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Science Council Secretariat

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## **AGENDA ITEM 2**

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**Role of Science Council and  
Relationship with FSA**

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## Science Council relationship with FSA Board

- The Council provides high-level, expert strategic insight, challenge and advice to the Board, Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) and Chief Executive on the FSA's use of science to deliver its objectives.
- The Council Chair will
  - meet the FSA Chair annually to discuss the work of the Council
  - report to the FSA Board annually at an open Board meeting
- The Council Chair has the right of direct access to FSA Board members (via the Agency Chair), at all times.
- Members also have the right of access to the Board on any matter which they believe raises important issues relating to their duties as a member.

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## FSA Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) role

- Ensure quality of evidence base
- Strategic oversight and leadership of scientific activities, assuring current and future scientific capability (as Head of Science & Engineering Profession – although delegates duties)
- Key member of senior leadership team
- High-level communication/engagement with external stakeholders
- Work with other CSAs, Research Councils, (UKRI) and other key people to develop partnerships etc.
- Expert scientific advice to CE and Board
- Directs FSA Strategic Evidence Fund which can fund expert input, analysis or research

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## Science Council relationship with CSA

The Council provides support, advice and challenge to the CSA

### Challenge:

- Help to ensure CSA continues to provide best advice/network to FSA
- Critical friend function if required

### Support and advice:

- High-level expert strategic insight on FSA's use of science to deliver its objectives
- Provide independent, expert authority to CSA in ensuring FSA is using the best science and evidence in decision making (other lenses are also used but science lens must be offered and looked through)

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# How the Council will work in practice

## Time Commitment

- 2 open meetings a year (*papers and minutes published*)
- Possible monthly teleconferences (*minutes published*)
- Minimum commitment expected to be 4-5 days/year for members and 8-10 days/year for the chair
- Participation in working groups or other groups between meetings would add 2-3 days per year to these figures; this would be voluntary (*these would report to open meetings*)

## Reimbursement

- Reimbursement of travel and subsistence (same rules as civil servants)
- Attendance fees and cumulative claims for work between meetings

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## **AGENDA ITEM 3**

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**Top Strategic Challenges  
for FSA**



## FSA Strategic Priorities

Over the next 2–3 years the FSA needs to concentrate on three essentials. These are:

- Delivering the Regulating Our Future transformation
- Anticipating, planning for and delivering the consequences of exiting the EU
- Doing the day job exceptionally well



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## Top 3 Strategic Priorities for the Council

### 1. Science capability and assurance

To advise the Board on how it can get confident that we have access to the right science capability and capacity.

### 2. Risk and certainty

What does the Council advise to be best practice in establishing and communicating risk and certainty.

### 3. Horizon scanning

What should the FSA do to improve its horizon scanning and its understanding of global food systems risks (and opportunities)?

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## **AGENDA ITEM 4**

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**Workshop Questions**

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## Science capability and assurance

**What** – To advise the Board on how it can get confident that we have access to the right science capability and capacity.

**Why** - We need to look afresh at the extent to which the FSA is science-led and how those science priorities are established. To do that effectively, we need to take a clear direction on the balance between in house and external resources, implications of EU exit, our networks, what is the right science, defining the intelligent customer role. We will implement this in the next two years so that we have a refreshed approach in year 3. This is a high priority and an enabler for our work on Regulating our Future and EU exit, as well as continually improving our current business delivery.

**When** - Council to provide advice in next six months.

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## Risk and certainty

**What** - What does the Council advise to be best practice in establishing and communicating risk and certainty.

**Why** – In the future, the FSA needs to have established a strategic framework for making risk assessment and management judgments, and to be better at communicating risk and uncertainty to stakeholders, including the general public. Advice on this will help us to deal with the consequences of EU exit, and will enable us to be more deliberate and clear in building consumer understanding about public health risks from food.

**When** – Council to provide advice in next six months maximum.

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# Horizon scanning

**What** - What should the FSA do to improve its horizon scanning and its understanding of global food systems risks (and opportunities)?

**Why** – Part of the rationale for our Regulating our Future approach is that we want to be more on the front foot, anticipate future risks and harness innovation.

**When** – next 12 months to input into future strategic plans.

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## Possible questions/points to structure workshop sessions

1. Why are we being asked this? (further probing/understanding by Council of the context for FSA's request)
2. What will a good outcome look/feel like for Heather/Guy/FSA?
3. What are components of a good answer to this question?
4. What questions/issues will the Council need to consider to answer this?
5. What are the elements of a good system/approach to this issue? (focus on outcomes not detailed mechanisms/process at this stage)
6. What inputs will the Council need to address this – information/evidence; other people/expertise; process (e.g. meetings, subgroups, workshops, analysis etc.)