

# T & L UPDATE



BFFF TECHNICAL AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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**British Frozen Food Federation**

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## CONSULTATIONS

# FOREWORD

## Welcome to edition 103 of the BFFF Technical and Legislative update.

Here at the BFFF, we continue our efforts to keep you up to date with the very latest information in the areas we feel will be of most relevance, interest or concern for your business.

Of course, we can only report on what we know and there are certain subjects which, as we are all aware, are changing almost on a daily basis. Whilst we make every effort to bring you the most up to date detail, please bear this in mind when reading this publication. Advice from Government should always be double checked on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) to ensure it reflects the very latest situation.

On Monday 27th October the EU27 agreed that it will accept the UK's request for a Brexit extension until 31st January 2020. As a result, Government is now adapting plans and preparations, including pausing key elements of the 'Get Ready for Brexit' campaign, to reflect this new position.

The Government's preference is to leave the EU with a deal. However, if the Withdrawal Agreement is not ratified by UK and EU Parliaments, then it remains the default position that the UK would leave without a deal on 31st January 2020. It is important therefore that you continue in your preparations for this date. Our colleagues at Defra have asked that we pass on their thanks for your continued support in these uncertain times and would welcome your reflections on what the extension means for you. Remember we are only an email away. So if you do have any queries or comments or for example want to highlight a critical supply issue in the coming months, just drop me a line [Deniserion@bfff.co.uk](mailto:Deniserion@bfff.co.uk) - we will always do our best to help.

Brexit aside, there's so much going on that if we reported on absolutely everything this edition would go on forever. But hopefully amongst the articles that do appear, there will be something of interest for you.

For instance, if your business is struggling with managing a large supplier base then I would definitely recommend turning to page 35 where you will find a guest article kindly provided by one of our members, Trade Interchange. Here you can find out more about how they are using Artificial Intelligence to provide confidence in the supply chain.

Or if the subject of allergens interests you, then turn to page 10 to read about a recent research project that has revealed that exercise, stress and sleep deprivation significantly reduce the amount of peanut required to cause an allergic reaction.

And once you've finished reading through this edition then get out your diaries as we've now confirmed the venue and date for our next Technical Seminar. Put a 'save the date' marker on 14th May 2020 to ensure you can attend what will no doubt be a fantastic event at the British Motor Museum, Warwick ([www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk](http://www.britishmotormuseum.co.uk)). Watch this space in the coming months for further announcements about the speakers and format for the day – I think you'll be in for a real treat.

So all that remains now, as we look forward to the festive season (...oh yes, it's only round the corner!) is for us to wish you and your family all the very best for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

See you in 2020!



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# ACTIVITY OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

## EFSA PUBLISH REPORT ON EMERGING RISKS ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have recently published a report on the work they carried out on emerging risks in 2018.

The report reveals that 18 potential emerging issues were discussed in 2018, including:

- microbiological hazard
- chemical hazard
- other (including antimicrobial resistance and allergies)
- illegal activity
- new consumer trends
- climate change related
- new process or technology



It also summarises activities regarding the emerging risk identification procedure, methodologies being developed and collaborative activities. As a result of their ongoing work, the emerging risks identification process was amended. The conclusions and recommendations will now guide future developments of the procedure in alignment with EFSA strategic objectives

You can read the report in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxnt7woz>

## EC PUBLISH REPORT ON TOPICS FOR SHAPING PUBLIC HEALTH

The European Commission (EC) has produced a report which considers the topics that could shape the public health agenda of the European Parliament's ENVI (Environment, Public Health and Food Safety) Committee.

The report describes key public health definitions, principles and concepts, discusses the EU's powers to act on health, and presents an overview of health policy developments and challenges.

The report can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y62j5ff7>

## EC REPORT ON EU AGRI-FOOD TRADE 2018

The European Commission (EC) have published a report on the state of EU agri-food trade in 2018. With EU trade reaching a value of €254 billion: 138 billion of which were exports and 116 billion imports, this means that the EU is the largest global exporter and the second biggest importer of agri-food products.

"The success of agricultural trade is clearly linked to the CAP, supporting competitiveness and innovation, and to the excellent reputation of our products as being safe, sustainably produced, nutritious and of high quality" Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development claims.

Agricultural products represent 7% of the total value of EU exports and the top five destinations for the EU's agri-food products are the USA, China, Switzerland, Japan and Russia.

Wines, spirits and liqueurs, infant food, chocolate, pasta and pastry are amongst the highest exported EU food and drink products.

You can read the full report here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxso8puz>

## PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OUTLINED

The European Parliament has published an outline of the priorities of the Finnish Presidency of the European Council. These priorities include:

- Agriculture and rural development
- Fisheries
- International trade
- Industry, research and energy
- Internal market and consumer protection.

Finland holds the Presidency of the Council until the end of 2019. The first series of hearings took place in July followed by second set in September.

More detail can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yypktwag>

## EC AND CHAFEA APPROVE CAMPAIGNS TO PROMOTE EU AGRI-FOOD AT HOME AND ABROAD

The European Commission and the EU's consumers, health, agriculture and food executive agency (CHAFEA) have approved 81 campaigns to promote EU agri-food products in and outside the EU for the next three years. The selected campaigns will benefit from an overall funding of €200 million from the EU agricultural budget.

Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner Phil Hogan said: "European agri-food products are renowned across the globe for their quality and authenticity. I could witness this myself while visiting several countries around the world, like China, Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, or Colombia accompanied by EU agri-food producers. The European Commission supports their hard work by spreading the word and maintaining a good reputation at a global level."

The promotion programmes aim at helping producers communicate about the quality of their products, to promote them within the EU and beyond, and open new markets. They focus on several priorities such as highlighting the quality of European food with geographical indications, or organic production methods.

Out of the 81 campaigns approved, 55 target countries outside of the EU, such as Brazil, Canada, China, Mexico and India. The selected campaigns will cover a wide range of products such as dairy, olives, and fruit and vegetables. For example, the fruit and vegetable sector will have 16 dedicated programmes, while cheese and dairy products will have eight. This year, the selected programmes come from applicants from 19 Member States.

## EU FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND MILK SCHEME TO RESUME

The European Commission have confirmed that the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme will resume in participating EU countries for 2019-2020.

The scheme aims at promoting healthy eating and balanced diets through the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk products while also proposing educational programmes on agriculture and good nutrition.

More than 20 million children benefited from this programme during the 2017-2018 school year, representing 20% of children across the European Union. Each school year, a total of €250 million is allocated to the scheme. For 2019-2020, €145 million were set aside for fruit and vegetables, and €105 million for milk and other dairy products. Countries can also top up EU aid with national funds.

Participation in the scheme is voluntary and Member States can decide on the way to implement it, including the type of products children will receive or the theme of the educational measures put in place. However, the choice of products distributed needs to be based on health and environmental considerations, seasonality, availability and variety.

More information about the scheme can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxn9vww6>

Key facts and figures for the scheme in 2017-2018 can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6ewtqus>

# ADDITIVES, CHEMICALS, CONTAMINANTS & FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

## FSA PUBLISH REVIEW OF BIO-BASED FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS

The Food Standards Agency have recently published a report reviewing evidence on the safety of biobased food contact materials (BBFCMs).

Bio-based food contact materials (BBFCMs) are made from biological, renewable resources. They are a popular alternative to fossil fuel-based materials because they come from sustainable sources and are generally biodegradable or compostable.



This report covers the potential risks and other unintended consequences of replacing oil-based plastic food packaging and other food contact materials with BBFCMs. It highlights that limited research has been undertaken into BBFCMs and additional studies may be required to help contribute towards understanding. It also suggests that BBFCMs can exhibit similar properties to traditional oil-based plastics, and that current risk assessment processes for establishing contaminant chemical transfer from packaging to food would be appropriate.

The report can be downloaded here: <https://tinyurl.com/yy3y7sgd>

## CASE AGAINST BPA CLASSIFICATION AS AN ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR REJECTED

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has rejected an attempt by the trade association, PlasticsEurope, to reverse the decision by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) which identified Bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical used to make plastics including food contact materials, as an endocrine disruptor.

This latest ruling is considered by legal experts to be significant as it is the first concerning a challenge of an ECHA decision identifying a substance as an endocrine disruptor to human health

The court rejected PlasticsEurope's arguments that the ECHA had failed to establish scientific evidence of probable serious effects to human health in accordance with REACH Article 57(f). It also dismissed the trade body's request to submit further evidence from the CLARITY-BPA research programme, established by the US National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the Food and Drug Administration. The programme's draft report in 2018 had suggested that BPA causes "minimal" adverse effects, a controversial statement that was subsequently removed.

