

**Minister for Public Health and  
Women's Health**  
Jenni Minto MSP



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Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport  
Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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4 July 2023

Dear Clare,

### **The Food (Scotland) Act 2015 (Compliance Notices) Regulations 2023**

Thank you for your letter following the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee meeting on 20 June 2023. You asked for more information on the arrangements in place for local monitoring and how Food Standards Scotland (FSS) will work with local authorities (LAs) in this regard.

FSS advise me that they are in regular contact with all the LAs. FSS has several platforms through which LAs can give feedback on any issues that they may have in using the compliance notice. FSS can be contacted directly using their Enforcement mailbox which is used regularly by LAs. This mailbox is constantly monitored, and each email is recorded on their database. Using this well-established approach will enable FSS to keep a record of all the queries that they receive regarding the use of the compliance notice.

There are regular meetings with LAs through the 4 regional food liaison groups that are composed of all the 32 Scottish LAs. Each group meets quarterly and FSS Officials attend all of these meetings. The meetings allow LAs to discuss local issues with each other and raise issues that FSS need to be aware of and/or give advice on. These groups also provide a forum through which FSS can engage with LAs on a wide scope of food related matters.

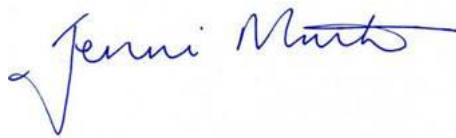
The Scottish Food Enforcement Liaison Committee (SFELC) is another key stakeholder group that FSS meet regularly with. SFELC brings together LA Enforcement Officers, Public Analysts, consumer bodies and food industry stakeholders in Scotland and supports the work of FSS by providing information and expert advice in relation to food and feed law enforcement. SFELC contributes to the development and implementation of FSS strategies and policies for fulfilling its core functions in respect of food and feed safety and consumer protection.

SFELC has been briefed on compliance notices as a matter of course. This is another channel that would give vital feedback to FSS on any issues raised regarding the use of compliance notices.

Over and above attendance at these regular groups, FSS will also gather feedback, comments and queries from LA colleagues in their usual interactions to support continuous assessment and review of the effectiveness of the new legislation.

I hope this answers your question. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenni Minto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

**JENNI MINTO**