



Minutes of the thirty-eight meeting of the Advisory Board of the Food Safety Promotion Board held on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2005, at 11.00 am at **safefood's** Boardroom, 7 Eastgate Avenue, Little Island, Co. Cork

---

**PRESENT:**

Prof Charles Daly (Vice-Chairman)  
Prof Don Anderson  
Mr Leslie Craig  
Mr Odran Flynn  
Ms Catherine Murphy  
Ms Anne Speed

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Martin Higgins, Chief Executive  
Mr Peter Dewhurst, Finance Manager  
Mr Ray Dolan, Director, Planning & Resources  
Dr Clíodhna Foley-Nolan, Chief Specialist Public Health  
Ms Fiona Gilligan, Consumer Services Manager  
Dr Margaret Patterson, FSPB  
Dr Thomas Quigley, Director, Science and Technical  
Ms Jane Lennox, acted as Secretary

Presentation:

Dr Clíodhna Foley-Nolan,  
Chief Specialist Public Health, **safefood**

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr Bertie Kerr (Chairman)  
Ms Carmel Foley  
Prof Patrick Fottrell  
Mr Pat McColgan  
Mr Damien O'Dwyer  
Prof Sean Strain

## 1 **INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

Noted: Professor Charles Daly, Vice-Chairman chaired the thirty-eighth meeting of the Advisory Board as the Chairman had sent apologies. The Vice-Chairman was delighted to confirm to the Board that the Chairman had been successfully re-elected to his local Council.

The Vice-Chairman noted all other apologies.

## 2 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2005**

**Agreed:** The minutes were adopted with the following amendment, Mr Leslie Craig and Dr Margaret Patterson had attended the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and their attendance should be recorded in the revised minutes.

## 3 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## 4 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Noted: The CEO Report was detailed in its account due to the postponement of our April meeting and the CEO proposed to highlight the main areas of progress but welcomed any questions relating to the report.

Noted: Before commencing with the report the CEO shared with the Board the response from the Tanaiste and Minister for Health, Mary Harney, to our request for a delegation of the Board to meet her to discuss our work. Due to a very heavy schedule of Government and Departmental business, the Tanaiste regrets that she will not be in a position to meet us. However, the Tanaiste has forwarded our correspondence to Mr Tim O'Malley, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children with special responsibility for Food Safety for his consideration and direct reply.

The CEO has not heard from Mr O'Malley but will follow up our request with his office.

### **Planning and Resources**

Noted: The vacant permanent posts and a temporary post of twelve months duration were filled by interview.

Information Technology (IT) will continue to be supported by an IT Project Coordinator on a temporary contract, reflecting the many and varied IT developments currently underway (e.g. research data repository, contacts managements database etc).

### **Organisational and Structural Review**

Noted: Ernst and Young completed their field-work on the Organisational and Structural Review. An initial first draft report is currently under discussion with the CEO and a second draft and finalised report is due shortly and will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting in June.

### **2003 Annual Report**

Noted: The 2003 Annual Report is under preparation.

### **Audit**

Noted: The C&AG staff (Dublin and Belfast) field-work on the 2004 financial statements is complete.

The Audit Committee which includes two members of the Advisory Board, the Chairman and Ms Carmel Foley received training from the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and this was well received.

### **Laboratory Integration IT Project**

Noted: The Expression of Interest to deliver a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) for the Island of Ireland was posted in the European Journal and on the e-tenders web-site. The closing date for expressions of interest is May 23, 2005.

### **Pensions**

Noted: The North/South Pension Scheme has been approved.

### **Public Health and Nutrition Update**

#### **ROI National Zoonosis Committee Proposal**

Noted: **safefood** has entered preliminary discussions with key partners with a view to the development of a National Zoonosis Committee in the South which would aim in the long term to link in with the Northern Ireland Committee.

