



Consultation Information Note

Topic: Food Safety Authority of Ireland Statement of Strategy for the period 2011-2014

Start date of consultation: Wednesday, 21st July 2011

Closing date of consultation: Friday, 26th August 2011

Consultation details:

As required under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) is currently preparing a Statement of Strategy for the period 2011-2014.

FSAI is seeking your views

Consumer attitudes to food are constantly changing and the food industry has undergone significant structural reform over the last number of years and will continue to do so in the coming years. FSAI needs to adapt and evolve with these changes. We are therefore currently reviewing what we do and how we do it and would welcome your views on how we define our strategy for the period 2011 -2014.

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) was established by statute in 1998 as an independent, science based organisation with statutory responsibility for the enforcement of food legislation. Our mission is to protect consumers' health and consumers' interests by ensuring that food consumed, distributed, marketed or produced in the State meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene. The FSAI carries out this enforcement function through service contracts with official agencies. These service contracts outline an agreed level and standard of food safety activity that the official agencies perform as agents and on behalf of the Authority. We monitor the food safety enforcement activities of 39 national official agencies through our service contracts programme and seek continuous improvement and accountability through a programme of regular audits.

Science remains at the heart of the FSAI and independent scientific evidence underpins our advice to Government Ministers on food safety matters. Our scientific staff and members of our Scientific Committee and Subcommittees ensure that all of our work, from the day-to-day decision making to our work on risk assessment, is evidence-based. Our task is to ensure the delivery of a high quality and effective national food safety control programme within available resources and in accordance with Government policies. A priority for the FSAI and the national food control programme will be to deliver an improved level of services with reducing resources during the lifetime of this strategy.

Food legislation should be enforced in a fair, consistent and proportionate manner. The FSAI works in partnership with the agri-food sector in order to gain their commitment for the production and marketing of safe and correctly labelled foods. All stakeholders can seek advice of the Authority on food safety issues through expert staff that manage the FSAI Advice Line. We develop guidance and dedicated information packs for the food industry in

order to make it easier for business to comply with regulations, with an emphasis on minimising the burden of compliance for small food businesses.

For further information on the FSAI see www.fsai.ie

The FSAI would welcome your views on matters of a strategic nature that you wish to have considered in framing our strategy for the period 2011 -2014.

Any views or submissions may be transmitted, preferably in electronic format, by Wednesday 26th August 2011 to:

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