



**To: Heads of Environmental Health Service
Directors of Trading Standards Services**

cc: CIEH, TSI, other trade bodies, industry reps as appropriate

Title: Regulating Our Future: Why food regulation needs to change and how we are going to do it	Date: 20 July 2017
Summary: Publication of a paper explaining Regulating Our Future programme activity and description of the changes we want to make to the delivery model.	Category: Food Hygiene Food Standards Feed Port Health
Action required Content and link to the paper to be shared with relevant officers within your authority and also senior managers and cabinet members.	Notification type: For Information and action Ref: ENF/E/17/048

Dear Colleague

I am pleased to share with you an important paper that we are publishing today: "Regulating Our Future: Why food regulation needs to change and how we are going to do it" which may be found at <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2017/16363/fsa-publishes-plans-future-regulation>

Over 700 officers involved in delivering food regulation, including many of you, have attended one of our recent workshops with local authorities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. These events were set up to discuss and explain what Regulating Our Future (ROF) means for food regulation in the three countries and particularly the vital role that local authorities will continue to play in the future. Our discussions with you have underlined the important service you provide in your local communities and the expertise you bring to food regulation.

I appreciate the way that so many of you have stepped forward to help us shape the model for future regulation: your engagement and insights have been invaluable.

I'd urge you to use this paper as a way of explaining what ROF means to your colleagues across your authority, and to bring your elected members up to speed, particularly those with relevant cabinet responsibilities.

In doing so, please emphasise that this programme of transformation is not intended to result in a reduction in local authority funding to deliver this key public protection activity. Rather, the changes we plan will lead, over time, to a different balance of activities at local authority level, all contributing to food being safe and what it says it is.

The document gives a clear and concise description of the changes we want to make, to build a modern, risk-based, proportionate, robust and resilient system.

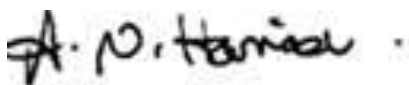
Chief among these are:

- An enhanced system of registration for businesses which will mean securing better information on which to identify and manage risk across the food chain.
- Segmenting businesses in a better way so that we can make proportions decisions about inspection and assurance regimes. This means using a range of risk indicators based on wider information about the business, including the information gathered at the point of registration and from other sources.
- Developing confidence in businesses that they are doing the right thing. Depending on how good the information is that businesses provide, including their past performance, we will set the frequency and type of inspection activity they face.
- Our on-going commitment to our very successful and trusted Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. We will continue to ensure the scheme is sustainable and display becomes mandatory in England as it is in Wales and Northern Ireland.

We intend the new regime to come fully into effect from 2020 onwards. Now that we have confirmed the shape and direction of the regulatory model, we have a comprehensive programme underway to develop the fine detail, conduct and learn from tests and trials, and plan a careful, managed roll-out.

I hope you find this document clear and useful. If you are not already involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via futureDelivery@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk or join the conversation #foodregulation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. N. Harrison'.

Nicolette Harrison
**Deputy Director,
Head of Regulatory Delivery Division**