

Annex A

Request

I would like to receive copies of any documents concerning the Food Standards Agency's position or views on hormone-treated beef and chlorinated chicken or any other issues discussed in relation to a US-UK trade deal. Specifically, I would like to see:

- Any position papers or briefing documents by the FSA on these issues since July 24th 2019
- Any advice to the government on these issues since July 24th 2019
- All written communications regarding these issues, from 1st January 2020 to the present day, with any ministers, including the Secretary of State, at the Department for International Trade

Written communications' in this context includes, but is not limited to: letters, emails, memos, cover sheets associated with any documents, briefing notes, meeting agendas, text messages, and messages sent through messaging apps (e.g. WhatsApp), from the chair of the FSA's board and the chief executive and directors, as listed [here](#).

Please also provide attachments to these communications and any external reports referenced in the correspondence.

Foreword

The FSA puts food safety and consumer interest at the heart of everything we do.

We provide expert independent advice based on the latest scientific evidence to ensure that all food imports into the UK comply with our existing high safety standards.

The current rules will remain in place now that the UK has left the EU. Any potential changes to the UK's food hygiene standards would be subject to a rigorous risk analysis with our absolute priority being the protection of public health.

The FSA does not have a position on potential changes which have not been subject to this process. If and when that happens the FSA will make recommendations to Ministers who will make the decision, and the FSA's recommendation and the evidence underpinning it will be published.

Background

Currently only potable water is allowed to be used for the washing of poultry carcasses in the UK and imported meat must comply with UK's food hygiene standards. There is no intention currently to change this following the UK having left the EU.

Response

- **Any position papers or briefing documents by the FSA on these issues since July 24th 2019**

Please refer to Annex C

- **Any advice to the government on these issues since July 24th 2019**

There was no advice given by the FSA to government relating to hormone treated beef. Advice given to government by the FSA relating to chlorinated chicken is provided in Annex D.

Personal information that might identify individuals involved has been redacted under section 40 (personal information) of the Act.

Further details about our use of this exemption has been provided in Annex B below

- **All written communications regarding these issues, from 1st January 2020 to the present day, with any ministers, including the Secretary of State, at the Department for International Trade**

No information held. We do not hold any communications on the issues you raise to any ministers, including the Secretary of State or the Department for International Trade.

Annex B

Section 40 (*Personal information*)

The information in relation to the names and contact details of FSA employees below civil service grade 7 and third parties has been withheld. under section 40 (2) & (3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) which relates to personal information. The names and direct contact details of FSA employees below civil service grade 7 and third parties, would not be in the public domain.

We consider that it would be disproportionate for us to publicly disclose personal details about members of staff and other individuals, unless there is a strong public interest in doing so.

Article 5 (1) (a) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Section 35 (1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) requires the processing of personal data to be fair and lawful. The individual has a legitimate and reasonable expectation that their personal details will not be disclosed in the context in which it is held. Disclosures under the Act are not just to those who request it but to the 'the world'.

On balance, we do not consider there to be a legitimate public interest in disclosing this information. Disclosure of this information would contravene the first data protection principle, particularly that to process the data in this way (i.e. by disclosure to the public) would not be fair in all the circumstances. Furthermore, we do not consider that Art 6 (1) of the GDPR is satisfied in that disclosure would not be lawful.

Therefore, the information is exempt under section 40 (2) & (3) of the Act.