the public from risks to health which may arise with the consumption of food.
 - To improve the extent to which members of the public have diets which are conducive to good health.
 - To protect the other interests of consumers in relation to food.
4. [FSS last appeared before the Committee on 24 January 2023](#). A panel provided evidence on topics including, but not limited to, the following:
 - The impact of external factors (conflict in Ukraine, EU exit, rising cost of living) on food supply and diet.
 - The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act
 - The messages provided by FSS to support healthy living and a good diet and how it measures the extent to which these messages are heard.

Today's meeting

5. At today's meeting, Members will have an opportunity to put questions to representatives from Food Standards Scotland regarding its work and areas within its remit that have an impact on health outcomes in Scotland.
6. The following witnesses will be giving evidence on behalf of Food Standards Scotland:

HSCS/S6/24/15/3

- Heather Kelman, Chair
- Geoff Ogle, CEO
- Gillian Purdon, Chief Nutritionist

Clerks to the Committee

2 May 2024