You can view the judgement here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3hozo87>

More information can also be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2xe245a>

## Q1 MONITORING REPORT FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN FOOD 2019 PUBLISHED

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have now published the Expert Committee on Pesticides in Food monitoring report for quarter one of 2019.

This quarter's programme surveyed 498 samples of 20 different foods. Twenty-eight of the samples contained residues above the legal MRL, including beans with pods, cabbage, chilli pepper, cooked meat, lemons, okra, rice, strawberries and cheese.

Some of the exceedances were for chlorate findings, and these have not been highlighted in the brand name annex, as they are not being treated as breaches of the legislation. Information about work currently being done on chlorate residues is included in the report which can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyrgwmr8>

## CHLORATE DISCUSSIONS AT SCOPAFF (PHYTOPHARMACEUTICALS - PESTICIDES RESIDUES) MEETING.

The Summary Report of the SCoPAFF Phytopharmaceuticals Pesticides Residues meeting, held on 26th-27th September 2019, has now been published.

The Committee discussed, amongst other items, the Draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 as regards maximum residue levels for chlorate. Following requests for clarity from the Member States, footnote (A) was adjusted to include reference to the specific processes included in Article 2(1)(n) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.

Footnote (A) reads “To take into account the specific situation of chlorate residues, in processed food (including for the purpose of this Regulation foodstuffs that have been derived using processes listed in Article 2(1)(n) of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004), that has come in contact with products containing chlorate residues, or that contains ingredients with such residues, such as processing aids or drinking water, used in compliance with the respective legal requirements, these additional contributions of chlorate residues should be taken into account when determining the permitted content of chlorate residues in or on the processed food products in accordance with Article 20 (1) of this Regulation. The burden of proof regarding the level of those additional contributions lies with the food and feed business operator”.

However, it was questioned whether footnote (A) would be applicable in the case of frozen food products. The Commission clarified that the categories for fruits and vegetables in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 refer to both, fresh and frozen products. They stated that during the Experts’ Group Meeting of 13 May 2019 sufficient samples of frozen food had been available in the data collection and had explicitly been included in the statistical evaluation, meaning that the proposed levels already take freezing processes into account. Applying footnote (A) to frozen products would therefore in general not be appropriate. The same principle applies to ready-to-eat salads where the levels concerning commodities under the category of leaf vegetables in Annex I had already been taken into consideration.

A new Commission will take office on 1st November and they are expected to have a vote during the SCoPAFF meeting of 24-25 November. It is generally felt that a qualified majority in favour of the Commission proposal will be reached.

Some of the other items discussed were:

- Specific substances including copper MRLs and pesticides residues findings on mushrooms
- The annual monitoring report
- Foods for infants and young children
- SANTE extrapolation guidelines
- Technical guidelines for honey

The full set of minutes from the meeting can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5wfsz3x>

## FSA SURVEY OF ACRYLAMIDE AND FURANS IN UK RETAIL FOOD 2018

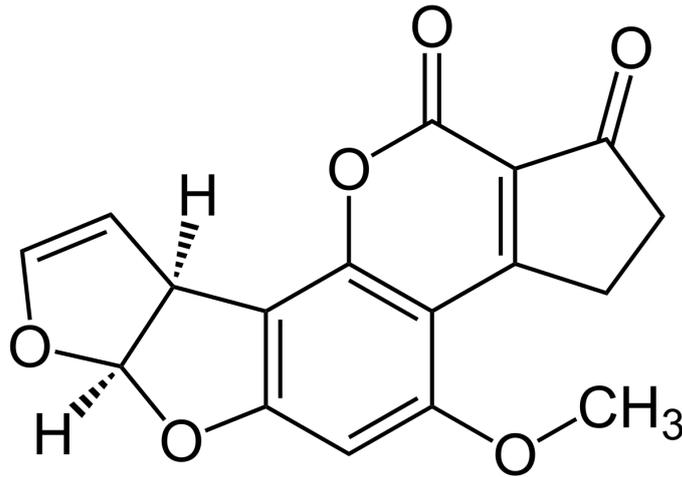
The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have published the 2018 Survey of Acrylamide and Furans in UK Retail Food. The survey covers the period from January to November 2018 and the analysis of 275 samples for acrylamide and 134 samples for furan and methylfuran.

Products sampled include French fries, bread, cereals, biscuits, coffee, baby food, popcorn, cakes, pastries and chocolate.

The report concludes that the levels of acrylamide and furans obtained during the period “do not increase our concern about the risk to human health”. The Agency has therefore not changed its advice to consumers.

You can access the report here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2aeeglo>

## EFSA CONSULTATION ON DRAFT OPINION ON PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS FROM AFLATOXINS IN FOOD



The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) CONTAM Panel have launched a public consultation on the draft Scientific Opinion on the risks to public health related to the presence of aflatoxins in food.

The draft opinion presents estimations of human dietary exposure to aflatoxins and an assessment of human health risks related to dietary exposure to aflatoxins. The Panel concluded that the dietary exposure of the EU population to aflatoxins raises a possible health concern.

The consultation is open until 15th November 2019 and can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5o8v5o4>

## FOODDRINKEUROPE PUBLISH GUIDELINES ON FLAVOURINGS

FoodDrinkEurope (FDE) have published industry guidelines on Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 on flavourings and certain food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods. These guidelines are intended to provide a common understanding of the major issues to be taken into account by different food businesses.

The Guidelines are divided into different Chapters and Annexes. They include the original text as provided in the Regulation, interpretations and industry's common understanding as well as some illustrative examples to highlight specific cases. Several statements and positions follow consultation with the Commission Services and, where applicable and available, their interpretation is included.

The guidelines can be downloaded here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5geazdp>



# ALLERGENS

## FINDINGS FROM RESEARCH ON FACTORS AFFECTING PEANUT ALLERGY

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) recently published the results of a research project on the effects of sleep deprivation and exercise on responses to peanut allergy. The TRACE study, conducted at Addenbrooke's hospital between April 2012 and August 2016, found that exercise, stress and sleep deprivation significantly reduce the amount of peanut required to cause an allergic reaction.

This study helps to inform work the Agency is undertaking to develop management threshold levels (or 'action levels') for the unintentional presence of allergens in food to inform labelling and risk management/communication decisions.

You can read more about the project here: <https://tinyurl.com/y33sb3x5>

## LAW ON ALLERGEN INFORMATION ON PPDS LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT

The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019, SI 2019 No. 1218, were laid before Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

The Regulation will require businesses to provide full ingredient and allergen labelling on food that is prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) thus allowing people with food allergies and intolerances to make safe food choices. At present some foods which are made, packed and sold on the same premises are not required to show ingredient or allergen information on the product label.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) Chair, Heather Hancock said:

"This is an important and welcome step towards our ambition for the UK to become the best place in the world for people who have food allergies and intolerances. I encourage businesses large and small to work with the Food Standards Agency to get this right. Success will mean more choice and better protection for the millions of people - our families, friends, colleagues and neighbours across the UK - who have food allergies."

The change in the law is the result of a UK-wide consultation which followed the tragic death of teenager Natasha Ednan-Laperouse, as a result of an allergic reaction to a baguette she had eaten which did not display allergen information on the packaging.

You will find the regulation here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5t277t6> and an FSA information note here: <https://tinyurl.com/yybh48qz>

The FSA were due to publish guidance on the labelling of foods pre-packed for direct sale on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 but this has since been pushed back to the end of the year following concerns raised by industry and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) regarding the workability of the current proposals and legal definitions. However, implementation of full ingredient labelling legislation on PPDS foods remains as 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.



## FSA DISCUSSIONS ON FOOD HYPERSENSITIVITY, ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCES.



The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have released a recording of its quarterly board meeting held on 18th September 2019 where amongst other items the following were discussed:

- An update on FSA food hypersensitivity work and implementation of the allergen labelling review
- Future plans for the UK food and feed labs system
- The review and next steps of the Campylobacter reduction programme

Measures to protect those with food allergies and intolerances were also discussed. This was in response to the conclusion of the inquest into the death of Owen Carey who had an allergic reaction to milk at a restaurant and included:

- An aide-memoire for enforcement officers, focused on action within business in relation to food allergies
- An urgent update of the 'Safer Food Better Business' guide, including a review of the allergens information included
- Launch of an awareness campaign at the end of 2019
- Implementation of a pilot project to develop better reporting of allergic reactions
- A full root cause analysis of this specific incident to ensure that lessons are shared

The video from the board meeting can be accessed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ev7clt>

# ANIMAL WELFARE

## DEFRA CONSULTATION ON THE LIVE EXPORT OF ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER



On 1<sup>st</sup> October Theresa Villiers, the Secretary for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) notified Parliament about recent announcements she has made on measures to enhance the welfare and protection of animals. These include launching consultations on proposals to address long journeys for live animals that are being transported for slaughter, and to restrict the import and export of hunting trophies.

