



Annual Report 2017

Contributing to public health and wellbeing by promoting food safety and healthy eating on the island of Ireland

2017 at a glance

Research

One of **safefood**'s primary functions is to 'bring about general acceptance that responsibility for the provision of safe food is shared among producers, processors and distributors at all levels, caterers and the general public'. To this effect, **safefood** considers the entire food chain in its outlook on research and ensures that our research programme is linked to and supports our primary functions.

Networks

safefood's networks form dynamic and rewarding environments for the exchange of information for the mutual benefit of stakeholders.

Events

The success of our professional and public-facing events reflects our approach to sharing knowledge, building relationships and offering practical advice.

Education Resources

With the changes in our food supply chain and lifestyles, it is important that young people are educated on the importance of food safety, food hygiene and nutrition. **safefood** recognises that teachers play a vital role in developing the habits of young people that can last a lifetime.

Campaigns

Our key messages of food safety, food hygiene and nutrition are communicated using a combination of advertising, public relations, direct marketing, digital and social media, events, publications, sponsorship and the **safefood** website.

Corporate Operations

The services provided span the areas of accounting and finance, procurement, human resources, information technology facilities, legal governance and audit, all contributing to facilitate the efficient and effective delivery of **safefood**'s business goals and strategy.

Chief Executive's statement



In looking at 2017, what is evident is the significant, relevant and impactful output of work from safefood and our continued role in improving public health on the island of Ireland.

From a research perspective, this year saw a range of diverse and notable projects which will contribute to increasing scientific knowledge of emerging food-related topics, help inform future policy and give people clear and practical advice on food safety and healthy eating. Some of these research projects included risk profiling listeria in ready-to-eat foods; the dietary folate status of young women; the lifetime cost of childhood obesity; and the balance of healthy foods versus non-healthy foods on promotion in our supermarkets.

safefood's role as a North/South body, along with our ethos in facilitating co-operation and working in partnership, has never been more important. Exploring the challenges facing the safety, integrity and authenticity of our food supply chain was the focus of a two-day international conference hosted in partnership with our colleagues in the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. Participation in our Knowledge Network has grown throughout the year and now comprises more than 400 members working across the full spectrum of the food chain on the island. Over 30 member events and 2,000 news subscribers reflects a continued interest in sharing experience in the Network. Our All Island Obesity Action Forum goes from strength to strength, with more than 30 organisations represented. The Forums' bi-annual workshops in Belfast and Dublin are extremely popular, attracting national and international speakers from leading research and academic institutions and stakeholders such as the World Health Organization.

Our ongoing work in developing practical education materials saw the launch of 'MediaWise', our free media literacy teaching resource for primary school children. This resource will help children to better understand the media world around them and builds on our previous research work into children's knowledge of food brands, behaviour and diet.

This year also saw the launch of 'START', our new five-year campaign to encourage parents on the path to

a healthy weight for their children. Our summer 'Burger Fever' and Christmas 'ChefBot' campaigns were also notable for their innovative use of digital and social channels to communicate our food safety messages at a time and in a format that better suits the needs of our audiences.

Our three year Corporate Plan 2017-2019 maps out the mission and vision for **safefood** and aims to build on our wide range of initiatives and interventions that are fit for purpose and relevant. In doing so, we commit to an improvement in the health and well-being of the island's population, especially those in or at risk of food poverty and food inequality.

The ongoing uncertainties posed by Brexit and the challenges it brings in relation to the security, supply and safety of our food remain a serious concern. The importance of North/South working and the many positive relationships and partnerships that have built up represent the true measure and value of co-operation. **safefood** will continue to be at the heart of that partnership-approach.

On behalf of the **safefood** Advisory Board and my colleagues, I would like to thank all of the stakeholders, agencies and organisations who work with us and we look forward to future challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ray Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Our Research

One of **safefood**'s primary functions is to 'bring about general acceptance that responsibility for the provision of safe food is shared among producers, processors and distributors at all levels, caterers and the general public'. To this effect, **safefood** considers the entire food chain in its outlook on research and ensures that our research programme is linked to and supports our primary functions.

safefood undertakes a wide ranging programme of research and knowledge gathering to address gaps in scientific knowledge related to food safety, food hygiene, nutrition and healthy eating.

This research is used to build the evidence base for developing communications that are clear, authoritative, relevant and independent, including **safefood**'s consumer focused awareness campaigns. Such scientific work also enhances our understanding of the potential hazards in the production of food and the measures needed to minimise or eliminate these hazards.

Working with key stakeholders in research and other institutions, **safefood** has fostered all-island working relationships and enhanced partnerships between research institutions across the island of Ireland (IOI).

Research projects overview

The following research projects were completed in 2017

Risk profiling Listeria in ready-to-eat foods and determination of control strategies and practical interventions

This research project was conducted by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute and was completed in March 2017.

An investigation of the adventitious presence of two legislated food allergens in pre-packed food products

This research project was conducted by Dublin Institute of Technology and was completed in July 2017.

Investigation into the balance of healthy versus less-healthy food promotions among Republic of Ireland food retailers

This research project was conducted by University of Ulster and was completed in December 2017.

Folate status in pregnant women: current situation on the island of Ireland

This research project was conducted by University College Dublin and was completed in March 2017.

Do nutrient and health claims have an impact on the perceived healthiness and the amount of foods/meals eaten by adults on the island of Ireland?

This research project was conducted by Queens University Belfast and was completed in October 2017.

Weaning practices on the island of Ireland

This research project was conducted by National University of Ireland Galway and was completed in December 2017.

Lifetime Costs of childhood overweight & obesity

This research project was conducted by University College Cork and was completed in May 2017.

Mapping the dairy supply chain on the island of Ireland

This research project was conducted by University College Cork and was completed in November 2017.

The following research project was commissioned in 2017

Trust makers, breakers and brokers: Building trust in the food system on the island of Ireland – An international comparison

This research project was conducted by Flinders University in Adelaide and was completed in June 2017.

A comparison of vulnerability resolution initiatives in the agri-food production and manufacturing chain on the island of Ireland and in selected OECD countries

This project will be conducted by University College Cork. The duration of the project is 10 months from December 2017 to October 2018.

Publications

9 research reports were published by safefood in 2017 covering food safety and healthy eating.

The impact of climate change on dairy production

This research report investigated the potential food safety, economic and environmental impacts of climate change on the dairy production chain on the island of Ireland. Of particular note is the potential for an increase in the range and occurrence of mycotoxins, particularly given the future climate on the island of Ireland is projected to be warmer and wetter.

The research found that the level of awareness regarding climate change among the various stakeholders in the dairy supply chain is high and the general consensus is that collective action is required to address this issue. Climate change

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Climate change presents both threats to and opportunities for the Irish dairy sector

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presents both threats to and opportunities for the Irish dairy sector. The major threats identified by stakeholders centred around extreme weather events and the knock-on effects on feed, diseases, pests and consumer concerns.

Identifying what influences the shopping habits of food hypersensitive consumers

Precautionary allergen labelling is available to food manufacturers as a voluntary option if they wish to use it on their product labels. However, there is evidence the product did not contain the allergen that the label had cautioned against. For consumers with food hypersensitivity, risk management requires strict adherence to an avoidance diet and they have no option but to assume the precautionary label is accurate and are therefore excluded from a significant number of food products.

This investigation set out to identify the factors that underpin the food purchasing choices of food hypersensitive consumers on the island of Ireland including the obstacles they face and the level of trust they have in food suppliers. It also investigated the use of precautionary allergen labelling from the food manufacturer’s perspective and the influence of the free-from food market and the capacity for food allergen testing. A number of recommendations are proffered that focus on improving the opportunities for food hypersensitive consumers to make safe food choices.



Hand sanitisers - their use and efficacy

Hand washing is the most important practice to prevent the spread of pathogens especially for people who handle food. Washing with water and soap is the “gold standard” way to remove bacteria and food from hands.

Over recent years there has been increasing availability and usage of hand sanitising products. The main advantage of these products seems to be that they are quicker and easier to use. They also provide another way to clean the hands when water and soap are not available.

This study aimed to provide scientific information on the efficacy of hand sanitisers, compared to hand washing with soap and water, in removing foodborne pathogens from hands. In the second part of the study an online survey was undertaken to assess how often hand sanitisers are used.

Consumer preferences for poultry decontamination methods on the island of Ireland

Campylobacter is the leading cause of bacterial food poisoning on the island of Ireland. *Campylobacter* infections are generally mild but can be fatal among very young children, the elderly and

immunosuppressed individuals. The main food associated with *Campylobacter* food poisoning is poultry – domestic fowl, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese.

There are a number of processing methods that can be applied to poultry to reduce the overall level of *Campylobacter* contamination, however, the overall consumer acceptability of these methods is unknown.

safefood commissioned this research in order to produce a measurable assessment of consumers’ attitudes towards potential decontamination treatments and processes to reduce the level of bacteria, in particular *Campylobacter*, on raw meat on the island of Ireland.