## **safefood is a member of the Nutrition and Health Foundation launched in March 2005**

Noted: This partnership was founded by the Food and Drinks Industry. It is hoped that it will be an important vehicle for **safefood** collaboration with relevant industry stakeholders. Dr Foley-Nolan and Ms Gilligan are committee members of the Foundation and Professor Daly has also been asked to Chair one of the Committees. Ms Speed suggested that the Foundation could perhaps speak to Inter-trade Ireland about developing the Foundation on an all-island basis.

## **ROI Folic Acid Fortification Consultation is underway**

Noted: Dr Foley-Nolan as a member of the national group took part in a fact finding visit to the USA and Canada where food fortification is established for a number of years.

## **Food and Nutrition Forum**

Noted: The eighth and final meeting of the Convening Group set up to establish the Food and Nutrition Forum was held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2005 and was followed by the inaugural meeting of the Food and Nutrition Forum.

The initial task of the Forum is to facilitate an all-island workshop on the public health implications of salt to be held in the autumn.

The next meeting of the Forum will take place in late June.

## **Science and Technical Update**

### **Research**

Noted: A **safefood** funded research project investigating food safety behaviour in the home by consumers on the island of Ireland is nearing completion and two workshops will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May (UCD, Dublin) and 18<sup>th</sup> May (Loughry Campus, CAFRE, Cookstown). The junior Minister for Agriculture, Mr Brendan Smith, will open the UCD event and Mr Pat Toal, Permanent Secretary of DARD will open the event at Loughry Campus.

Noted: In association with a newly commissioned research project between QUB and the National Food Centre, **safefood** sponsored a conference on the use of illegal hormone growth promoters. The meeting was held on the 9th and 10th March and received very positive feedback.

## **Microbiological Safety of Food Funders Group (MSFFG)**

Noted: **safefood** has been invited, as an observer, to join the UK-based Microbiological Safety of Food Funders Group (MSFFG).

MSFFG was formed in July 1997 and includes public funders of food microbiology research in the UK.

### **Enteric Reference Laboratory Service**

Noted: The Enteric Reference Service Economic Appraisal has been sent to the Departments of Health for initial comments before final submission to the NSMC and a response is awaited.

### **Lablink Activities**

#### **Laboratory Workshops**

Noted: The LabLink Unit hosted the second series of regional two-day workshops on people management skills for senior laboratory staff.

#### **Lablink Newsletter**

Noted: A new edition of the ***lablinks*** newsletter was published in early April with a number of interviews including an interview with the Chair, Bertie Kerr.

### **Development of Reporting System for Rapid Access to Laboratory Results**

Noted: The cross-directorate project with regard to the development of electronic food data reporting systems in Northern Ireland is moving steadily and the Republic of Ireland has progressed further. The project when developed will be unique in Europe.

### **Scientific Advisory Committee**

Noted: An interim procedures paper on the appointment of a new Scientific Advisory Committee has been forwarded to the NSMC for approval. Once approval is received a meeting of the new SAC will be arranged for September.

### **Marketing and Communications Update**

Noted: Ms Gilligan updated the board on the current activities in the Marketing and Communications directorate.

### **Advertising**

Noted: It is proposed that the salt awareness radio and press advertising campaign will be launched w/c May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is proposed to run for 3 weeks. Two consumer flyers are also in preparation.

## Direct Marketing

Noted: The recent 'Fit for Society' direct marketing student campaign was recently entered into the Association of Promotional Marketing Consultants (APMC) awards. The awards, which took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April, saw **safefood** winning two awards.

The campaign also won an IDMA award (Irish Direct Marketing Association) on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Noted: Ms Gilligan also updated the Board on current helpline activity.

## 5 PRESENTATION: 'PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION'

Noted: Dr Cliodhna Foley-Nolan, Chief Specialist Public Health, **safefood** gave a presentation on Public Health and Nutrition.

Noted: The Board complimented Dr Foley-Nolan on an excellent presentation.

## 6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be held on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in Dublin.

## 7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Noted: The Board and staff congratulated the CEO on reaching the grand age of '50 Years'

Noted: There being no further business the meeting closed.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_