This follows recommendations by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee that live animal journeys should be minimised and that animals for slaughter should not be transported longer distances if suitable alternatives are available.

You can read the full statement here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyrurgxg>.

Further information can also be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2blsxcb>

## EFSA CONSULT ON GUIDANCE ON PESTICIDES AND BEES

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have announced that it is conducting a second stakeholder consultation with a dedicated group, regarding a review of its guidance on pesticides and bees. The dedicated group has been asked to comment on the protocol that EFSA will use to collect and evaluate data on bee mortality.

The need for up-to-date evidence on bee mortality was highlighted by the European Commission when it asked EFSA to review the guidance. Their feedback will be considered by the scientific working group set up to review the guidance. EFSA will continue to consult stakeholders and Member State experts throughout the process and there will be a public consultation on EFSA's guidance document once it has been drafted.

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2akp9c7>



## UPDATED RABIES CONTROL STRATEGY FOR GREAT BRITAIN

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have published an updated rabies control strategy document for Great Britain. The document sets out a framework for how an outbreak of rabies in animals in Great Britain would be managed and can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyyfms6c>

## UPDATED GUIDANCE ON CONTROL OF FISH AND SHELLFISH DISEASES

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Environment Agency and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture have recently updated their guidance on the control of fish and shellfish diseases in England and Wales. The guidance covers the reduction of the risk of disease, by setting out where notifiable diseases have been confirmed in England and Wales, with the addition of a new outbreak.

The guidance can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/q6rhh7b>

## BORDER FORCE WORK TO KEEP UK FREE OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

The Biosecurity Minister and UK Chief Vet recently visited Heathrow Airport to see how the work of Border Force ensures that the UK remains free of African swine fever. This follows the launch in July of the new campaign on the disease by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

UK border officials enforce controls at the border on illegal meat by using sniffer dogs and searching freight, passengers and luggage. They will seize and destroy illegally imported meat products. This is because the disease is highly contagious and the virus can survive in pork meat products, even if cooked or frozen.

The operation is focused on arrivals directly from South East Asian countries, where the disease is prevalent.

You can read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyvr5lgg>

## EFSA PUBLISH LATEST REPORT ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have published their latest scientific report on avian influenza, which provides an overview of the situation during February to August 2019.

According to the report during this period there were no outbreaks in wild birds in the EU but five high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks were reported at poultry establishments in Bulgaria. Two low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) outbreaks were also reported in poultry in Denmark, one in captive birds in Germany, and one in poultry in Italy.

The number of outbreaks in poultry and wild birds in Asia, Africa and the Middle East has decreased, particularly during the last three months of the reporting period and there have been no reports of human infections due to HPAI viruses. Therefore, the risk of zoonotic transmission to the general public in Europe is considered very low.

The full report can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y666w5jb>



## FARM ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REMIT EXPANDED

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have recently announced that the remit of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) has been expanded and also renamed as the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC). The committee will continue in its role as an expert committee advising Defra and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland and Wales.

The renamed committee's priorities will include:

- Advice to government on future farming reforms to deliver welfare enhancements
- Advice to government on the welfare of companion animals and wild animals kept by people
- Review of dairy and beef cattle production systems and the welfare of the animals
- Working closely with the European Forum of Animal Welfare Councils (EuroFAWC)

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3vcrs6m> and here: <https://tinyurl.com/yx95c67e>

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PUBLISHES ANIMAL WELFARE BILL

The Scottish Government has published its Animal Welfare Bill, which makes provision to strengthen animal cruelty penalties and improve powers for front-line enforcement agencies.

The Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Bill will increase the maximum penalties for the most serious animal welfare and wildlife offences to 5 years imprisonment as well as increasing the maximum penalties for various other animal welfare offences.

They have also established an Animal Welfare Commission which will focus on protecting wild and companion animals, while also giving scientific and ethical advice. A total of 11 commissioners will be recruited by open advertisement and interview.

You can read more about the Animal Welfare Bill here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6fdvwlv> and more about the Animal Welfare Commission here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6gxhzcg>

## PHE ISSUE UPDATED GUIDANCE ON ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS



Public Health England (PHE) have published updated guidance on antibiotic awareness and messages on antibiotic use, including those for animal keepers and prescribers. This document explains how to use antibiotics responsibly and includes a note on 'Antibiotic Awareness: key messages 2019'.

The guidance along with a short video and other resources can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybbzksrs>

# BREXIT

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION ARE AS REPORTED AT THE TIME OF WRITING AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS.**

## BFFF JOINS BREXIT FOOD HUB



The BFFF are pleased to inform members that we have joined other organisations working together on a Brexit Food Hub. The hub has been developed to assist businesses in planning and preparing in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal. It provides links to a wide range of official advice and to the expertise of the various UK Food and Agriculture partner organisations involved, who are pooling their resources to provide this support. Based on a series of Frequently Asked Questions, the hub will be updated as additional information becomes available.

You can access the hub here: <https://brexitfoodhub.co.uk/>

## CABINET PUBLISHES YELLOWHAMMER REPORT

On September 11<sup>th</sup> 2019 the Cabinet Office published the government's Yellowhammer Report: HMG reasonable worst-case planning assumptions. The report sets out the key planning assumptions in the case of a no-deal Brexit and outlines potential disruption that could impact the food sector, including delays at ports and shortages of food.

The Cabinet Office has also published the government responses to the humble address motion and related correspondence with Hilary Benn MP and Dominic Grieve QC MP. A humble address is a message to the Queen. It's used, among other things to call for papers from departments headed by a Secretary of State. It can be debated, amended and voted on like any other motion. Humble addresses, if agreed, are understood to be binding on the House.

The Yellowhammer Report and Government Responses can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5abczsh>

## NAO PUBLISH REPORT ON UK BORDER PREPAREDNESS FOR BREXIT

The National Audit Office have recently published a report on how prepared UK borders are for EU exit. The purpose of this report was to consider the work that the government and departments have been undertaking to prepare for no deal and to assess how prepared they are at the border for a no-deal exit.

The report is split into 3 parts:

- Part One sets out the background to a no-deal exit on the operation of the UK border.
- Part Two sets out the government and departments' actions to prepare for a no-deal exit.
- Part Three assesses the government and departments' actions to mitigate the risk associated with a no-deal exit.

The report concludes that the Government has made progress with putting in place the systems, infrastructure and resources required to manage the border if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. However, there is still some work to do to finalise arrangements in the short time that remains and bringing all these elements together for the first time in a live environment carries inherent risk.

The most significant risks to the operation of the border remain, namely business readiness, EU member states imposing controls, and arrangements for the Northern Ireland and Ireland land border. Although the government has actions under way to influence these, mitigating these risks is now, to some extent, out of its control. It is impossible to know exactly what would happen at the border in the event of no deal.

Departments face new challenges in monitoring and responding to any disruption that may ensue. This includes supporting businesses and individuals in meeting their new obligations, mitigating risks of the border becoming vulnerable to fraud, smuggling or other criminal activity, and activating civil contingency plans if necessary.

Many of the new arrangements the government plans to implement at the border to facilitate flow on day one would be temporary, and it will take some time for a fully functioning border to be put in place. In determining longer-term arrangements, the government would need to balance enabling the flow of traffic across the border with introducing appropriate controls to minimise the risk of non-compliance or criminal activity.

The full report can be downloaded here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3xqdoef>

## DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR AUTHORISATION FOR UK AND EU FISHING VESSELS IN EVENT OF BREXIT

The European Commission published on 4<sup>th</sup> September a draft proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 as regards fishing authorisations for Union vessels in United Kingdom waters and fishing operations of United Kingdom fishing vessels in Union waters.

The draft Regulation extends authorisations for EU and UK vessels to fish in other's waters until 2020, in the event of Brexit. The draft can be downloaded here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4I9I75z>

## BEIS ANNOUNCE BUSINESS FINANCE COUNCIL TO BE LAUNCHED

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) have announced that a new Business Finance Council is to be launched to support small to medium enterprises (SMEs) through Brexit.