Evaluation of the Community Food Initiative Programme 2013–2015

safefood funded a 3 year programme of 10 Community Food Initiatives across the island of Ireland to promote healthy and safe food in low-income areas using a community development approach.

This programme was the second 3 year programme funded by **safefood** and built upon the key findings from the first demonstration programme and was expanded to provide a wider community approach. Over the 3 years the 10 projects engaged nearly 30,000 people, targeting families with children, through a range of activities including healthy eating and growing food.



The programme approach supported the individual projects through training and networking.

The current report highlights the key findings from the independent evaluation of the programme.

The folate status of pregnant women; the current position

This research was commissioned by **safefood** to provide an up-to-date picture of folate status among women in early pregnancy. This data was then assessed against World Health Organization recommendations.

Since the early 1990s it has been known that folic acid supplementation (adding synthetic folic acid to the diet in the form of a pill) 12 weeks before and during the early stages of pregnancy can reduce the risk of the foetus developing Neural Tube Defects (NTDs) by 70%. Additional folic acid is needed to support the effective closure of the neural tube, which happens at approximately 21 to 28 days after conception. All women who may become pregnant are therefore advised to take a daily supplement of 400 micrograms (μg) of folic acid prior to conception and until the twelfth week of pregnancy. One of the key barriers is that many pregnancies are unplanned.

Key findings.

Only 24.9% of the women who took folic acid took it for more than 12 weeks before conception as recommended.

Statistical analysis showed that the women who planned their pregnancy and the women for whom it was their first pregnancy were most likely to take folic acid before pregnancy.

One-third of a sample of women in early pregnancy in the ROI had red blood count folate measures that were lower than the amount recommended by the WHO to prevent NTDs. One per cent of the women were found to be deficient.

A review of foodborne viruses in fresh produce on the island of Ireland

Viruses are a leading cause of foodborne disease in the European Union. Norovirus and hepatitis A viruses are recognised as the main viruses of public health concern. Transmission of these viruses typically occurs through foods that are consumed raw such as shellfish and fresh produce, with outbreaks involving these foods becoming increasingly common.

Currently on the island of Ireland there is no laboratory testing capability for detection of viruses in produce and there are no data on viral occurrence in fresh produce.

Comparing detection rates across studies is challenging because methods of analysis vary, as do the origins of the foods sampled. This also hampers predictions of viral prevalence on the island of Ireland. Increasing global adoption of International Organization for Standardization/TS as the standard method for virus detection should improve comparability of studies in the future.

Food allergens in pre-packed foods

Accurate labelling of pre-packed food products is essential for food hypersensitive consumers to make safe food choices. In this study, food products were selected for gluten or peanut allergen analysis (sometimes both) based on an analysis of product recalls in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland between 2011 and 2017. The outcome of the peanut analyses was inconclusive as a cross-reaction with other allergenic proteins in the food matrices could not be discounted. The food products that tested positive for peanut listed some form of tree nuts or legumes as ingredients on the label.

The gluten analyses showed that the use of the advisory statement "gluten-free" was robust and reliable. Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction proved to be an ineffective method for quantifying peanut allergen or gluten in this study.



A review of foodborne viruses in fresh produce on the island of Ireland



What are the estimated costs of childhood overweight and obesity on the island of Ireland?

safefood conducted the first ever all-island study to estimate the lifetime costs of childhood overweight and obesity. Over the past 3 decades the prevalence of overweight and obesity has increased markedly in Ireland and worldwide.

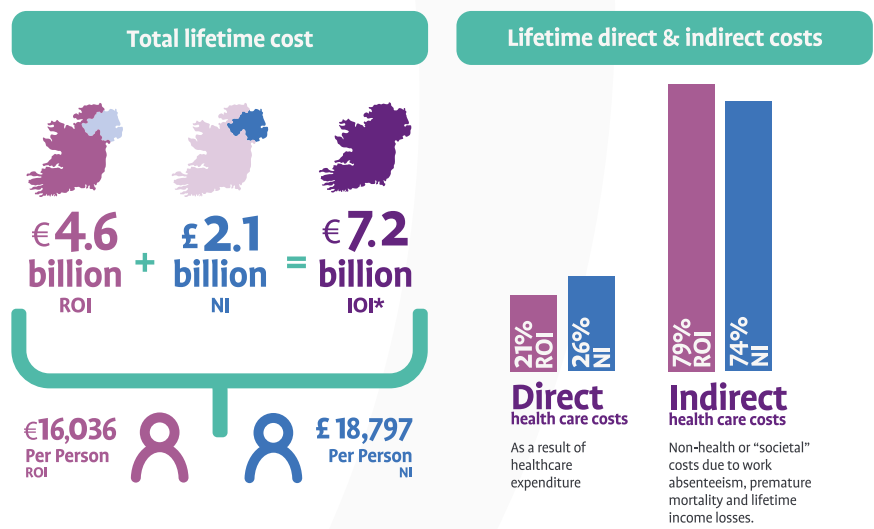
While the personal and social cost of this global phenomenon are incalculable, researchers and policy makers in a number of countries have estimated the economic costs of overweight and obesity. Estimates of the economic burden of illness provide critical information for priority setting, policy development and investment in both prevention and health services. The lack of reliable data to estimate the cost of obesity in Ireland was noted in a report from the National Taskforce on Obesity (2005).



Pictured at the launch of safefood’s report on the Cost of childhood overweight and obesity on the island of Ireland were (L to R) Research lead Professor Ivan Perry, University College Cork; research partner Prof Kevin Balanda, Institute of Public Health in Ireland; and Dr Clíodhna Foley-Nolan, Director, Human Health & Nutrition, safefood

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1 in 4 children on the IOI are overweight or obese.
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safefood commissioned this report on current and projected lifetime costs of childhood overweight and obesity, a first of its kind for the island of Ireland, as part of its ongoing work to guide and inform our response to this public health crisis.

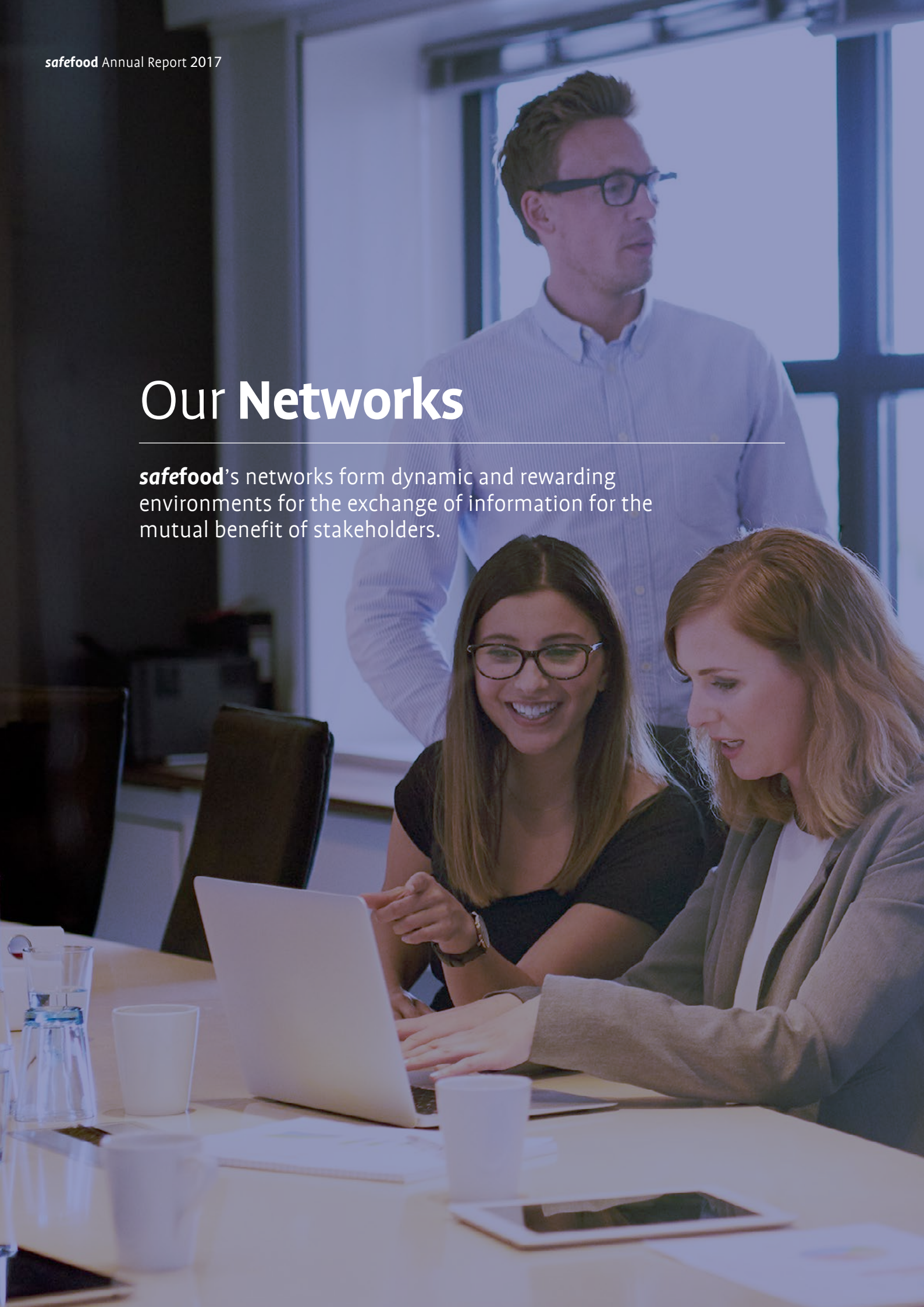


What would the savings be if there was a 1% or 5% reduction in BMI?



