



Minutes of the 57th meeting of the Advisory Board of **safefood**
held on Friday 2nd November 2007 at 11.00 am
safefood's Boardroom, Block B, Abbey Court, Lower Abbey St, Dublin 1

PRESENT:

Cllr Bertie Kerr (Chairman)
Prof Charlie Daly (CD)
Prof Don Anderson (DA)
Mr Odran Flynn (OF)
Mr Leslie Craig (LC)
Mr Damian O'Dwyer (DoD)
Prof Sean Strain (SS)
Ms Anne Speed (AS)
Prof Patrick Fottrell (PF)
Ms Catherine Murphy (CM)
Mr Patrick McColgan (PMC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Martin Higgins, Chief Executive (CEO)
Mr Ray Dolan, Director of Corporate Operations (RD)
Dr Thomas Quigley, Director, Food Science (TQ)
Ms Suzanne Doran, Director of Marketing (SD)
Ms Eileen O'Connor, acted as Secretary

APOLOGIES:

Mr Peter Dewhurst
Dr Margaret Patterson
Dr Cliodhna Foley-Nolan

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

Noted: The Chairman welcomed everyone and noted all apologies.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2007

Agreed: The minutes were adopted with no amendments.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

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

Noted: The CEO informed that on the NSMC website there is an invite for submissions relating to the St Andrew's Agreement Review to be furnished by 15th November 2007. Terms of reference are available at www.northsouthministerialcouncil.org. A review group is drawing up a list of required papers, including board minutes, corporate plans, reviews etc. The CEO and the Chairman will meet with the reviewers before end of November, this will be followed by a process of consultation for other stakeholders. It is expected that the review will be completed and presented to an NSMC plenary meeting in 2008.

Noted: Details of appointments to the new Advisory Board have not yet been received.

Noted: An NSMC health sector meeting will be held in Dublin Castle on 28th November 2007. The last meeting was held in October 2002. The CEO will attend the meeting and will give a summary of work carried out by **safe food** during the past five years. He will also present the Corporate Plan, Business Plan and a paper on the Enteric Reference Service.

Noted: The CEO will attend the Equality Tribunal in Belfast on 22nd November.

Noted: Members agreed that it would now be appropriate to publish the Consumer Focussed Review on Beef.

Noted: The CEO informed that he met with Minister Trevor Sargent TD on 1st November. Minister Sargent is keen on the implementation of education policies and was impressed with work carried out by **safe food**. A primary school initiative on

potato growing was outlined by the Minister and his officials, and **safefood**'s participation in the project was invited. Briefing meetings will be arranged to keep the Minister up to date on **safefood** campaigns.

5. CORPORATE PLAN UPDATE

Noted: Members were given an updated draft Corporate Plan 2008-2010. A key element of the Plan is to achieve a joined-up all island approach to food safety and healthy eating. The draft Corporate Plan will be presented to the NSMC for approval.

6. ENTERIC REFERENCE SERVICES

RD explained to members that it is within **safefood**'s statutory remit to carry out research into the need for an Enteric Reference Laboratory on the IoI. An interim paper on the Enteric Reference Service has now been prepared and will be presented to the NSMC in November. Members were given a copy of the draft.

Noted: The CEO explained that the NSMC is being asked to note progress and to endorse further exploration of the options.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Noted: DoD discussed significant changes on the food supply in the RoI. He informed that availability of Irish beef and pork is reducing and this could have an implication for household budgets.

Noted: DoD suggested that the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) look at GM Feed as an agenda item in order to determine whether there are human health implications.

Noted: The CEO informed members that this would be SD's last meeting as she leaves **safefood** at the end of November. He thanked SD for her contribution to **safefood** and on behalf of **safefood** staff and Advisory Board members wished her every success with her future endeavours.

Noted: In return SD thanked the Advisory Board and **safefood** staff, she said that she had enjoyed her time at **safefood** and had learned a lot from the Advisory Board.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be held on Friday 7th December 2007 in Dublin.