The Council will identify, and address barriers faced by SMEs in securing the finance needed. There is currently approximately £300 million of further headroom available to lenders this financial year through the British Business Bank's Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG). The EFG facilitates lending to viable smaller businesses that lack sufficient security against which to borrow, potentially enabling a 'no' credit decision from a lender to become a 'yes'.

In the longer term, there is also approximately £1 billion of guarantee headroom currently available and uncommitted under the Bank's ENABLE Guarantee programme. ENABLE guarantees to reduce the amount of regulatory capital that participating lenders need to hold for their loans to small businesses, so that they are able to provide more lending.

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y54vujwc>

## CORRESPONDENCE ON UK PARTICIPATION IN EU MEETINGS

The EU Select Committee have written to the Minister of State for Exiting the EU to request information on UK participation in EU meetings. The letter seeks clarity on the policy for UK attendance (or non-attendance) at EU meetings and the decisions on which meetings to attend. It also requests assurance that the government will continue to support parliamentary scrutiny of EU documents.

This follows the Committee's letter to the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU on 4th September 2019, regarding the Government's decision only to attend EU meetings where the UK had a "significant national interest".

You can read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y555ctef>

## EU SELECT COMMITTEE REQUESTS FULL TEXT ON PROTOCOL ON IRELAND

The EU Select Committee have requested the full legal text of the proposed amended Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland, from the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU. The Committee wrote to the Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP, ahead of the evidence session with him on 21 October 2019, requesting the text and seeking answers to a number of questions, including the EU's response to the proposals and assessment of the economic impact of customs controls in Ireland.

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5jsc3vj>

## BREXIT READINESS REPORT PUBLISHED

The Cabinet Office and Department for Exiting the EU published on 8th October the no-deal readiness report. This document sets out what will change if the UK leaves the EU without a deal and outlines what the Government is doing to ensure that businesses and citizens are ready for Brexit.

The document also includes details of the preparation underway to ensure that goods continue to flow smoothly across the UK and EU border after Brexit.

You can read the report in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ogwra3>

## TARIFF REGIME FOR UK UPDATED

HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department for International Trade (DIT) published on 8th October 2019 updated draft guidance regarding the draft Customs Tariff (Establishment) (EU Exit) Regulations.

The updated document contains the draft legal classification and import rate for products being imported into the UK, including the latest UK Trade Tariff. A final version will be uploaded with the legislation, which is subject to Parliamentary approval.

You can find the draft guidance here: <https://tinyurl.com/yywvxeof>

# BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

## UPDATED GUIDANCE ON T LEVELS

The Department of Education has recently published updated guidance on T Levels.

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

Students will be able to take a T Level many subject areas including:

- agriculture, land management and production
- catering
- health
- manufacturing and process
- science

You can find out more about T-levels here: <https://tinyurl.com/y79b437z>

## £20 MILLION FUND LAUNCHED TO TRANSFORM FOOD PRODUCTION

Innovate UK and UK Research and Innovation have launched a £20 million project fund to support ambitious projects developing new and more efficient ways to produce the UK's food.

The UK Government's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (Transforming Food Production Challenge) has up to £20 million from the fund to invest in large-scale and ambitious projects that help UK food production break out of a traditional land-based model and move towards a sustainable position of net-zero emissions.

The competition is seeking projects either developing new and efficient low-emission food production systems or addressing technological and other bottlenecks holding back state-of-the art systems from supplying consumers. Areas of work could include indoor growing systems, aquaculture, and new food sources such as insects and fermentation-based systems.

Projects must show how they will:

- significantly contribute to achieving net-zero emissions across one or more food products
- provide nutrient dense foods that are accessible to mainstream consumers
- deliver other relevant benefits to society, such as reduced resource consumption and waste or improved animal welfare
- apply a systems approach as opposed to working on a single technology

The competition is open and the deadline for applications is at midday on 22 January 2020. Businesses of any size may apply, and projects could range in size between £1 million and £10 million

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4f6uae6>

# FOOD SAFETY AND ZOOSES

## EC CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FOOD SAFETY PLATFORM

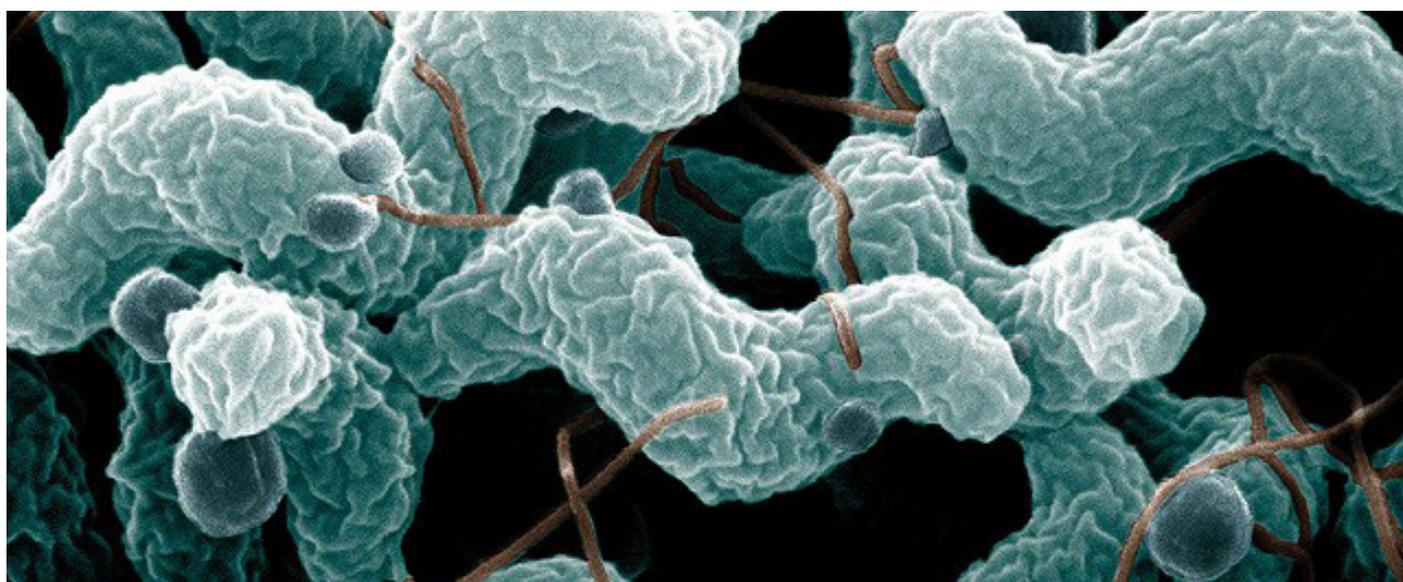
The European Commission (EC) is calling for proposals from interested parties for the development of a new research and innovation platform on food safety.

Recent consumer concerns on the transparency of the process of safety assessment of our foods as well as technological developments and innovations have shown that there is a need to reflect on the EU food safety system of the future.

The aim is for the platform to make it easier for national food safety authorities, EU agencies, policy-makers, the scientific community and civil society to coordinate research efforts. The deadline for applications is 22 January 2020.

Further detail can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5nzha75>

## LATEST RESULTS FOR CAMPYLOBACTER IN UK CHICKENS



The Food Standards Agency (FSA) recently announced that the UK's top nine food retailers had published Campylobacter contamination results for fresh shop-bought UK-produced chickens for the period from April - June 2019.

The latest figures show that on average, across the major retailers, 3.6% of chickens tested positive for the highest level of contamination. These are the chickens carrying more than 1,000 colony forming units per gram (cfu/g) of campylobacter.

Results by retailer can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4wlk2qc>

## SMARTER RULES FOR SAFER FOOD POLICY PAPER UPDATED

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have recently published an update to the Smarter Rules for Safer Food policy paper.

The Smarter Rules for Safer Food (SRSF) package is a set of EU regulations for the protection against animal disease and plant pests. It will affect individuals and businesses involved in the agri-food chain including activities such as the production, manufacture, supply and regulation of:

- food
- feed
- live animals
- animal products
- plants
- plant products

The package will modernise, simplify and improve existing health and safety standards for the agri-food chain. It will take a risk-based approach to animal, plant and public health protection, introducing more efficient pest and disease control measures.

The package includes 3 principal EU regulations:

- Official Controls Regulation (EU) 2017/625: how controls across the agri-food chain will be monitored and enforced – applies from 14 December 2019
- Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031: controls for protecting plants from disease and pests – applies from 14 December 2019
- Animal Health Regulation (EU) 2016/429: a framework for the principles of European animal health – applies from 21 April 2021

How and when the UK implements the package will depend on Brexit. If a deal is reached before exit day, there will be an implementation period until 31 December 2020. During this period, EU law will apply including the Official Controls and Plant Health Regulations. The UK will therefore need to implement these new regulations at the same time as EU member states on 14 December 2019.