Our Networks

safefood's networks form dynamic and rewarding environments for the exchange of information for the mutual benefit of stakeholders.



Knowledge Network

safefood has, as part of its legislative remit, an obligation to promote awareness of food safety issues amongst professionals with an interest in, or responsibility for food safety including the food industry.

The Knowledge Network has created and augmented linkages across the island of Ireland between food safety professionals throughout the whole food chain since 2011. The current phase of the Knowledge Network (KN) which has been running since 2016 focuses on the following food sectors;

Dairy

Poultry and white meat

Animal feed

Red meat

Fresh produce

Fish and shellfish

Within these food sectors a wide variety of food safety topics are covered including;

- Chemical and microbiological food safety issues
- Food production and processing topics
- Trade and economic matters
- Food fraud/crime
- New food safety innovations
- Sustainability and climate change food safety effects.

The KN activities are directed by **safefood** with the assistance of an Expert Facilitator Group (EFG). The EFG is a group of experts from industry, research and public health who strategically lead the Network, guiding the activities and advising on required training and supports, new services for members and providing insights around both existing food safety risks and emerging issues.

Between 2016 and 2017 there were;

- 434 new members
- 34 events with approximately 1,400 participants
- more than 9,000 views of Knowledge Network videos
- 1,072 uploads to the website & more than 14,000 visits
- 23 Network News bulletins
- 6 editions of The Food Chain magazine, each sent to almost 2,000 people
- 29 people received funding through the Knowledge Network Training and Mobility Funding Programme.

Knowledge Network website and publications:

The Knowledge Network provided accurate and current food safety information, news and insights to a broad range of food safety professionals, including regulators, academics, and educators, through the KN website and publications.

Knowledge Network publications include:

The **Food Chain Magazine** with six editions being published in 2017, includes interviews with food safety professionals, the latest food safety news, upcoming events, network information and a food safety competition. Topics covered in these editions included some novel issues e.g. Brexit and the agri-food sector on IOI, futures research, arsenic in rice, food traceability, food waste, the link between bacterial foodborne illness and mental health and tackling the threat of antimicrobial resistance.



Network News

Network News is a monthly e-bulletin providing Knowledge Network members with updates on recent food safety news and events featured on the Knowledge Network website. It also includes updates on network activities and external resources, reports and opportunities. In 2017, eleven Network News bulletins were disseminated to over 2,000 recipients. This publication is certainly gaining much traction amongst the members with many supplying articles, news items and updates.

Thought-leader article series

The Knowledge Network also maintains a horizon-scanning perspective on issues or events that may impact food safety across the island. In 2017, the Knowledge Network published two 'thought leader' guest articles which examine newly emerging issues and topics relating to the food chain. The first article by Professor Alan Matthews of Trinity College Dublin focussed on food regulatory barriers to cross-border trade after Brexit and the second by Phelim O'Neill of the *Farmers Journal* examined the impact of Brexit on food production and trade on the island of Ireland

Technical food safety bulletins

Towards the end of 2017 the Knowledge Network also started a food safety bulletin series which includes short summary articles on specific topical food safety issues. These topics are proposed by the Expert Facilitators Group, who are broadly representative of all sectors along the food chain, and especially cognisant of the need to ensure that food safety communications for food businesses need to be short, concise, and easily understandable for non-technical personnel working in food businesses. The Group contributes to the research and drafting of text. The first bulletin related to Antimicrobial Resistance, with others planned for 2018.

Knowledge Network website

The **Knowledge Network** website is an online platform to disseminate information on upcoming events as well as up to date food safety issues, research and news. The website also allows members to register for events, take part in member surveys, access to the most recent edition of 'The Food Chain' magazine and access food safety related reports as they become available. The website has news portals specifically for Food Hypersensitivity and Food Fraud and in 2017 there was a portal created for Brexit updates and news. During 2016 and 2017 there were 1,072 news posts uploaded onto the site, with over 14,000 visits and 86,000 page views.

Knowledge Network Training and Mobility Funding Programme

The **KN Training and Mobility Funding Programme (TMFP)** has enabled Knowledge Networks members to visit and spend time at a conference, a centre of excellence or in another food safety organisation in order to develop their knowledge and expertise in a food safety related area. There are a total of 25 bursaries per calendar year, each up to a maximum of €1,200 or sterling equivalent. In 2016 and 2017, 29 people received funding through the TMFP of the 29, 25 participants were from ROI and 4 participants were from NI. The participants attended conferences and courses and visited food safety agencies and centres of excellence across the IOI, as well as in the US, New Zealand, Great Britain, Austria, France, The Netherlands, Belgium and the Czech Republic.

Knowledge Network working with SME's

safefood recognises that Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) face particular challenges in running a food business. They may not have the expertise in food safety that a big producer or manufacturer can recruit and any scare could cost an SME their business. In response to this, in 2017 the Knowledge Network ran 11 workshop for SMEs to provide practical advice on how to produce food safely. The workshops covered:

- What you need to know about bacteria and how to control them to keep your customer's safe
- Choosing and using hygiene cleaning products



Speakers at the hygiene hypothesis myth event from left Prof Colin Hill (University College Cork), Ms Jenny Morris (Event Chair), Dr Audrey Dunn Galvin (University College Cork), Dr Lisa Ackerley (University of Salford), Prof Sally Bloomfield (International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene), Mr Niall Roche (University College Dublin).

- Managing the traceability of your supply chain
- Managing food allergens and labelling.

In 2017, the network also initiated a pilot programme aimed at overcoming some of the challenges encountered by this target group, including lack of food safety knowledge, combined with limited time, resources and staff. The objective was to establish a number of discussion groups of small food producers, piloted in the Munster region. The network appointed a coordinator to recruit SMEs to join the group, identify the food safety training needs, identify other business-related topics of interest, and to organise and deliver 6-7

training events over an 18-month period, followed by an evaluation of the pilot programme. This pilot study is still ongoing.

safefood also understands that SME's may not have the manpower to release staff to attend training. To address this issue the Knowledge Network regularly hosts webinars and creates videos on training that can be accessed at any time.

Knowledge Network support for food testing laboratories

The Knowledge Network supported food testing laboratories in 2017 by delivering training and workshops, with regional workshops on essential topics such as internal

auditing for laboratory staff. The Knowledge Network also assisted in capacity-building for laboratories through the delivering of a workshop on molecular testing methods, as well as a conference on whole genome sequencing. Since 2016, these supports have been extended to private food testing laboratories, as well as the public laboratories, and this helps to improve knowledge and skills across the sector.

In addition **safefood** provides an online food testing laboratory directory that provides details of the wide ranging routine food safety analytical services undertaken on the island of Ireland.

Community Food Initiatives

safefood has been funding groups of community based projects across the island of Ireland since 2010 named the 'Community Food initiative' (CFI). 2017 was the second year of the third three-year programme of CFI projects. The purpose of the programme is to promote a greater access and availability of healthy and safe food in low income areas, using a community development approach. 2017 continued to see 13 community organisations, nine in the Republic of Ireland and four in Northern Ireland deliver the CFI programme.

The focus of the 2016-2018 programme is to support innovative projects piloting new developments that build on existing activity within their communities. To date there has been a strong focus on family participation and building the knowledge and skill of the participants involved. Leaders of the CFIs act as champions in their local area and organise public events and devise projects which identify and promote best practice under the following CFI themes:

Preventing food wastage, food safety and hygiene

Cooking skills

Improving the availability and access to safe and healthy food in the community complimenting existing structures that offer healthy options, e.g. community cafes, events etc.

Supporting an increased awareness/knowledge around healthy eating

Budgeting and food/meal planning skills

During 2017 the CFIs focused on low income families with children aged 5 to 12 years. A networking event for CFI leaders kicked off year two of this term of CFIs, where leaders shared their experiences of year one and plans for year two.



Pictured (Front) are Mr Ryan Howard, Chief Executive, South & East Cork Area Development (SECAD) and Mr Ray Dolan, Chief Executive, **safefood** with members of the 13 Community organisations at the launch of the Community Food Initiatives.

