Dear Richard

Consultation on Recipe for Success: Scotland’s National Food & Drink Policy - Becoming a Good Food Nation

I am writing to you on behalf of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board in response to your consultation on ‘Recipe for Success: Scotland’s National Food & Drink Policy - Becoming a Good Food Nation’. I have agreed that the FSA’s Scottish Food Advisory Committee, which I know have considered the consultation in depth, will write to you with their specific and detailed comments.

As you are aware, the FSA currently retains statutory responsibility for food safety and standards and to ensure that consumers’ interests in relation to food are protected. As part of our strategy, we embrace our role in supporting economic growth, with the benefits it brings for consumers. FSA officials in Scotland, therefore, welcome this opportunity to work with the Scottish Government in developing and taking forward the outcomes of this Consultation. I also welcome the level of contact at official level that is taking place and hope that good collaboration will continue to support our shared interests in safe food after the establishment of Food Standards Scotland.

The FSA recognises and welcomes the intention to grow and develop significantly the food and drinks industry in Scotland.

I know you share the view that food safety and standards are vital to the success of the industry and the FSA will therefore work with your officials on the importance of food safety as an underlying principle to the development and growth of the sector.
which it will be useful to fully reflect in the policy. We agree that there are challenges to be faced in relation to diet, attitudes, access, and resilience and all of those are important in protecting public health.

The FSA noted the proposals with regard to the setting up of a Food Commission and while it is Food Standards Scotland (FSS) that will be responsible for working with Scottish Government, it will be important to ensure there is clarity on the respective roles of the Food Commission and FSS.

We expect FSA and FSS will continue to work closely together and we will, of course, be happy to support FSS where we can.

A copy of this letter goes to the Minister for Public Health, Michael Matheson, Jim Wildgoose, Chair of the Scottish Food Advisory Committee (SFAC) and SFAC members (with particular thanks to them for their contribution).

Yours sincerely,

Tim Bennett