In a no-deal Brexit, the SRSF regulations will not apply automatically to the UK. The UK, however, will still be affected by the changes. UK exporters to the EU will have to meet the import requirements that apply to imports from third countries.

You will find the policy paper here: <https://tinyurl.com/gtfhbod>

## FOOD IN SCOTLAND CONSUMER TRACKING SURVEY

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) have recently published wave 7 of the Food in Scotland consumer tracking survey report. The biannual survey measures changes in Scotland's attitudes, behaviours and knowledge on food over time. Wave 7 covers the views of 1,046 Scottish adults between 7 - 20 December 2018.

The key findings include:

- Six in ten people are aware of FSS and positively endorse its performance
- Consumer behaviours regarding food safety in the home, suggest that improvements in certain areas are required and there is a lack of awareness about the risks from food poisoning from home-prepared food
- Eating out of home is frequent and such foods are recognised as being less healthy than those eaten at home, with support evident for calories to be displayed on menus
- Consumers believe they understand food labels and generally use them to find information on minimum durability but find it harder to locate allergen information.

The full report can be downloaded here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2rzfvvp>

## CIEH LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROFESSION

Chartered  
Institute of  
Environmental  
Health



The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) has launched a campaign to highlight the importance of environmental health, raising the profile of the profession. The campaign, entitled “What is Environmental Health?”, aims to promote the work of Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) across a range of policy areas including food safety, illustrating the role that they play.

More information can be found in the following press release: <https://tinyurl.com/y2zlylxm>

## ANNUAL REPORT ON LOCAL AUTHORITY FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have recently published the annual report on local authority food law enforcement.

The report, based on information provided by local authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, includes summary statistics on the numbers of inspections conducted and the outcomes of these inspections.

It shows that the percentage of food establishments ‘broadly compliant’ with food hygiene law increased slightly to 90.7% year on year and the percentage of planned food hygiene interventions increased to 86.3% from 85.1% in 2017/18. However, planned interventions undertaken for food standards controls, including authenticity and food fraud, decreased to 40.8% from 42.3% the previous year.

The report can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6ojd3z2>

## FSS ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) have recently published their annual report for 2018-2019. This report covers the FSS vision and strategy, achievements, organisation and expenditure for the period and can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxlnjh6v>



# FOOD SECURITY, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

## EC PUBLISHES RASFF 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

On 17<sup>th</sup> September the European Commission published the rapid alert system for food and feed (RASFF) 2018 annual report.

The report highlights that, in 2018, a total of 3,699 original notifications were transmitted through RASFF, a 4% reduction on the previous year. 1,118 of these were classified as alert, 493 were information for follow-up, 675 were information for attention, 1,401 were border rejection notifications and 12 were news notifications.

These notifications resulted in 10,484 follow-up notifications. The number of alert notifications rose by 19% compared with the previous year, with 13% more follow-ups transmitted. The increase in alerts continues a five-year trend.

The report can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yd2qgbl6>

## EARLY WARNING SYSTEM REPORT FOR IMPORTED FOOD & FEED– JULY 2019

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) have announced that results for July 2019 are now available from their Early Warning System (EWS) for food and feed. These results are based primarily on analysis of the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) information issued by EU Member States for imports of food and feed, and food and feed from the EU.

The results include:

- New RASFFs for nicotine in water spinach from Thailand and pesticide residues in tea from Pakistan
- Further RASFFs for aflatoxins in almonds from USA and peanut spread from Ukraine, cyanide in apricot kernels from Pakistan, ochratoxin A in raisins from China and pistachios from USA, pesticide residues in Basmati rice from India, Salmonella in paprika powder from China.
- Foods from the EU – RASFFs for Norovirus in oyster from France and clams from Italy, E. coli in chilled clams from Italy, and Salmonella in chicken from The Netherlands and Czech Republic.
- Summaries of FERA HorizonScan information, and issues identified by the inland sampling conducted by PHE.

You can download the report in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3rgclx6>



## GOVERNMENT CHEMIST REPORTS ON 2019 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

The Government Chemist has recently published a report of its stakeholder workshop, held in London on 14th May 2019. The workshop, involving 43 stakeholders from across the food and feed sector, decided the following as priorities:

- the impact of alternative packaging materials
- the use of point of use analysis technologies
- issues with allergen testing
- increase in food fraud in a global market
- lack of trust in emerging technologies as well as the databases they use

Based on these identified priorities, the Office of the Government Chemist will work on drafting a future work programme for further prioritisation by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) appointed Programme Expert Group in November 2019, to allow contracting and start of the finally agreed programme in April 2020.

The report can be downloaded here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4dbsj82>

## EU PRIORITISES 20 PLANT HEALTH PESTS



The Commission has published a list of 20 regulated quarantine pests qualifying as priority pests, including *Xylella fastidiosa*, the Japanese beetle, the Asian long-horned beetle, Citrus greening and Citrus Black Spot, whose economic, environmental and social impact on EU's territory is the most severe.

The selection of pests is based on the assessment carried out by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which takes into account the probability of spreading, establishment and consequences of those pests for the Union.

As these are regulated quarantine priority pests, Member States will have to launch public information campaigns on them; conduct annual surveys; and prepare action plans for the eradication of these pests.

You can find more information here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2amqzu9>

# GLOBAL STANDARDS

## BRCGS PUBLISH ISSUE 6 OF STANDARD FOR PACKAGING MATERIALS

BRC Global Standards (BRCGS) has recently announced that Issue 6 of the standard for Packaging Materials has now been published.

The development of Issue 6 followed a wide consultation to understand stakeholders' requirements. A review of emerging issues was also carried out in the packaging industry and the industries it supplies. The information was then developed and reviewed by a working group composed of international stakeholders representing different sectors of the packaging materials manufacturing industry, retailers, brand owners, food service companies, certification bodies and independent technical experts.

Key features remain integral to the Standard, such as:

- meeting the needs of retailers and brand owners to reduce the audit burden;
- better recognition of the diversity of the packaging industry and its customers' demands;
- encouraging greater transparency and traceability in the supply chain; and
- encouraging adoption of the Standard as a means of improving product safety at small sites and facilities where processes are still in development.

The focus for issue 6 has been on:

- enhancing the processes used by quality management systems in printed packaging controls and through a hazard and risk analysis approach;
- continuing to ensure consistency of the audit process across the world;
- the importance of a product safety and quality culture in the drive to improve transparency and coherence across the food supply chain;
- simplifying the hygiene requirements based solely on risk;
- introducing a new fundamental clause, corrective and preventive actions, to address issues and minimise the risk of their occurring;
- based on risk, putting a microbiological environmental monitoring programme in place; and
- simplifying the unannounced audit programme.

The requirements of Issue 6 have evolved from those of previous issues. There continues to be an emphasis on management commitment, a hazard and risk analysis-based product safety programme and a supporting quality management system. The objective has been to direct the focus of the audit towards the implementation of good manufacturing practices within the production areas while recognising the diversity and breadth of the packaging industry, and the skills required to audit it.

The standard can be downloaded in several different languages here: <https://tinyurl.com/yvvcufkc>

## BRCGS LIFTS SUSPENSION OF SUPPORT TRAINING SERVICES

BRC Global Standards have lifted the suspension of Support Training Services (STS). This follows a number of compliance activities where STS have completed appropriate corrective actions and means STS may now undertake BRCGS audits but will be subject to additional surveillance activities by both BRCGS and UKAS in the short term.

STS was formally suspended from auditing against the Global Standards for Food Safety, Storage and Distribution and Agents and Brokers on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 due to poor performance against the BRCGS Key Performance Indicators

## CODEX ALIMENTARIUS PUBLISH STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Codex Alimentarius have published a strategic plan for the period from 2020 to 2025. The plan presents the mission, vision, goals, objectives and measurable indicators for the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It underpins the priority on food safety and quality and guides the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities. The plan also informs how the Commission intends to fulfil its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period, including emerging issues.

You can read the plan in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2tqtv7t>

## CAP ISSUE ADVICE ON THE USE OF “ORGANIC” IN ADVERTISING

The Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) have published advice on the use of the term “organic” in advertising, in relation to foods, amongst other items.

