



FSAI Strategic Plan 2016-2018

Pre-Consultation with Stakeholders

Start date of consultation: 05/11/15

Closing date: 27/11/15

Consultation Details

As part of the overall approach to developing the FSAI strategy 2016-2018, interested parties are invited to give us their views which will inform our planning process. This is an important element to ensure that our strategic objectives are in line with the expectations and priorities of our stakeholders. We are actively encouraging submissions and will review all feedback and comments received.

About Us

The FSAI is an independent, science-based regulatory authority responsible for ensuring that food in Ireland is safe to eat and that consumers are not misled in relation to the authenticity of food. The FSAI's key remit is the enforcement of food law, which we coordinate through working in partnership with the official agencies in Ireland. The official agencies are the Health Service Executive; the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority; 28 local authorities; the National Standards Authority of Ireland and; the Marine Institute. The FSAI monitors and reports on these activities and seeks continuous improvement and accountability through a programme of regular audits. The FSAI also has memoranda of understanding with other State agencies which have relevant interests and activities in the area of food safety, which provide a formal framework for partnership.

The official agencies, who work under service contract to the FSAI, carry out inspection and oversight functions in approximately 48,000 food businesses to ensure compliance with food legislation. Inspection officers have a range of control measures at their disposal in the event of non-compliance with food law, including closing a food business and recall of unfit food from the market. The FSAI oversees a national monitoring and surveillance programme in collaboration with the official agencies and external bodies that measures exposure to harmful microorganisms and chemicals in food on the Irish market. Data from

these programmes form the basis of the FSAI's control and prevention strategies, ensuring consumers' health and interests are first and foremost.

Science is at the heart of the FSAI. Independent scientific evidence underpins the FSAI's advice to Government on food safety and nutrition matters. The scientific staff and members of the FSAI's Scientific Committee and Sub-committees ensure that all work, from the day-to-day decision-making, to work on risk assessment, is evidence-based. The FSAI follows and contributes to global developments in food science and technology, risk assessment, risk management and official food control services.

The FSAI manages food incidents and keeps all stakeholders informed through regular communications and alerts on food recalls and withdrawals in the event of potential risks to consumers' health. Our work also includes investigating the integrity and authenticity of the food supply chain, as well as tackling food crime.

The FSAI works in partnership with the food industry to gain its commitment for the production, distribution and marketing of safe and correctly labelled foods. We manage an Advice-Line service for all our stakeholders which provides food safety advice and information.

The FSAI has a strong commitment to communicating the importance of food safety, the associated risks and providing people with timely, meaningful and relevant information. The enforcement activities and information resources are complemented by awareness campaigns and practical advice and guidance for the food industry, in order to make it easier for food businesses to understand and abide by regulations, with an emphasis on minimising the burden of compliance for small food businesses.

Submissions to the consultation

Submissions may be made through our [online questionnaire](#).

Alternatively, you can post your views to: Consultations, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Abbey Court, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1

Please use the following questions to structure your response:

1. What do you see as the strengths and achievements of the FSAI?
2. What influence has the FSAI had in protecting consumers' health and consumers' interests?
3. What influence has the FSAI had within the food industry?
4. What do you see as areas where the FSAI needs to improve?
5. Over the next 3 – 4 years, what do you think should be the priorities of the FSAI?
6. What do you see as the most significant factors and developments in the broad political, social, economic and technical environment that the FSAI needs to address in its strategy?