All-island Obesity Action Forum

The All-island obesity action forum was established in December 2008 and officially launched in April 2009. The role of the forum is to support the implementation of obesity policies on the island of Ireland. The forum brings together a range of stakeholders from 31 organisations. Members come from the areas of food and physical activity. By facilitating the exchange of best practice and by promoting networking and collaboration, the forum provides an ideal platform for partnership and cohesive working on the island of Ireland.

The forum is supported by the publication of an e-bulletin, 'All-island obesity news' which promotes the sharing of information whilst providing an overview of current research, news coverage, events and reports in the area of obesity. Twelve bulletins were sent out in 2017 to 670 subscribers. A review of the format and content of the e-bulletin was carried out with its subscribers in 2017.

The topic of the first All-island Obesity Action Forum workshop of 2017 held in Belfast focused on the theme of stigma in obesity. Sixty delegates heard how stigmatisation can have a negative effect on those who need help the most when it comes to their weight.

Leading experts from across the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, including Dr Eric Robinson from the University of Liverpool and Dr Judy Swift from the University of Nottingham, presented the latest research findings in the area of



Pictured at the All-island Obesity action forum event are Dr Marian O'Reilly, (4th left) Chief Specialist in Nutrition at safefood and speakers at the workshop.

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Stigmatisation can have a negative effect on those who need help the most when it comes to their weight

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weight stigma, its negative effects on physical and mental health, and the strategies being used to combat weight stigma. A patient representative for the 'Association for the study of obesity on the island of Ireland' gave a personal account of experiencing weight-related stigma. He highlighted the responsibilities of society in general and the key role played by health professionals in creating a person-centred environment based on mutual respect and dignity. The All-island Obesity Action Forum event held in Dublin in November was attended by 130 delegates.

The theme of the workshop was the school as a setting for promoting a healthy weight in children. Guest speakers included Mr Jo Jewell for the World Health Organization who opened the workshop by discussing the challenge of overweight and obesity in children and the role of schools in promoting health. Other speakers included; Janet McAlister from the Food in Schools Forum Northern Ireland who presented on their work, Professor Catherine Woods from the University of Limerick who discussed how to promote physical activity in schools in order to achieve optimal health. Dr Mimi Tatlow-Golden from the Open University presented on digital marketing of food and drink to children. The final speaker, Ms Anne Walsh from the Department of Health Promotion and Improvement within the Health Service Executive discussed the role of schools in developing a whole school approach to food and the promotion of non-edible treats.



The All-island food poverty Network event.

All-island Food Poverty Network

Food poverty, defined as the inability to access a nutritionally adequate diet, is a significant issue for many people on the island of Ireland.

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The 3rd annual conference was entitled ‘Hungry for change’. Guest speakers challenged the notion that all healthy foods are expensive and unaffordable.

Although the cost of healthy food is a major factor, the inability to access a healthy diet is a complex issue that incorporates education, transport, literacy, culture and environmental planning. Food poverty is yet another outcome of broader determinants of health,

such as poor housing, social exclusion and high crime.

With other stakeholders on the island of Ireland, **safefood** is addressing the issue of food poverty through advocacy, building the evidence base and supporting community initiatives.

Formed in 2009, the network is co-chaired by **safefood** and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland. The aim of the Network is to support a co-ordinated and strategic approach to tackling food poverty on the island of Ireland through the development of consensus on related issues, collaboration and shared learning.

The 3rd annual conference of the Network was entitled ‘Hungry for change’. Guest speakers challenged the notion that all healthy foods are expensive and unaffordable. Delegates were also given the opportunity to look at the current food price trends and explore innovative ways of improving nutritional education both inside and outside the classroom.

Partnership working

Working in partnership is at the heart of **safefood**'s role as a North/South body. Whether in our communication campaigns, scientific research or professionals networks, our partnership approach brings many positive connections and long-lasting relationships on the island of Ireland.

Minimum nutritional standards for catering in health and social care settings in Northern Ireland

In line with key objectives of the regional obesity prevention strategy A Fitter future for all 2012–2022, **safefood**, the Public Health Agency, Food Standards Agency together have developed minimum nutritional standards for catering in health and social care settings in Northern Ireland. These standards support people working in health service catering businesses who want to offer consumers a choice of affordable, healthy and sustainable food.



Staff from **safefood**, Public Health Agency and Food Standards Agency at the launch of Minimum nutritional standards for catering in health and social care in Northern Ireland.

The significant role of the workplace, and employers, in promoting healthier lifestyles and supporting staff to adopt and maintain better nutritional and healthier choices is increasingly recognised. As a major employer, the Health Service should promote and protect health and lead by setting an example to employers in both public and private sectors. In Northern Ireland there is much valuable work being done locally within Health and Social Care Trusts to promote healthier eating in the workplace and encourage appropriate lifestyle choices. Designing healthier menus, displaying calories on menus and implementing vending policies are some examples of this.

Nutritional standards for school meals in the Republic of Ireland

safefood, in conjunction with the Health Service Executive (HSE), provided assistance to the Department of Health in the development and design of nutritional standards for school meal schemes funded by the Department of Social Protection. These Standards were adapted from the Nutritional Standards that support the Food in Schools Policy in Northern Ireland and **safefood** are grateful to colleagues in Northern Ireland who facilitated that.

The School Meals Programme operates in schools and other locations with priority access for schools designated as DEIS and aims to provide regular, nutritious food to children who are unable, by reason of lack of good quality food, to take full advantage of the education

provided for them. It is an important component of policies to encourage school attendance and extra educational achievement by children, particularly those from the most disadvantaged background, and the Programme provides nutritious food to up to 250,000 children every year.

Children should be educated and supported to embrace the 'Healthy Food for Life' guidelines from a young age in order to grow and develop into healthy adults and to be a healthy weight. Research has shown that proper nutrition can improve children's ability to concentrate, improve disruptive behaviour and encourage children to attend school. The implementation of the Nutrition Standards for School Meals will ensure that children and young people are offered healthy, nutritious and balanced meals and snacks.

Our Events

The success of our professional and public-facing events reflects our approach to sharing knowledge, building relationships and offering practical advice.



Balmoral Show

2017 was the 15th year **safefood** has taken a stand at the Balmoral Show.

10 – 13 May Balmoral Show

safefood presented our new energy drinks campaign at the show with a focus on the amount of sugar in popular energy drinks. The interactive stand consisted of an energy drinks game 'Are you sugar smart?' Using the same format as 'play your cards right', players had to guess whether the sugar content on some energy drinks are either higher or lower in sugar. We also laid out sample energy drinks with the sugar content beside each drink. This created a lot of conversations as visitors had to guess and measure out for themselves the sugar content in teaspoons. Visitors were encouraged to participate in our sugar shockers photo booth with prizes for the best shocked expressions. The stand at the Balmoral Show in Lisburn attracted over 6,000 visitors and over 3,000 *sugar shocker* booklets were distributed during the four day event.

Healthfest

26 April

Over 3,000 transition year students attended Healthfest, organised by **safefood** and the National Dairy Council. Now in its second year, Healthfest is a fun-filled and informative event featuring some of the ROI's top experts, helping to encourage healthy habits for students, now and for their future. The aim of the event is to provide students with an opportunity to



Chief Medical Officer for NI, Dr Michael McBride along with Julie Carroll, Tracey Thompson and Charmaine McGowan from **safefood** at the Balmoral Show.

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Healthfest is a fun-filled and informative event featuring some of Ireland's top experts, helping to encourage healthy habits for students, now and for their future.

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learn all about the benefits of healthy eating, physical exercise and the importance of mental health, whilst getting to experience a fun-filled day out.

The **safefood** stand focused on the high sugar content of energy drinks. Copies of the *Exam survival guide*, which includes nutrition tips to stay alert during the run up to exam season, were disseminated to students and the *Fuel your body – for the teenage sports person* leaflets were put in the teachers packs.

'Too clean or not clean enough: The hygiene hypothesis myth' conference

4 July

The Knowledge Network hosted an event 'Too clean or not clean enough: the hygiene hypothesis myth' in Dublin. The seminar debunked the 'hygiene hypothesis' which has led to confusion, with some consumers believing that excessive cleanliness is responsible for increasing the risk of developing allergies and other conditions. However, most experts agree that the hygiene hypothesis is a misleading term and undermines attitudes and approaches to good hygiene. The event brought together experts from the UK and Ireland in allergies, human and microbe interaction, environmental health and home hygiene to discuss the most recent research in the area and explored ways to explain these messages to consumers. The event was very successful with 57 people

from public bodies, food businesses and academia in attendance.

Over the last few decades the use of the term 'hygiene hypothesis' has led to varying interpretations with some consumers believing that excessive cleanliness is responsible for increased risk of developing allergies and other conditions.