If a business wishes to claim their food product is “organic” or “made with organic ingredients” they must ensure it comes from farmers, processors or importers who: follow the minimum standards set down in Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007; are registered with an approved certification body; and are subject to regular inspections. They also need to be able to provide documentary evidence of this.

Also, it is not acceptable to state or imply that organic foods are generally healthier than non-organic foods, due to strict requirements in the CAP Code concerning health and nutrition claims for food. For the same reasons, comparative claims about the nutritional content of organic vs non-organic food would be subject to scrutiny.

Similarly, documentary ‘taste test’ evidence would likely be required if making claims that a particular organic food product tastes better than non-organic rivals, purely on the basis of being organic.

Further information and guidance on this topic can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyqtu8vo>



# HEALTH AND NUTRITION

## LABOUR PLEDGES TO HALVE FOOD BANK USAGE

Speaking at the Labour Party Conference on 24<sup>th</sup> September, Shadow Defra Secretary, Sue Hayman, pledged that Labour will halve food bank usage within its first year in Government, while aiming to end the need for them within 3 years, as part of a new “Fair Food Act” they intend to implement. Ms Hayman said that the new law will create a National Food Commission to monitor food insecurity and an Access to Food Fund will provide support in the 50 most food deprived areas of the country.

You can read her full speech here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2galu7v>

## WALES LAUNCHES NEW PLANS TO COMBAT RISE IN OBESITY

The Health Minister, Vaughan Gething has today outlined plans to make Wales’ one of the first countries to see obesity rates decline.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales is the Welsh Governments long term strategy to prevent and reduce obesity. The aim of the plan is to deliver healthy settings and environments to allow people of all ages to make healthy choices.

In Wales over 60% (1.5 million) of the adult population is overweight or obese, each year this figure rises by 10,000. If this trend continues the number of adults projected to become overweight or obese will increase to 64% of the nation’s population - another 160,000 adults by 2030.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales has a strong focus on prevention and will see initiatives from across government. The plan is broken into 4 themes:

- **Healthy Environments:** aims to support people to be able to make healthy choices. This will focus on changing the way we shop, the way we eat out, the way we travel, or how we use outdoor spaces.
- **Healthy Settings:** will develop supportive environments to promote healthier choices. This includes childcare settings, schools and higher and further education, workplaces and community settings.
- **Healthy People:** providing advice, information and support. This includes providing people with the opportunity to regularly discuss their lifestyle choices with health and care professionals.
- **Leadership and Enabling Change:** to drive improved leadership and accountability to deliver Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales across all sectors.

You can download a copy of Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2xhlmcb>

## UPDATED GUIDANCE ON UK NUTRITION AND HEALTH CLAIMS POST BREXIT

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has updated its website to provide practical guidance concerning the Nutrition (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations, including how the UK Nutrition and Health Claims Committee may conduct the assessment of applications for new nutrition and health claims made in the UK.

The guidance also covers food supplements; food for specific groups and for special medical purposes; and vitamins, minerals and certain other substances.

The guidance can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxhythlx>

Information about making an application for authorisation of a health claim if there’s a no-deal Brexit can be found on the UK Nutrition and Health Claims Committee website here: <https://tinyurl.com/yypevqpr>

## EVIDENCE SESSION RAISES FEARS OF ‘NANNY STATE’ INTERVENTION

The food, poverty, health and the environment committee (which is considering the links between inequality, public health and food sustainability) heard evidence for the first time on Tuesday 3rd September.

The Committee, set up in June 2019, heard evidence from the Food Foundation, the London Food Board, Cancer Research UK and academic experts on how healthy, sustainable food could be made more accessible for everyone.

Lord Krebs, the first chair of the Food Standards Agency, chaired the session and in his call for evidence he summarised the committee’s concerns. One of these is that healthy food is three times more expensive than unhealthy foods and low-income families are struggling to eat well.

While food poverty is rising, so too are levels of obesity and weight related diseases. At the same time, if the UK is to meet its net zero emissions 2050 target, the environmental footprint of agriculture and the food industry must be reduced.

The witnesses raised the fear of ‘nanny state intervention’ resulting in a ‘them and us’ situation and agreed about the importance of having a comprehensive food strategy integrated with other Government policies.

The deadline for submitting written evidence to the Committee’s call for evidence is 12 December 2019.

You can read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyao42vd>

## PHE PUBLISH STRATEGY FOR 2020-2025

Public Health England (PHE) have published their strategy for the period from 2020 - 2025. This strategy sets out how PHE will work to protect and improve the health of the public and reduce health inequalities, outlining its role within the public health system and 10 priority areas.

The document along with an executive summary can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3nvz9t4>



Public Health  
England

## EFSA PUBLISH OPINIONS ON DRV'S FOR SODIUM AND CHLORIDE

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) have now published Scientific Opinions on dietary reference values (DRVs) for Sodium and Chloride.

In the case of Sodium, the data reviewed was not sufficient to enable an average requirement (AR) or population reference intake (PRI) to be derived. The Panel considered that 2.0 g sodium/day is a safe and adequate intake for the general EU population of adults. Sodium intakes that are considered safe and adequate for children are as follows:

- 1.1g/day for children aged 1–3 years
- 1.3g/day for children aged 4–6 years
- 1.7 g/day for children aged 7–10 years
- 2.0 g/day for children aged 11–17 years
- For infants aged 7–11 months, an Adequate Intake (AI) of 0.2 g/day is proposed.

You will find the full scientific opinion on Sodium here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3xu3854>

For Chloride the panel considered that reference values for chloride can be set at values equimolar to the reference values for sodium for all population groups, and are as follows:

- 1.7 g/day for children aged 1–3 years,
- 2.0 g/day for children aged 4–6 years,
- 2.6 g/day for children aged 7–10 years,
- 3.1 g/day for children aged 11–17 years
- 3.1 g/day for adults.
- For infants aged 7–11 months, an adequate intake of 0.3 g/day is set.

Consistent with the reference values for sodium, these levels of chloride intake are considered to be safe and adequate for the general EU population, under the consideration that the main dietary source of chloride intake is sodium chloride.

You will find the full scientific opinion on Chloride here: <https://tinyurl.com/y43q83qf>

## DEFRA PUBLISH FAMILY FOOD DATASETS

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has published Family Food datasets, which contain more detailed information than the 'Family Food' report,

The 'purchases' spreadsheets give the average quantity of food and drink purchased per person per week for each food and drink category. The 'nutrient intake' spreadsheets give the average nutrient intake (e.g. energy, carbohydrates, protein, fat, fibre, minerals and vitamins) from food and drink per person per day. The 'expenditure' spreadsheets give the average amount spent in pence per person per week on each type of food and drink and separate information on eating out purchases. Several different breakdowns are provided in addition to the UK averages including figures by region, income, household composition and characteristics of the household reference person.

The datasets can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2znpmdc>

## SUGAR REDUCTION PROGRESS REPORT PUBLISHED

Public Health England (PHE) have now published the second progress report on the sugar reduction programme. This report covers an assessment of progress by the food industry, between 2015 and 2018, towards meeting the 20% reduction ambition by 2020 for the voluntary sugar reduction programme. It includes case studies supplied by the food industry and shows:



### Retailer own brand and manufacturer branded products (in-home sector):

- overall there was a 2.9% reduction in total sugar per 100g in products sold between 2015 and 2018
- there were larger reductions for some specific product categories (yogurts and fromage frais down 10.3% and breakfast cereals down 8.5% compared with 2015)
- there were small increases for 2 categories; puddings; and, sweet confectionery

### Out of home sector products:

- the simple average of total sugar per 100g reduced by 4.9% between 2017 and 2018
- the largest decreases were 23.5% for yogurts and fromage frais, 17.1% for breakfast cereals, 15.0% for puddings, 12.9% for ice creams, lollies and sorbets, 9.1% for morning goods and 6.9% for cakes (note the analysis for yogurts and fromage frais is only based on 54 products in 2017 and 38 products in 2018, and therefore should be treated with caution)
- there was an increase for chocolate confectionery of 3.6%
- for most categories, the simple average sugar content per 100g in products consumed out of home is roughly the same as the retailer own brand and manufacturer branded products purchased for consumption in home

Next steps for the other parts of the wider reformulation programme are outlined as follows:

- final work towards setting guidelines for the foods included in the calorie reduction programme
- PHE will publish the revised salt targets in 2020 for industry to achieve by mid-2023
- PHE will publish guidelines for commercial baby foods and drinks in early 2020, and monitor industry's progress
- work has begun on the next phase of engagement with specific parts of the out of home sector and will be focused towards travel and leisure businesses.

