

FOOD FRAUD AND THE ELLIOTT REPORT

The FSA response

John Barnes





**Food
Standards
Agency**
food.gov.uk

Food Fraud and Elliott Report FSA Response

John Barnes
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UK Regulatory approach

- EU requirements provide UK enforcement framework & approach – Key Regs currently being reviewed.
- Most UK enforcement delivered by Local Authorities, apart from raw meat processing sector:
- LA Official Control delivery.....
 - 400+ enforcement authorities
 - 600,000+ food businesses
 - 500,000+ on site official controls annually
 - 180,000+ Formal actions
 - 70,000+ food samples, analysis by OCLs
 - 2,500 FTE LA staff
- FSA coordinates food safety and fraud incidents, and provides a range of support to target LA actions eg fighting fund \ training \ capability



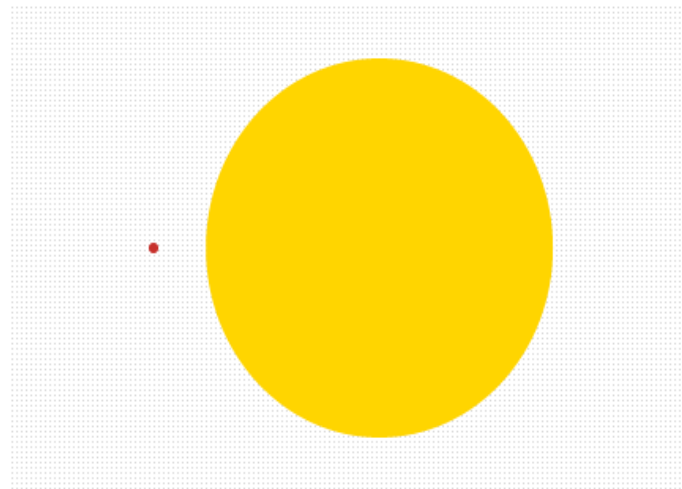
Elliott \ Food Crime - Strategic Response

- Elliott Review (the Government Review) into the integrity and Assurance of Food Supply Networks – a game changer
- Elliott Report (and other reviews) had common conclusions:
 - Acknowledged (generally) good food safety controls
 - Concerns about systems to protect consumers wider interests ie food authenticity, fraud, food crime
 - Concerns about the sustainability of public controls eg LA EH\TS services and analytical capability \ capacity
- 8 key recommendations relating to consumer confidence, intelligence gathering, deterrence, analytical capability, industry audit, incident management and government support and oversight



Strategic Response

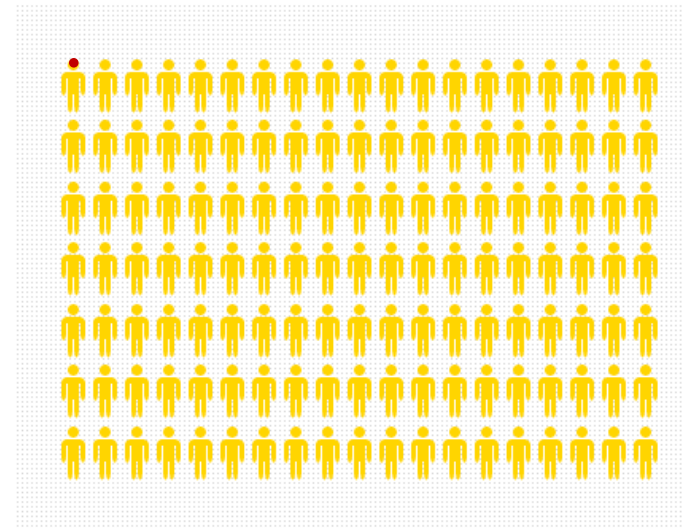
Expenditure makes up 0.08% of Food Sector Turnover



FSA and LAs Food Sector

Sources: FSA annual accounts 2012-13, FSA estimates of LA Food Safety and Food Standards expenditure 2012-13, Annual Business Survey 2012

Staff make up 0.12% of people working in the Food Sector



FSA and LAs Food Sector

Sources: FSA annual accounts 2012-13, FSA estimates of LA Food Safety and Food Standards expenditure 2012-13, Annual Business Survey 2012

Food Sector Food Product Manufacturing, Food and Drink Wholesale; Food and Beverage Service; Food/Beverages Retail Sales. Does not include Agriculture

FSA Strategy 2015-20

The main objective of the Agencyis to protect public health from risks which may arise in connection with the consumption of food (including risks caused by the way in which it is produced or supplied) **and otherwise to protect the interests of consumers in relation to food.**

(Section 1: Food Standards Act 1999)

The response

- Recent Reviews have called for improved:
 - Awareness and vigilance** Focus \ training \ reporting
 - Intelligence** Hub \ information sharing \ safe havens \ enhanced networks and analyses
 - Capability** Food Crime Unit \ RIOs \ review of Laboratory Services and methodologies
 - Incident response** Revised Response Plan \ exercises \ FCU
 - Audit and surveillance** Strengthened focus \ skills \ recognition
 - Detection and sanctions** New sentencing guidance \ targeted surveys \ reporting \ prosecution
- Encouraging similar actions EU \ Global

Food Crime Unit

- Systems based on the National Intelligence Model (NIM) - operated by police and NTSB
- Working with existing regulatory partners
- Emphasis on intelligence sharing with industry and OGDs including Defra, NCA, NTSB, NFIB and the Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN)
- Improving FSA food systems intelligence, capability and response – restructuring, recruitment & up-skilling
 - Sharing strategic and tactical intelligence
 - Providing guidance, funding and on site support with investigations
 - Identifying, disrupting and prosecuting offenders
- Cross Government Ministerial Group on Food Integrity & Food Crime met December 2014

Some Information Sources

Information accessible to FSA

- Stakeholder engagement (national, European and international), emerging risks and horizon scanning data, incident information, advisory committees, research, surveillance, media information.....

Information from enforcement authorities

- Environmental health, trading standards and port health authority surveillance and enforcement activities

Information from industry

- Formal and informal trade mechanisms, reporting issues of concern including the unusual, the unexpected and the suspicious, whistleblowing.....

Intelligence relating to criminal activity

- Intelligence from enforcement and investigatory organisations including the police, NCA, NFIB, HMRC, NTSB, IPO, Border Force, European Commission, Europol,

Some Issues



- Intelligence sharing – improving but...
- Training is needed for regulators and industry
- Cannot ignore communication and controls in SMEs
- Surveillance and laboratory capability
- 24\7 news, internet and social media
- An effective response requires improved collaboration and intelligence sharing across the global supply network

‘We’re all in it together!’