Whole genome sequencing in food safety seminar

28 November

safefood in partnership with Teagasc and University College Dublin, hosted a seminar on whole genome sequencing (WGS) in food safety on 28th November 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Blanchardstown. This event brought together those currently applying or preparing to apply this technology on the island of Ireland, as well as international experts with significant experience in utilising and interpreting WGS. The event was attended by 57 people including

laboratory scientists, researchers, public health professionals, regulators and others interested in applying this technology to the detection and control of foodborne pathogens. Speakers included Prof John Coia (University of Glasgow), Prof Eva Moller Neilsen (Statens Serum Institut), Prof Shea Fanning (University College Dublin), Dr Cormac Gahan (University College Cork) and Dr Olivia McAuliffe (Teagasc). Feedback from the event was excellent.

Community food programme leaders workshop

14 February

A workshop for the leaders of the 13 Community Food Initiatives was hosted as an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and highlights during the first year of the programme and to focus on plans for the second year.

Leaders shared experiences with each other. In 2016 the programme focused on engaging families with pre-school children and in 2017 it focused on families with primary school children. The importance of engaging parents who determine what their children eat was emphasised and the various methods to communicate with parents were discussed.



Healthy Ireland stakeholder launch event

18 May

safefood presented their energy drinks campaign and had an opportunity to discuss the campaign and other **safefood** initiatives with Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D, Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D and Minister of State for Health Promotion, Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy T.D and various other groups. A new Health Ireland Network Charter was launched at this event.

The Charter was designed to boost the national movement by getting different types of organisations to network together to improve health and wellbeing.

Safe guarding the food chain; protecting authenticity and integrity

5-6 October

safefood, in partnership with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), hosted this conference at Dublin Castle. A full programme of presentations by international experts focused on national and international learnings on how regulators, inspectors, the food industry, food scientists and academia can work in collaboration to protect the authenticity and integrity of the food supply chain.



Pictured at the Safeguarding the Food Chain - Protecting Authenticity and Integrity conference hosted by **safefood** and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) were (L to R) Dr Pamela Byrne, Chief Executive, FSAI; Ms Bérengère Dreno, Specialist in Intellectual Property Crime, Europol; and Mr Ray Dolan, CEO, **safefood**.

Thursday's proceedings focused on developments in the regulatory infrastructure for protecting the integrity of the food chain and

“ ”

The conference was attended by over 370 delegates and provided an ideal opportunity for stakeholder networking to examine current issues

“ ”

proactive industry initiatives in this regard, while Friday's proceedings focused on the task of meeting these challenges online as well as

efforts by the research community to develop practical solutions for combating food fraud. The conference was attended by over 370 delegates and provided an ideal opportunity for stakeholder networking to examine current issues around the authenticity and integrity of our food, the public health implications and effective prevention control strategies.

Thursday's proceedings were opened by Dr Pamela Byrne, CEO FSAI with Mr Ray Dolan, CEO **safefood** fulfilling the same role on Friday. Keynote addresses were given by Mr Ladislav Miko, Deputy Director General for Food Safety, EU Commission, Mairead McGuinness, MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament, and Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture.

Events calendar

Professional Networks

16 February, 13 April, 7 September, 23 November
Dublin, Belfast and Cork

Knowledge Network Expert Facilitation Group Meetings

27 February
Dublin

The Dairy industry and climate change

12 April
Dublin

Too clean or not clean enough: the hygiene hypothesis myth

18 May
Dublin

Healthy Ireland stakeholder launch event

20 June
Belfast

All-island obesity action forum 'Stigma in obesity'

27 September
F2 Centre, Dublin

3rd annual All-island Food Poverty network 'Hungry for change'

14 November
Dublin

All-island obesity action forum 'Schools can schools do'

14 November
Fettercairn Community Centre, Dublin

Community food initiative (CFI) leaders workshop

20 November
Dun Library, Dublin

Lifetime cost of childhood obesity research launch

28 November
Dublin

Whole genome sequencing in food safety

Promotion

10-13 May
Lisburn

Balmoral show

Training & Workshops

4, 5, 26, 27 April, 9, 10, 11, 30, 31 May, 12, 13, 14 September
Island of Ireland

Production of safe food by small food producers

Seminars

24 May
Teagasc-Moorepark, Cork

Food Labelling Regulations & meeting new market challenges for Irish food producers
safefood presented on food allergen labelling

Sponsorships

To promote the Knowledge Network, safefood also sponsored (or part-sponsored) several events and prizes during 2017:

July 2017
Queens University Belfast
'Best Food Safety Student Award'

March 2017
Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards Belfast
'Best Innovation to Enhance Food Safety Award'

May 2017
Environmental Health Association of Ireland (EHAi)
'Best EHO student Food Safety competition'

Sept 2017
Coeliac Society of Ireland
'Gluten Free Living Expo - food allergy talk in Dublin'

Events calendar

Education

1 & 3 March

Dublin

National Association of Youthreach Coordinators

safefood had a stand at this event to promote the Eatright.eu resource.

23 - 25 May

St Angela's College, Sligo

International Federation for Home Economics

safefood sponsored this event and submitted an abstract on Healthy Food for Life. Healthy Food for Life updated the Food Pyramid and healthy eating guidelines for the population.

31 March

Dublin

Early childhood Ireland conference

safefood had a stand at this event to promote the Little Bites resource.

1 April

Belfast

British Nutrition Foundation/ Livestock and Meat Commission Teacher Event

safefood had a stand at this event to promote primary and secondary level resources.

17 & 19 April

Waterfront, Belfast

Irish National Teachers Organisation Conference

safefood had a stand at this event to promote the MediaWise resource.

26 April

RDS, Dublin

Healthfest

7 June

Vincent de Paul School, Dublin

Launch of MediaWise

safefood launched the new education resource MediaWise

8 - 9 June

Newcastle, Co. Down

Early Years Conference

safefood had a stand to promote the Little Bites resource.

National & International Conferences

*The Human Health and Nutrition directorate represented **safefood** at various national and international conferences throughout 2017*

23 - 25 March

St Angela's College, Sligo

Healthy and Sustainable Lifestyles: Policy, Pedagogy and Practice

Two papers from **safefood** were presented.

4 - 15 May

University College, Dublin

Association for the Study of Obesity on the island of Ireland

The Community Food Initiative Programme evaluation and Childhood Obesity Campaign Evaluation were presented.

17 - 20 May

Porto, Portugal

ECO2017, the 24th European Congress on Obesity

safefood presented the 'Let's take on childhood obesity' campaign.

A photograph of three children in school uniforms against a green background. The top child is a girl with blonde hair, covering her eyes with her hands. The middle child is a girl with blonde hair, covering her ears with her hands. The bottom child is a boy with glasses, making a 'shh' gesture with his hand to his mouth. The image has a blue-green tint.

Our Education Resources

With the changes in our food supply chain and lifestyles, it is important that young people are educated on the importance of food safety, food hygiene and nutrition. **safefood** recognises that teachers play a vital role in developing the habits of young people that can last a lifetime.



Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton T.D. and Mr Ray Dolan, CEO, **safefood** pictured with pupils of St. Vincent de Paul Infant School, Dublin, launching MediaWise.

safefood has a number of free interactive education resources available through its website and supported by printed material. These are regularly reviewed to ensure the content remains up-to-date and relevant.

“ ”

There is unequivocal evidence that childhood obesity is influenced by marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages

“ ”

2017 focussed mainly on the promotion of MediaWise which was launched in July and attended by the Minister for Education and Skills in the ROI, Richard Bruton TD. MediaWise helps teach primary school children about the media, advertising and fake news.

An overview of the education resources which **safefood** has available are;

MediaWise

Children see hundreds of media messages every day, and they believe what they see. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated: “There is unequivocal evidence that childhood obesity is influenced by marketing of

foods and non-alcoholic beverages high in saturated fat, salt and/or free sugars (HFSS).” The WHO core recommendation on ending childhood obesity is to reduce children’s exposure to all such marketing.

MediaWise encourages children to enjoy the environment they live in and gives them life skills they need to navigate the rapidly changing media forms at their disposal. The resource was developed with the input of teachers and an expert group drawn from education, advertising, media and regulation. The eight week programme, with lessons available from junior infants through to sixth class covers; what is media, the message and emotion behind media, who is the target and medias influence on us.

Taste Buds

Taste buds was developed in partnership with the West Cork Leader Cooperative Society to help children understand the origins and production of food and the importance of eating a balanced diet. The interactive resource is aimed at children aged 8-10 years enabling teachers to deliver the Food and Nutrition Component of the Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) curriculum.

Taste Buds sessions cover topics such as; finding out about food, who produces our food? and where does our food come from? The online resource was rated 100% for relevance to the curriculum. A highly successful aspect of taste buds is 70% of schools who taught the resource took part in further activity on completion in the form of; Implementing or strengthening a healthy eating policy or introducing a healthy eating day/week.