The next progress report is due in the first half of 2020.

You can read the report in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5kpv578>

## PHE UPDATE GUIDANCE ON HEALTHIER OUT OF HOME FOOD PROVISION

Public Health England (PHE) have published an update to the guidance on encouraging healthier 'out of home' food provision. This guidance supports local councils and independent food businesses in helping children and families to choose healthier food and is part of PHE's approach to dealing with obesity. It has been updated to reflect frying temperatures in EU Commission Regulation 2017/2158: establishing mitigation measures and benchmark levels for the reduction of the presence of acrylamide in food.

The updated guidance can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybag2978>

## SCOTLAND PUBLISHES ANALYSIS OF HFSS FOOD AND DRINK CONSULTATION

The Scottish government has published an external analysis of the responses received to its consultation on restricting the promotion and marketing of targeted food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt (HFSS) where they are sold to the public.

The consultation, which ran from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019, received 726 responses. In general, there was support for the aim to reduce the public health harms associated with the excessive consumption of calories, fat, sugar and salt and diet-related conditions. However, there were mixed views as to whether the restrictions proposed were the most appropriate way to achieve this.



Many respondents from non-industry organisations felt the proposed approach was necessary, whilst those from industry either disagreed with the approach or did not indicate a specific view but instead raised concerns and suggested alternative approaches

The feedback will now be used to inform the development of legislation and associated impact assessments, including a Business Regulatory Impact Assessment.

You can find more information here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5e854dk>

# IMPORTS AND THE SUPPLY CHAIN

## IPAFFS NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

The UK's new notification system for importing animals and animal products from non-EU countries (IPAFFS) is now open for registration.

However, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, you'll only be able to use it to import from countries that are not in the EEA. You will be able to use it for EEA imports by December 2019 but until then, for imports from the EEA you need to use the IV66 import notification form.

Note: You can use IPAFFS for testing and training before the UK leaves the EU, but notifications will not be valid.

To find out more on how to register and access IPAFFS click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5u5jg64>

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR UK BORDER INSPECTION POSTS UPDATED

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) have published updated contact details for UK border inspection posts (BIPs). This covers approved UK BIPs to check the animals or animal products in a consignment. The addresses for the border inspection posts at London Gateway, Thamesport and Tilbury have been updated.

The updated information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxw2k6t8>

## DIT LAUNCH ON-LINE SYSTEM FOR THE REPORTING OF TRADE BARRIERS

The Department for International Trade has launched an on-line system for the reporting of trade barriers. You can report trade barriers if you export goods or services. A trade barrier is something that slows down or stops your company from exporting goods or services to an overseas market.

If you're exporting goods, trade barriers can include, amongst others:

- Customs procedures - For example, lengthy procedures that delay goods getting to market.
- Import quotas or price controls - For example, limits on the amount of goods that can be imported.
- Packaging, labelling or design regulations - For example, overly specific requirements for information that must be on packaging.
- Restrictions on live animals, or animal and plant products - For example, a ban on a UK meat based on inaccurate ideas about animal health risks.
- Rules of origin issues - For example, problems with requirements for evidence demonstrating where goods were made.

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5tk678a>

## EC PUBLISH REPORT ON MARKET TRANSPARENCY IN THE EU'S FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

The European Commission have published a Staff Working Document entitled 'Market transparency in the EU's food supply chain' which accompanies the Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1185 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) No 1307/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards notifications to the Commission of information and documents (SWD/2019/0360 final).

This report sets out analysis focusing on the current level of market transparency in the food supply chain, its effects on agricultural producers and other food supply chain operators, the strengths and weaknesses of the current system of data collection and dissemination, and on how this system may usefully be improved through a targeted intervention. It also considers the challenges presented by varying the level of information availability in the chain, notably on the costs that increasing market transparency may entail.

You can find the working document here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2kqmx2> and the accompanying implementing regulation here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4pped9r>

# REGULATORY

## REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMON ENTRY HEALTH DOCUMENT

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1602 of 23 April 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Common Health Entry Document accompanying consignments of animals and goods to their destination was published in the Official Journal of the EU, L250/6, 30/09/2019.

The Regulation establishes the cases where and the conditions under which the Common Health Entry Document (CHED) is required to accompany each consignment of certain categories of animals and goods to the place of destination but does not apply to consignments in transit.

This Regulation entered into force on 20 October 2019 and applies from 14 December 2019.

Certain provisions however, will apply in each Member State from the date on which the customs electronic data-processing techniques become operational or from 1 March 2023, whichever is the earlier

The regulation can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y47m96do>

## RULES FOR MONITORING TRANSPORT AND ARRIVAL OF CONSIGNMENTS OF CERTAIN GOODS

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1666 of 24 June 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards conditions for monitoring the transport and arrival of consignments of certain goods from the border control post of arrival to the establishment at the place of destination in the Union was published in the Official Journal of the EU, L255/1, 04/10/2019.

The Regulation lays down rules for monitoring the transport and arrival of consignments of goods which are intended for placing on the market in the EU, where the transport of those goods from the border control post of arrival to the establishment at the place of destination in the EU is required to be monitored, in accordance with EU legislation.

The Regulation entered into force on 24th October 2019 and applies from 14th December 2019. It can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxjxthf5>

## UNIFORM MEASUREMENT OF LEVELS OF FOOD WASTE

Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/1597 of 3 May 2019 supplementing Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a common methodology and minimum quality requirements for the uniform measurement of levels of food waste was published in the Official Journal of the EU, L248/77, 27/09/2019.

The Decision sets out the scope of measurement of food waste, including the different stages of the food supply chain, and what items are not covered. The Decision also lays down the methodology for food waste measurement, which must be in metric tonnes of fresh mass, minimum quality requirements and voluntary measurement. It entered into force on 17 October 2019 and can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ap6f3l>



## GOVERNMENT CHEMIST PUBLISHES FOOD AND FEED LAW QUARTERLY LEGISLATION REVIEW

The Government Chemist has published the quarterly food and feed law legislation review. This report, covering the period from April to June 2019, provides information and updates on UK food and feed law and related scientific and regulatory issues. It also includes developments in EU exit legislation, Codex Alimentarius and other major trading blocs such as the USA.

The review can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5yunmqa>

## CONSULTATION ON ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR AGEING SHEEP AT SLAUGHTER

The Food Standards Agency (FSA), The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Welsh Government have carried out a consultation on a proposal to amend English and Welsh legislation on ageing sheep for the removal of certain body parts at slaughter.

The proposal would amend the TSE (England) and (Wales) Regulations 2018, so that English and Welsh sheep industries can take advantage of the EU's derogation, enabling the ageing of sheep at slaughter to be determined by methods other than dentition.

At present abattoirs count the number of a sheep's permanent teeth to decide its age, but under the new proposal, they would have the option of a date-based system. Sheep submitted for slaughter up to 30 June in the year after their birth would be considered to be under 12 months old. The consultation closed on 31<sup>st</sup> October but further information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4d5ya4g>

## PRIMARY AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP CASE STUDY

The Office for Product Safety and Standards have published details of a case study regarding a Primary Authority partnership that had helped a food business to develop a more effective food safety management system. The review of its food safety management system has resulted in the business increasing the number of its outlets with a Food Hygiene Rating score of 5.

You will find the case study here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5wumxee>

# RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

*The following article has kindly been provided by one of our members; Trade Interchange. Trade Interchange helps organisations reduce the costs, risks and complexities associated with managing a large supplier base.*

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROVIDES CONFIDENCE IN SUPPLY CHAIN



Artificial intelligence (AI) is an integral part of everyday life, from Siri, to Netflix and Gmail AI is engrained in technology often without our knowledge. Artificial intelligence is also now standard functionality within Trade Interchange's ARCUS® Supplier Information Management (SIM), which gathers information directly from suppliers tailored to a company's requirements. Key documents such as Modern Slavery statements, BRC

certificates, environmental and insurance policies amongst others are scanned by artificial intelligence at the point of upload, verifying the validity and accuracy of information held within the documents in order to provide confidence in the supply chain.

