



Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

Committee Office, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 1119 Email efracom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk

From the Chair of the Committee

Heather Hancock

Chair

Food Standards Agency

Floors 6 and 7, Clive House

70 Petty France

London SW1H 9EX

17 December 2020

Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene (FFSH) Common Framework

Thank you for your letter (12 November) inviting the EFRA Committee to scrutinise the provisional Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene Common Framework and for your offer of further information, should it be required.

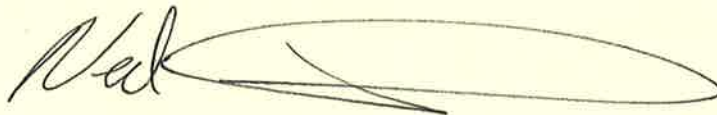
We held a call for evidence on the common framework between 27 November and 11 December. The evidence received is published on our website. We also informally discussed the common framework with some key stakeholders and have noted the correspondence between the FSA and the House of Lords Common Frameworks Scrutiny Committee on how the common framework relates to the Internal Markets Bill.

We have not identified any major concerns and welcome the processes set out in the framework for the four nations to continue to work together to develop evidence-based approaches and manage disputes. However, it is still unclear how the common framework will operate if Northern Ireland's regulatory system diverges from the GB system as a result of the Northern Ireland Protocol, and should problems materialise, we may wish to conduct further scrutiny.

We understand that stakeholders were well engaged in the development of the FFSH Common Framework. However, that engagement was time-constrained and based on a summary of the provisional common framework, which limited opportunities for detailed feedback. We recommend that the FSA and FSS seek stakeholder input should significant changes be made to the provisional FFSH Common Framework as a result of the ongoing negotiations with the EU and the development of the UK internal market.

We have no further concerns and look forward to the publication of the final framework.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Parish', followed by a large, horizontal, oval-shaped flourish.

Neil Parish
Chair of the Committee