Lunchbox leaflet

This leaflet, developed in partnership with Healthy Ireland, contains practical tips on how to prepare a healthy lunch for school aged children with the addition of a handy lunchbox planner. To date over 100,000 leaflets have been disseminated to 1,300 primary schools. An Irish language version of the lunchbox leaflet has also been printed.

Handwashing

A hand washing poster and song were developed to make hand washing fun for children and form part of their daily routine both at preschool and home. The poster was distributed in the Republic of Ireland to all childcare providers listed with the Health Service Executive and the County Childcare Committees and also to Family Resource Centres.

Education statistics on safefood.eu

In 2017 there were 62,860 views of the education pages.

The most popular sections of the education site were Pre-school NI and ROI (32%), Post primary ROI (22%) and Primary ROI (21%).



Little Bites

Little Bites has been specifically developed as a one-stop-shop for all early childcare providers. A collaboration between **safefood** and Early Childhood Ireland, the online information and resources hub provides credible and relevant information to childcare providers. Information on providing nutritious and enjoyable meals and snacks, meeting regulations around food and health issues as well as supporting a learning environment for children can be found.



What's on a label?

This resource was developed as a direct result of recommendations of an expert working group established by the Minister for Agriculture and Food in July 2002. At the time of launch **safefood** found that 71% of people on the Island of Ireland only read labels occasionally, and 42% were not satisfied with the information contained on the food labels.

safefood, along with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, The Irish Nutrition and Dietetics Institute and teachers created What's on a label? to educate young people around how to read labels in a way that will have a positive influence on the choices they make with regard to their diet, from childhood right through to adulthood. The resource forms an important component of the Social, Personal, Health Education (SPHE) curriculum at junior cycle level.

Eat, taste and grow

Eat, Taste and Grow aims to increase awareness among primary school children in Northern Ireland of the origins of their food and local produce, and the role this plays in healthy eating.

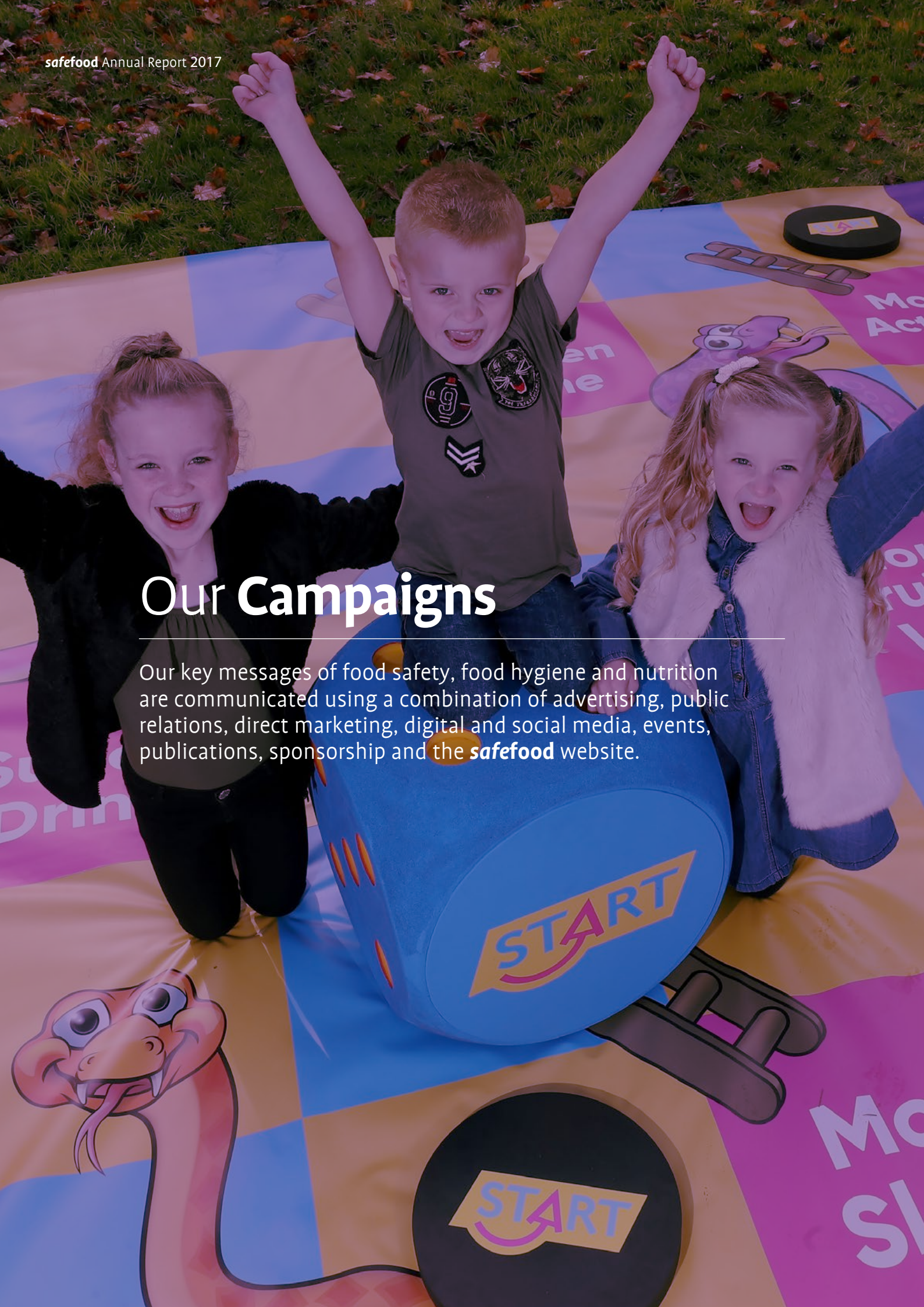
The resource was developed in collaboration between **safefood** and The Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.

This exciting, fun and interactive resource encourages children to explore how our food is produced, what a healthy diet consists of, and how food provides energy for being active.



Our Campaigns

Our key messages of food safety, food hygiene and nutrition are communicated using a combination of advertising, public relations, direct marketing, digital and social media, events, publications, sponsorship and the **safefood** website.



Childhood obesity – “START”

safefood in conjunction with partners (the Health Service Executive, Healthy Ireland, the Public Health Agency and Department of Health Northern Ireland) launched a new 5-year public health awareness campaign titled “START”. The new campaign, which aims to set families on the path to a healthier future, was launched in the Republic of Ireland by the Minister for Health Simon Harris TD and Minister for Health Promotion Catherine Byrne TD; and in Northern Ireland by Chief Medical Officer Dr Michael McBride. START was developed with the input of parents, health professionals and community leaders and acknowledges that the solutions to tackling overweight and obesity are multiple and that every sector has a role to play in this major health issue.

For parents, the campaign advertising recognises the realities of daily parenting, how difficult it can be to change habits or create new ones and how external factors can make that more challenging. The “START” campaign messages were created to help parents get started and build momentum by achieving one daily win, for example, adding more vegetables to dinner time or swapping sugary drinks for water. The campaign also recognises that parenting is tough but that making healthier changes is necessary and worth it to help children on their way to a healthier life.

Reflecting the partners involved in the campaign, the broader “START” campaign is underpinned by the



Department of Health’s “A Healthy Weight for Ireland: Obesity Policy and Action Plan 2016 – 2025” and is designed around four key themes to deliver a system-wide approach to tackling overweight and obesity:

1. Providing families with practical advice and support to help build their confidence in making positive changes to their lives include video, online and social content covering food, making changes and physical activity.
2. Delivering a consistent approach across all relevant sectors including schools, crèches, hospitals and GP surgeries by integrating the campaign with existing programmes such as the Health Service Executive’s “Making Every Contact Count”.
3. Supporting sustainable communities and tapping into

existing community health programmes like Community Food Initiatives.

4. Tackling the obesogenic environment as a driver for change through key policy initiatives such as the new healthy eating standards for state-funded school meals and the sugar tax.

The campaign aims to build a society-wide movement that will inspire and support parents to start building and persisting with healthy lifestyle habits. The campaign seeks to help families in taking that first step and ongoing steps for their children’s health by starting with one daily win, and encouraging them to persist no matter how often life and the environment intervenes to derail their efforts.



Food Safety Burger Fever

safefood launched a new digital campaign on the 3 July, to raise consumer awareness around the risks of eating undercooked burgers.

A pre-campaign survey found that over half (51%) of Irish adults reported eating undercooked burgers in restaurants. Yet, 65% of Irish adults said they would reconsider their choice of eating an undercooked burger if they knew there was a risk of food poisoning. The campaign called on people to always request that their burgers are well done regardless of whether the restaurant waiting staff ask or not.

The reason burgers need to be cooked thoroughly but steak doesn't is because mince used in hamburgers is higher risk as the food poisoning bacteria that live on the surface of the beef (steak) is then mixed through the middle of

the burger when the beef is minced - so in effect, the outside is now on the inside. The only way to ensure that any bacteria in the middle of the burger is killed off is to ensure that the burger is cooked well done.