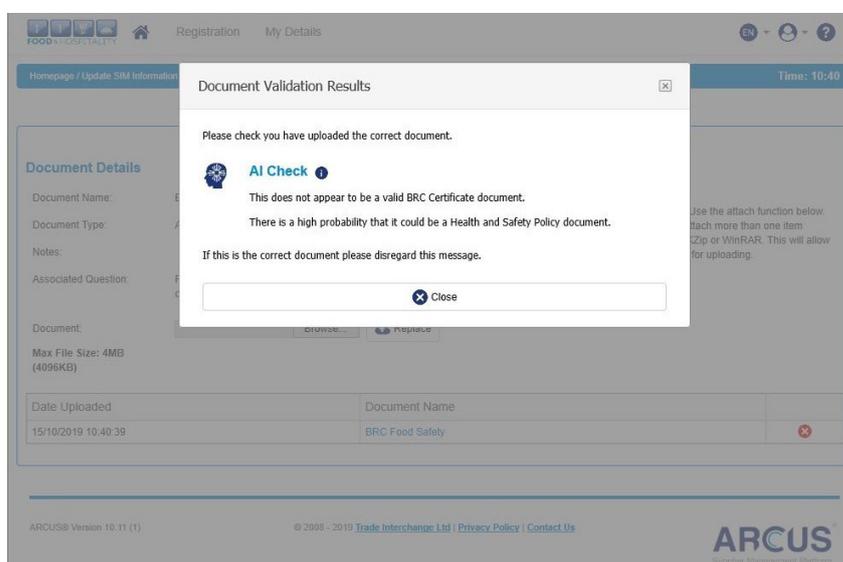
According to MHL News, over 6,500 hours are being wasted per year across the supply chain on repetitive tasks, which can be easily automated with the help of ARCUS® SIM's artificial intelligence, saving time while increasing the accuracy of information. AI not only increases confidence in the supply chain and suppliers' accreditations, but Trade Interchange's survey also found 60% of respondents believe that 'AI will help us to obtain/sustain our edge over competitors'.

You can find out more about artificial intelligence and the ways in which it can help deliver confidence in the supply chain here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4I5sot6>

<https://tinyurl.com/y6ra3dyp>

<https://tinyurl.com/y4agvrp4>



## GOVERNMENT FUNDING ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have announced that the Government has awarded £5 million of UK aid to a partnership programme between the UK and Argentina, to manage Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in agriculture and its impact on the environment.

The funding for the 'tools to tackle AMR in the environment' programme has been awarded via the Global AMR Innovation Fund and involves five research partnerships. The programme will be delivered by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in the UK and by CONICET in Argentina.

You can read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2utu6me>

# SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT & CSR

## WRAP PUBLISH FOOD WASTE REDUCTION ROADMAP PROGRESS REPORT 2019

Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have recently published the food waste reduction roadmap progress report 2019, covering progress made in the first year of the roadmap.



The report highlights that over 180 organisations have committed to 'Target, Measure and Act' on food waste, of which 156 are food businesses, including all large grocery retailers. The majority of these food businesses have provided evidence on strategies to reduce food waste, some publicly

You can read the report in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4p86wfr>

## WRAP PUBLISH RECYCLING TRACKER REPORT 2019

Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) have published the recycling tracker report 2019 - an annual survey of UK households on recycling attitudes, knowledge and behaviours. Almost 5,500 online interviews were undertaken, and the results highlight that:

- 60% of UK households report extra recycling of one or more items
- Just over half of UK households (51%) dispose of one or more items in the general rubbish that are collected for recycling in their area
- A quarter of UK households say they have been recycling more food waste in the past year
- Those who perceive a positive social norm recycle more items correctly

You can read the report in full here: <https://tinyurl.com/y64l8f5g>

## WRAP PUBLISH MATERIAL FLOW REPORTS FOR GLASS, PAPER AND CARD, WOOD AND METAL PACKAGING

Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has published material flow reports for the following packaging materials:

- Glass <https://tinyurl.com/y4spju92>
- Paper and Card <https://tinyurl.com/yxtoulgt>
- Wood <https://tinyurl.com/y5efp9a7>
- Metal <https://tinyurl.com/yyk4r6gb>

The reports estimate the quantity of each packaging material placed on the market and recycled in 2017, potential future levels to 2025 and the likelihood of compliance with national and European recycling targets.

Aluminium and paper and card packaging are expected to meet their recycling targets in 2018, 2019 and 2020 whilst wood packaging has a moderate possibility of meeting recycling targets in this period. Steel packaging is expected to meet recycling targets in 2018 and 2019, but fall short in 2020 and glass packaging recycling is expected to fall short of recycling targets during this period.

## REPORT ON IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT WASTE STRATEGY

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee have recently published a report on the implications of the Government waste strategy for local authorities. The report warns that the strategy risks placing a needless burden on local authorities by enforcing a prescriptive national approach to recycling and waste management. It welcomes the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme, but highlights that it must prove a reliable, long-term source of income and calls for greater clarity on how this money will be passed on to local authorities. The report also stresses that existing recycling infrastructure is inadequate to meet the targets and that significant investment (potentially up to £20 billion) will be needed.

You can read the report here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5nbak4c>

## EU REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The European Environment Agency has published a report on climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector in Europe.

The report projects that crop and livestock production will decrease and may even have to be abandoned in parts of Europe's southern and Mediterranean regions, due to climate change. It recommends that the EU's agricultural sector, including farming practices, make adapting to climate change a top priority to improve resilience to extreme events such as droughts, heatwaves and floods.

You can access the report here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ug5t9n>

## DECLARATION OF CIRCULAR PLASTICS ALLIANCE OPEN FOR SIGNATURES

The European Commission have announced that the declaration of the Circular Plastics Alliance is now open for signatures. The declaration is to be signed by public and private partners across the plastics value chain. It endorses the target of 10 million tons of recycled plastic used to make new products every year in the EU, by 2025, and calls for a move to zero plastic waste in nature and zero landfilling. The declaration sets out actions to reach the target, including:

- Making the design of plastic products more recyclable and integrate more recycled plastics
- Identifying potential for more plastic waste collection, sorting and recycling across the EU
- Building a research & development agenda for circular plastics
- Establishing a monitoring system to track all flows of plastic waste in the EU

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y69rf2py>

## COMMITTEE REPORT ON PLASTIC FOOD AND DRINK PACKAGING

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee have published a report on plastic food and drink packaging, looking at the role of packaging in reducing food waste.

The Committee recommended that the government should conduct a review of reusable and refillable packaging systems to assess what works and that parliament should aim to remove single-use packaging from all its catering facilities. It also supported proposals to improve the recycling rate of food and drink packaging with extended producer responsibility, a Deposit Return Scheme and consistency in recycling collections. The report calls for a modulated plastic packaging tax, with lower fees for higher levels of recycled content and stresses that imported, filled packaging should not be exempt from the tax.

The main conclusions were:

- For the *de minimis* threshold that determines which businesses must report on packaging to be significantly lowered
- For the plastic packaging tax, which would apply to packaging with less than 30 per cent recycled content, to be modulated so that there are lower fees for higher levels of recycled content. The committee also concluded that imported, filled packaging should not be exempt from the plastic packaging tax, as the Treasury has proposed
- That local authorities should be required to collect an agreed core set of dry materials for recycling
- To support the deposit return scheme, but monitor its financial impact on local authorities
- To support extended producer responsibility, so that producers pay the full costs of managing packaging waste.

More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2xo3pa5>

# CONSULTATIONS

EFSA - risks to public health related to the presence of aflatoxins in food produced by 2 species of Aspergillus.	Dietary exposure of the European population to aflatoxins raises a possible health concern.	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/yxgalqrh">https://tinyurl.com/yxgalqrh</a>	15 November 2019
EFSA – Cumulative risk of pesticides	Consultation on its 2 pilot assessments of the risks posed to humans by residues of multiple pesticides in food.	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/y4on86mu">https://tinyurl.com/y4on86mu</a>	15 November 2019
EFSA - Assessing consumer exposure to sweeteners	Consulting on a scientific protocol for assessing consumer exposure to sweeteners.	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/yvet9ha5">https://tinyurl.com/yvet9ha5</a>	22 November 2019.
SEPA - consultation on regulation of finfish aquaculture sector	Consulting on the next steps for regulation of the finfish aquaculture sector	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/y35ea7om">https://tinyurl.com/y35ea7om</a>	27 November 2019
Codex - Draft Guidelines on Voluntary Third-Party Assurance Programmes	The request seeks proposed changes and relevant comments / justifications on a specific paragraph and/or at the document level.	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/y3v2gcwp">https://tinyurl.com/y3v2gcwp</a>	31 December 2019
Scottish Government – animal health legislation	Consulting on proposals to amend The Animal Health Act 1981 to allow for more effective and proportionate enforcement provisions. Also seeking views on the effectiveness of existing provisions.	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/y285o4fr">https://tinyurl.com/y285o4fr</a>	23 December 2019

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