



Minutes of the 91st meeting of the Advisory Board of **safefood**

Held on Friday, 25th January 2013 at 10.30am

At **safefood** Offices, Dublin

PRESENT:

Ms Lynn Ni Bhaoighealláin (LNB- Chair)

Ms Darina Allen (DA)-(Vice Chair)

Mr Edward Spellman (ES)

Mr Thomas Burns (TB)

Ms Helen O Donnell (HOD)

Ms Julie Andrews (JA)

Ms Hannah Su (HS)

Dr Mary Upton (MU)

Ms Jane Wells (JW)

Mr Brendan Kehoe (BK)

Mr Alan Mc Grath (AMG)

Safefood

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Martin Higgins, Chief Executive (MH)

Mr Ray Dolan, Director of Corporate Operations (RD)

Ms Fiona Gilligan – Director of Marketing & Communications(FG)

Dr Gary Kearney – Director Food Science (GK)

Ms Fredrica Doyle, PA

APOLOGIES:

Mr Campbell Tweedie (CT)

1. Introduction and apologies

Noted: The chair opened the meeting and apologies were received from Mr Campbell Tweedie.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 7th December

Noted: The minutes of the 90th meeting were reviewed and agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Feedback from facilitated discussion – December meeting

The feedback from the facilitated review of the current board's first year was positive. Board members expressed a willingness to act in a representative capacity, and to act to activate as advocates/ambassadors for **safefood**.

Action: CEO will contact members individually to take this forward.

5. Chief Executive Report

safefood had underspent by €1m in 2012, as a number of activities were put on hold at the request of the sponsor departments, pending the outcome of the two jurisdictional reviews. The Business Plan 2013 is being submitted to the sponsor departments and will

be presented to the board for information at the next meeting. The aim is to have the plan formally approved formally at the next NSMC meeting.

GK provided an overview of a number of research projects that had recently been completed

These included:

- “The Cost of Overweight and Obesity on the island of Ireland” carried out by Prof. Ivan Perry from University College Cork – launched November 2012.
- “Survey of artificial colours in selected ethnic food in takeaways” carried out by the Cork Public Analyst’s Laboratory showed no issues of concern but further guidance and information for catering staff would be advantageous. As the presence of artificial colours in food is of interest to consumers generally, **safefood** will soon launch a new interactive ‘food colour’ information resource that will be available on the **safefood** website.

Details of a new **safefood** public research tender were provided for nine new research projects in the areas of emerging food safety hazards and risks, food traceability and nutritional composition. The tender notice was advertised in newspapers and on key websites with a closing date for applications of Friday 25th January 2013. Eligible applications will be thereafter externally evaluated and it is planned to have a further procurement exercise in early April for a number of other projects.

Action: GK to send link to research projects to board members.

MH updated board members on the issue of horse meat in the food chain. A discussion took place on the topic. It was the view of the board that the issue was symptomatic of a “race to the bottom” by retailers to supply cheap, processed food. Discussion also took place around the challenges for families in accessing a healthy affordable diet without the need to rely mainly on highly processed food. Schools were identified as playing a key role in developing the relationship with food, nutrition and cooking skills.

6. Project presentation

Dr Aileen McGloin, **safefood**, presented the summary findings from the **safefood**-commissioned research project ‘The cost of Overweight and Obesity on the Island of Ireland

7. Any Other Business

Noted: There been no other business the meeting closed.

Date of next meeting: March 22nd 2013 in Dublin offices