The campaign ran for a 3 week period across multiple communications channels including: campaign posters in more than 200 restaurant/bar washrooms; digital screens in 40 locations; an online partnership with Lovin Dublin; a national PR campaign which has reached more than 2.5 million adults to date; social media advertising on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and an online video which has reached in excess of 250,000 people.

Reach and engagement

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: total reach for the campaign was 398,144

Twitter: total reach for the campaign was 46,553

Four Instagram posts reached 95,786

Wowburger Instagram story through Lovin Dublin reached 13,361

Burger_fever Instagram account reached 15,849

WEBSITE

Visits: 1,050 visits to the burger fever web page

Viper video on safefood was viewed 85,497 times

Changes to target audience knowledge, attitudes and behaviours

- Before the campaign 13% of respondents believed that it was safe to eat rare burgers, 26% believed it was safe to eat medium rare burgers, 50.8% believe it was safe to eat medium burgers while 73.5% believed it was safe to eat medium well burgers. All of these results significantly decreased post campaign by between 3-8%.

- There was an increase of 8% in the number of respondents who understood eating a minced burger rare or medium was higher risk than eating a steak cooked rare or medium.

- After the campaign aired there was a decrease of 8.9% in the number of respondents who suggested they prefer to eat burger rare or medium when dining out.

- There was an increase in the number of respondents who suggested that if a burger was served rare or medium they would request that the burger was cooked until well done.



Helping support the launch of safefood's Folic Acid campaign were (L-R) Leah McCourt; Presenter Rebecca McKinney; Gemma-Louise Bond; and Ashlee Coburn.

Folic Acid

To address the increasing rates of Neural Tube defects (NTD's) and the behavioural barriers to taking folic acid, 2017 was the third year for safefood running the folic acid awareness campaign. To support the campaign safefood commissioned research which found young Irish women are three times as likely to check their smartphone in the morning as they are to take



“ ”

The campaign reminds women to include folic acid as part of their morning routine.

“ ”

Key findings.

Knowledge increased:

The most common understanding of when women should take folic acid was 'all the time, whether planning a baby or not'. This increased from **52.1%** pre campaign to **59.6%** post campaign.

Contemplation of behaviour change increased:

There was a significant increase in the proportion of women who contemplated taking folic acid supplements in the past month, increasing from **22.3%** pre campaign to **37.5%** to post campaign. Of those who had seen the campaign, **78.3%** of respondents had thought about taking folic acid supplements.

Behaviour changed:

For those who aren't planning a pregnancy there was an increase from **7.9%** pre campaign to **12.1%** post campaign of women who took folic acid while for those who were planning a pregnancy there was an increase from **15.7%** pre to **18.9%**.

Of those who had seen the campaign 36.6% started taking folic acid as part of their daily routine.

Barriers to behaviour change remained the same:

The main reason women did not take folic acid supplements was because they did not think it was relevant to them (**53%** pre campaign and **54.5%** post campaign). This did not see any significant change.

Awareness of the campaign:

59.9% of women had seen/read or heard about folic acid in the past six weeks. The three most common places they had seen/heard about folic acid was via social media (**68.1%**), the **safefood** website, (**30%**), and another website (**24.6%**).

90% of women found the campaign acceptable or essential.

a folic acid tablet. The campaign reminds women to include folic acid as part of their morning routine.

The **safefood** campaign reminded women to take a 400 microgram folic acid supplement every day because women cannot receive the amount of folic acid they need through food alone, even with fortified foods as part of their diet.

Taking a daily folic acid supplement can potentially prevent two thirds of Neural Tube Defects (NTDs) like spina bifida from occurring. At present, Ireland has the highest rate of babies born with spina bifida in the European Union.

Operation Transformation

safefood's sponsorship of the tenth series of Operation Transformation resulted in an average viewership of over 350,000 for each episode. The show continues to provide important content messages relating to weight and health, and related issues such as cancer and mental health.

Key findings.

Over 1/3 of the population watch the programme.

1/3 of those who are watching do so to either try to lose weight themselves or to encourage others (friend or family) to do so.

18% of those who watched the show lost weight as a result, this equates to a population figure of **213,440** or **6%** of the population.

The changes that people are making to their lifestyle as a result of the show has shifted more towards healthy eating than being more active.



HSE and **safefood** staff pictured at the Healthy Ireland stakeholder launch event in Croke Park.



Food safety campaign - handwashing

A food safety campaign to educate young children on the importance of handwashing launched in September to coincide with back to school and those starting crèche. Aimed at parents and their children aged 2-4, this campaign features an animated ad with 'Rufus' the messy monster as the protagonist. The ad aired on children's online channels, cinema advertising before children's movies; radio advertising; posters in bathrooms located in cinemas and

shopping centres. The website also featured a downloadable poster and activity sheet.

Preceding the campaign **safefood** conducted a piece of benchmarking research among parents on their knowledge, attitudes and behaviours towards handwashing. The research consist of 500 face-to-face, in-home interviews with parents of children aged 2-5 and living on the island of Ireland. The research was carried out in July and some of the results include;

96% recognise that teaching children how to correctly wash their hands is an important life lesson.

84% of parents stated that their child always washes his/her hands after using the toilet.

Two thirds of 2-5 year olds wash their hands by themselves.

Just under half of parents stated that their child spent 10 – 30 seconds washing their hands.



Corporate Operations

The services provided span the areas of accounting and finance, procurement, human resources, information technology, legal governance and audit, all contributing to facilitate the efficient and effective delivery of **safefood**'s business goals and strategy.



Members of the **safefood** Advisory Board and **safefood** staff pictured by the peace bell at Áras on Uachtaráin.

Advisory Board

Seven meetings of the Advisory Board were held through the year, five in Dublin, one in Cork and one in Belfast. In addition to in-house presentations and briefings from **safefood** staff, several guest speakers were invited to present to the Board on such topics as the work carried out by University College Dublin's Institute of Food and Health and the Agri Food QUEST Centre based in Belfast. Governance training was delivered to the Board by the Institute of Public Administration.

The highlight of the Board in 2017 was a trip to Áras on Uachtaráin in Dublin. With the support of Mary Upton, members of the Advisory Board and **safefood** Directors travelled to Áras an Uachtaráin in August 2017.

Attendance details as well as fees paid to members of the Advisory Board are included in note 3 to the Accounts.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit & Risk committee is comprised of two members of the Advisory Board (Mr. Paul Gibbons and Mr Edmund Rooney) and two external members, one of whom chairs the committee. Both external members of the committee have wide relevant professional experience. The Audit & Risk Committee met four times in 2017. The Audit & Risk Committee engages external professional auditors to conduct a programme of internal audits and regularly reviews the risk register for completeness and to ensure that all appropriate steps to control and mitigate risks are in place. External Audit is carried out jointly by the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

The Audit & Risk Committee has an independent role in the provision of assurance to the CEO as accounting officer and the Advisory Board on internal control, risk management, audit and assurance matters as

part of the systematic review of **safefood**'s internal controls and governance procedures.

Audit & Risk Committee member attendance 2017

Number of Meetings	4
Ms Margaret Campbell	3
Mr Alan Myles	3
Mr Paul Gibbons	3
Mr Edmond Rooney	4

Human Rights & Equality

safefood aims to comply fully with Equality and Human Rights legislation in both jurisdictions. During 2017, **safefood** closely monitored its progress towards delivering the commitments set out in its Disability action Plan 2016-2020 and undertook equality screenings of **safefood**'s Communications Strategy 2017-2019, **safefood**'s Research Strategy 2017-2019 and **safefood**'s Customer Charter. Regular training is provided to all staff to encourage awareness of disability and equality issues and



Members of the **safefood** Advisory Committee.

this training has been incorporated into the staff induction process. The Annual Report on Equality (which is published on **safefood**'s website) and the Disability Action Plan were submitted on a timely basis to the Equality Commission (NI). **safefood**'s recruitment programme actively encourages people with disabilities to apply for roles.

Advisory Committee

The **safefood** Advisory Committee held its first meeting of 2017 on 8 May in Dublin. Amongst the topics discussed were research, campaigns, Brexit and consumer psychology. The second meeting took place on 19 October also at the Dublin office and included presentations/discussions on **safefood** campaigns, Brexit, food hypersensitivity and the prioritization of future SAC work.

Business Plan

The 2018 Business Plan was submitted to both sponsor departments in August 2017.

Protected Disclosure

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosure Act 2014 requires the publication of a report each year relating to the number of protected disclosures made in the preceding year and also for the publication of information with regard to any actions taken in response to protected disclosures made.

No protected disclosures were received by **safefood** in the reporting period up to 31 December 2017.

Declaration of interests

Members of the Advisory Board complete a Declaration of Interests annually. A Register of Interests is maintained and is available on request.

