

BEFORE EDITING

1 OUR VISION

Our vision

1.1 Our vision is:

- **safe food and healthy eating for all**

1.2 Everything we do reflects this vision, and our core values:

- **putting the consumer first**
- **openness and independence**
- **science and evidence-based**

1.3 Putting the consumer first means:

- making food safety our first priority
- ensuring that people have information and opportunities to make choices about food
- enabling people to understand risks and benefits

1.4 Being open means we:

- are **answerable to the public**, who indirectly fund the FSA and have a key interest in its effective operation – the organisation therefore needs to hold itself open to **scrutiny**, allowing stakeholders to question and challenge any aspect of our policy and regulatory decision-making
- must **be impartial** in the way it acts to protect consumers and their interests, reaching balanced and evidence-based decisions and acting according to its founding statute – openness allows the organisation to both illustrate its impartiality and protect itself from undue pressures; and
- are most effective when **operating by consent** – openness allows stakeholders to make reasoned judgements on the extent to which the FSA demonstrates the characteristics of fairness, competence and efficiency that underpin public confidence and stakeholder trust in any regulator and its decisions

1.5 Being independent means:

- being impartial and honest
- basing our decisions on the best expert advice
- gaining international respect for UK food safety and nutritional standards
- publishing our advice

1.6 Being science and evidence-based means:

- using the best available science and other evidence to develop policies

- communicating clearly what is known and what is not known about food safety and dietary health
- funding work to address uncertainties in the science and to assess the effectiveness of our policies

Our principles in practice

- 1.7 As an organisation, as an employer, and as individuals, we value:
- honesty, objectivity, and integrity
 - challenging for continuous improvement, efficiency, and effectiveness
 - diversity, co-operation and respect
- 1.8 More information about us can be found in appendix 1, and an organisation chart at appendix 2. Details of our Board and Chief Executive are at appendix 3.

AFTER EDITING

OUR VISION

Our vision at the Food Standards Agency is ‘safe food and healthy eating for all’.

Everything we do is reflected in this vision and the core values of:

1. putting the consumer first
2. being open and independent
3. basing decisions on science and reliable evidence

Putting the consumer first

The Agency makes food safety its first priority. Above all, it works to give consumers the chance to make informed choices about the food they eat, so they are able to understand the risks and benefits in different cases.

Being open and independent

It is vital for the FSA to be impartial and honest in the way it acts to protect consumers. Decisions should always be balanced, based on reliable evidence from the best expert advice, and published whenever possible to make it accessible.

The Agency is at its most effective when it operates with consent. Openness demonstrates fairness, competence and efficiency – characteristics that underpin confidence and trust in any regulator. As a government-funded organisation, the FSA is answerable to the general public. It should therefore allow all stakeholders to challenge any aspect of its policy and regulatory decision making.

As well as stakeholder confidence and trust, the Agency hopes to build on the high level of international respect for UK food safety and nutritional standards.

Basing decisions on science and reliable evidence

It is vital that all policies developed by the FSA are based on the best available science and evidence. The Agency always aims to communicate clearly what is known and not known about food safety and dietary health. It also strives to fund work that addresses uncertainties in science and assesses the effectiveness of its own policies.

Our principles in practice

At the FSA, we value honesty, integrity and objectivity, and we continually push for the highest levels of efficiency. As an organisation, as an employer, and as individuals, we strongly advocate diversity, co-operation and respect.

You can read more about the organisation on page xx. We've published an organisation chart on page xx, and details of our Board and Chief Executive can be found on page xx.