



Food Fraud – a Policy Perspective

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Food Fraud - What's the problem?

- Affects everyone – consumers, commercial interests, regulators
- Opportunities for fraud will be exploited
- Economic factors (e.g. increasing commodity prices) provide greater opportunity/incentive/rewards
- Not just about money – deception/health/choice/ethical issues
- Fraud is often very sophisticated – deliberate avoidance of regulatory and commercial controls
- National and International problem - cross boundary issues
- Limited resources for regulatory enforcement
- Headline grabbing...

Attitudes change...



Horsemeat Incident - testing

UK Sampling Programme

- 27 UK processed beef products positive for horsemeat/DNA at or above 1% (total meat content)
- Local Authority testing- 3 tranches; January - March 2013 514 samples. >98% negative for horse DNA.
- Industry: 38,473 samples submitted to FSA since Feb 2013
47 positive results

Horsemeat Incident – testing (2)

- European Union Programme
 - 7,259 tests in 27 EU countries
 - 4,144 tested for horsemeat DNA
 - 193 positives (4.66%)
 - 3,115 tested for phenylbutazone
 - 16 positives (0.51%)
 - Further 7,951 tests by FBOs
 - 110 positive horsemeat DNA (1.38%)

Reviews post-Horsemeat

- Professor Troop – FSA handling
- Professor Scudamore - Scotland
- Professor Elliott
- EFRA Select Committee
- NAO Value for Money
- Welsh Government
- European Commission –
Commissioner Borg's 5 point plan

Key Issues

- Lack of intelligence
- Collaboration is important – Govt and Industry
- Complexity of global food chain and lack of transparency
- Food Fraud – economic drivers - high value, low penalties, minimal detection ?
- Labelling....authenticity....fraud....safety
...the Public Confidence continuum
- Investigations still ongoing
(jointly with police and across EU)

Next steps: Fraud Intelligence, Surveillance & Response

- Established FSA Intelligence Hub
- Developing a Food Crime Intelligence Unit
 - Networks/Data sharing – including IPO, NTSB, NCA, NFIB, Industry
- Clarifying roles/responsibilities for investigations and enforcement; Legal Powers
- Revised Incident Response Plan
- Review of Surveillance – risk-based, intelligence-targeted

Next steps: Fraud Intelligence, Surveillance & Response(2)

- Data Mapping Exercise with LFRA
- Vulnerability analysis – global food chains
- Improved definitions and agreed thresholds
- UK seconded national representative for new European Commission Food Fraud Unit
- Improved systems for data gathering/analysis (Fraud, Incidents, Imported food, Emerging Risks, etc)
- Next tranche of European testing...



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