



Minutes of the fifty-first meeting of the Advisory Board of **safefood**
held on Friday 26 January at 11 am
safefood's Boardroom, Block B, Abbey Court, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin

PRESENT:

Cllr Bertie Kerr (Chairman)
Ms Catherine Murphy (CM)
Prof Don Anderson (DA)
Mr Odran Flynn (OF)
Mr Leslie Craig (LC)
Ms Anne Speed (AS)
Prof Sean Strain (SS)
Prof Patrick Fottrell (PF)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Martin Higgins, Chief Executive (CEO)
Mr Ray Dolan, Director of Corporate Operations (RD)
Dr Clíodhna Foley-Nolan, Director, Human Health & Nutrition (CFN)
Ms Suzanne Doran, Director of Marketing (SD)
Mr Peter Dewhurst, Finance Manager (PD)
Mr Gary Kearney, Laboratory Liaison Manager (GK)
Mr Richard Murphy, Manager of Information Systems Administration (RM)
Ms Eileen O'Connor, acted as Secretary

APOLOGIES:

Prof Charlie Daly
Dr Margaret Patterson
Mr Damien O'Dwyer
Dr Thomas Quigley
Mr Patrick McColgan

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Noted: The Chairman welcomed everyone and noted all apologies.

The Chairman expressed great sadness at the sudden death of Mr Finbar Allison, who had previously held the position of **safefood**'s Director of Corporate Services and had served on the original Advisory Board.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2006

Agreed: The minutes were adopted with no amendments.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Noted: Enteric Reference Service - GK, Laboratory Liaison Manager, will collate information on current position and identify ways forward. It is aimed to have a paper outlining the current status in place to present to the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) towards the end of the year.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The CEO highlighted some of the key activities from the Chief Executive's Report.

Noted: The external audit field work was completed on 17 January. Improvements identified by the internal auditor are being implemented and the Board will be kept informed.

Noted: The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) met on 25 January. Discussion took place on the content of the Dairy Consumer Focus Review (CFR). SAC advice was that liquid milk should be the main focus initially and perhaps include reference to other dairy products.

Noted: Salt – field work in Northern Ireland has been completed by the Food Safety Authority on urinary analysis. **safefood** is working with UCC to provide data for the South.

Noted: The Education Strategy has been approved by the Executive Board and an implementation is being advanced.

Noted: The 'Superfoods' campaign has received positive reaction. Ogilvy advertising agency have been given a further one year contract.

Noted: Labelling Evaluation – There is potential for confusion given the different approaches being advocated in the two jurisdictions and a need for standardisation at European level. SAC Members suggested further in-house discussion and liaison with Department of Agriculture and Food.

Noted: **safefood** Communications Strategy is being developed in line with the Corporate Strategy.

5. SAC UPDATE

Noted: It was agreed that a sub-group should be set up to look into antimicrobial resistant bacteria in the food chain. Prof Seamus Fanning, Professor of Food Safety to University College Dublin will lead the group.

Noted: The new Chief Medical Officer for Northern Ireland will be visiting **safefood** in Cork on 24 April.

Noted: The SAC were presented with a paper on North-South Co-operation with a view to enhanced opportunities in a range of areas. As the new National Development Plan in the South provides for investment there may be an opportunity for **safefood** to take this forward.

The CEO suggested setting up a sub-committee involving members of the SAC and the Advisory Board in order to explore opportunities and to identify resource opportunities.

Noted: The following Advisory Board members volunteered to become part of the sub-committee:

Patrick Fottrell
Lesley Craig
Odran Flynn
Don Anderson

The CEO will give the matter further consideration.

Action: Members agreed that it would be useful to have a presentation on the National Development Plan. The CEO will organise this for the next Advisory Board meeting.

6. CORPORATE PLAN UPDATE

Members were given an update on the preparation of the Corporate Plan for 2008 – 2010. The CEO explained putting the plan together involves internal workshops with an external facilitator. The meetings will take place in February and March 2007 after which the plan will be written. The CEO welcomed input from Advisory Board, SAC and other stakeholders.

Action: Members will be circulated with information on the plan and at the Advisory Board meeting in April part of the agenda will be devoted to the Corporate Plan with the bulk of this looking at strategy.

7. PRESENTATION ON LABORATORY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LIMS)

Noted: Dr Gary Kearney, Laboratory Liaison Manager and Mr Richard Murphy, Manager of Information Systems Administration, gave a presentation.

Noted: The Chair and Members congratulated **safefood** on the LIMS project and its significance.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting ended.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be held on Friday 9 March 2007 in Dublin.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____