REMUNERATION REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2017

The North/South Implementation Bodies Annual Reports and Accounts Guidance, issued jointly by the Department of Finance (DOF) in the North and the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER) in the South, requires the disclosure of the remuneration and pension entitlements of certain senior staff members. Based on the Board's assessment that making those disclosures would be a breach of data protection legislation, **safefood** has not made those disclosures.

Remuneration policy

safefood's remuneration policy is to mirror the Public Sector salaries and terms and conditions for all staff. The appropriate pay scales for each grade contain a number of pay points from minima to maxima, allowing progression towards the maxima.

Bonuses and benefits in kind

It is not the policy of **safefood** to make any bonus payments to members of the key management team or staff. No bonus payments were made in 2017 or 2016. There were no benefits in kind provided to key management or staff in 2017 or 2016.

Salary bands

The number of employees at the end of the year whose emoluments (including pension contributions) fell within the following bands (this represents the annual emoluments) are:-

	2017	2016
€20,000-30,000	1	7
€30,001-40,000	6	2
€40,001-50,000	7	6
€50,001-60,000	4	3
€60,001-70,000	4	4
€70,001-80,000	2	3
€80,001-90,000	3	2
€90,001-100,000	2	1
€100,001-110,000	1	1

Service contracts

All senior management and key appointments are made in accordance with **safefood's** recruitment policy which requires the appointment to be on the basis of suitability and competence. All staff receive a contract of employment on appointment, which details their terms and conditions. Termination payments are in accordance with these terms and conditions. During 2017 there were no termination, compensation or severance payments made.

Key management team remuneration

The remuneration and pension entitlements of the Chief Executive Officer are set out in note 3 (c) of the Financial Statements.

The Key Management Team consists of the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Corporate Operations, the Director of Marketing and Communications, the Director of Food Science and the Director of Human Health and Nutrition. The total remuneration paid to the Key Management Team in 2017 amounted to €448,700 (GBP€393,362).

Pension arrangements

All staff and management are members of the North/South Pension Scheme which was established by the North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Limited with effect from 29 April 2005. It is a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you

go basis from monies provided by the UK and Irish Exchequers. Funding is provided to the Body by the Department of Health in the South and the Department of Health in the North. The scheme is administered by an external administrator.

Fair pay disclosure

safefood is required to disclose the median remuneration of its staff. This is based on annualised full time equivalent remuneration of all staff as at 31st December 2017. It is also required to disclose the range of staff remuneration and the ratio between the median staff remuneration and the mid-point of the banded remuneration of the highest paid director.

	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Midpoint of band of highest paid director	106,904	104,317	93,720	85,486
Median remuneration of staff	52,717	50,945	46,215	41,748
Ratio	2.03	2.05	2.03	2.05
Range of staff remuneration	€30,025 to €106,904	€25,783 to €104,317	£26,322 to £93,720	£21,127 to £85,486

The remuneration of the highest paid director in 2017 was €106,904 (GBP£93,720), 2016: €104,317 (GBP£85,486). This was 2.03 times the median salary of the workforce which in 2017 was €52,717 (GBP£46,215), 2016: €50,945, (£41,748). Total remuneration includes salary. It does not include employer pension contribution and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

Advisory board fees

	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP	2017 Meetings Attended	2016 Meetings Attended
Helen O'Donnell	12,079	9,830	10,589	8,055	7	6
Paul Gibbons	-	-	-	-	6	6
Brendan Kehoe	7,695	7,695	6,746	6,306	6	7
Alan McGrath	7,695	7,695	6,746	6,306	6	7
Mary Upton	7,695	7,695	6,746	6,306	7	7
Mervyn Oswald	5,971	6,714	5,235	5,502	6	5
Margaret Jeffares	7,695	8,088	6,746	6,628	5	5
Dolores O'Riordan	-	-	-	-	4	4
Edmond Rooney	6,276	N/A	5,502	N/A	7	N/A
Wendy McIntosh	6,276	N/A	5,502	N/A	7	N/A
Stephen Moutray	6,276	N/A	5,502	N/A	5	N/A
Julie Andrews	N/A	6,062	N/A	4,968	N/A	6
Thomas Burns	N/A	6,062	N/A	4,968	N/A	7
Hannah Su	N/A	6,062	N/A	4,968	N/A	4
Campbell Tweedie	N/A	6,062	N/A	4,968	N/A	5

7 meetings of the Advisory Board were held in 2017 (2016 : 7). Mr. Paul Gibbons and Prof Dolores O' Riordan do not receive board fees due to the "One Person One Salary" principle. The total amount of fees paid to Advisory Board members in 2017 was €66,668/£58,446 (2016

€71,246/£58,445) and the National Insurance Contribution in 2017 was €13/£11 (2016 €157/£128). The total amount of fees due at 31st December 2017 was nil and the amounts due at 31st December 2016 was €1,046/£857. No Benefits in Kind were provided to Senior

Management or Advisory Board Members. A total of €7,660/£6,715 (2016 €10,751/£8,810) was claimed by Advisory Board Members to cover travel and subsistence expenses. This amount is included in travel and subsistence disclosed in note 4.

2017 Accounts

Accounts for the year ended - 31 December 2017

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Foreword to the Accounts

1. Format

These Accounts are prepared in a form directed by the Department of Health (Northern Ireland) and the Department of Health (Republic of Ireland) with the approval of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Republic of Ireland) and the Department of Finance (Northern Ireland), and in accordance with the financial arrangements of Part 7 of Annex 2 to the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 and the North-South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999.

2. Background Information

The Food Safety Promotion Board (An Bord um Chur Chun Cinn Sábháilteachta Bia) is an Implementation Body established under the Belfast Agreement on the 2nd December 1999. The Board's governing legislation is the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 and the North-South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999.

The governing legislation confers the following specific functions:-

- Promotion of food safety
- Research into food safety
- Communication of food alerts
- Surveillance of foodborne disease
- Promotion of scientific co-operation and laboratory linkages
- Development of cost effective facilities for specialised laboratory testing

In addition to the above, the Board has a general remit to act as an independent source of scientific advice.

The Food Safety Promotion Board operates under the brand name '**safefood**'.

3. Governance

The functions of the Board are discharged by the Chief Executive who reports to the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC). The Chief Executive is assisted by an Advisory Board and a Scientific Advisory Committee. The members of the Advisory Board for 2017 were:

Advisory Board 2017

Ms. Helen O Donnell
(Chairperson)
Mr. Paul Gibbons
(Vice-Chairperson)
Mr. Brendan Kehoe
Mr. Alan McGrath
Dr. Mary Upton
Mr. Mervyn Oswald
Ms. Margaret Jeffares
Prof. Dolores O Riordan
Dr. Edmond Rooney
Ms. Wendy McIntosh
Mr. Stephen Moutray

Advisory Committee 2017

The **safefood** Advisory Committee comprises 13 members drawn from a broad range of expertise and disciplines available in both jurisdictions and advises on food sciences, the agri-food chain, public health nutrition, education, consumer behaviour, communications and community and voluntary matters. There are currently 12 members on this committee with one position remaining vacant at 31st December 2017.

FOREWORD TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

4. Financial Results

The results of the Food Safety Promotion Board are set out in detail on page 49. During 2017, the Food Safety Promotion Board incurred expenditure of €8,393,095 (GBP€7,357,975) and received income of €8,440,838 (GBP€7,399,830) resulting in a surplus for the year of €47,743 (GBP€41,855).

5. Post Balance Sheet Events / Contingent Liabilities

There were no post balance sheet events or contingent liabilities.

6. Charitable Donations

No charitable donations were received or made during the year.

7. Policies

Disabled Employees

The Board complies with the requirements of Part 5 of the Disabilities Act 2005 in supporting the employment of people with disabilities and continues to be committed to a policy of equal opportunity and welcomes applications from suitably qualified applicants irrespective of disability. A Disability Action Plan was issued in 2011 to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and to encourage their participation in public life.

Equality

The Board's approved Equality Scheme was issued in September 2011 and **safefood** is engaged in an ongoing review process.

Provision of Information to and Consulting with Employees

An Employee Partnership Forum was in place throughout 2017 as a mechanism for consultation with employees.

Prompt Payment Policy and its performance

The Board is committed to the prompt payments for goods and services received, in accordance with the Irish Prompt Payments of Accounts Act, 1997 as amended by the European Communities (Late Payments in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2013 and the UK Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, as amended by the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Regulations 2002. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of receipt of the goods or services, or on presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand whichever is later. In 2017 87% (2016 76%) of all invoices were settled within 30 days.

Health & Safety Policy

The Board maintains a Health and Safety policy, circulated to all employees. The policy reflects legal requirements to maintain a high standard throughout the organisation.

8. Future Development

The Board's Corporate Strategy for the years 2017 – 2019 has been developed and is currently awaiting approval. The FSPB Business Plan for 2017 was not approved by the North / South Ministerial Council, as this body was not operational during 2017. However, the funding departments put in place alternative arrangements to enable **safefood** to continue in operation.

This Strategy outlines the Board's mission, vision and core values and how the Board will implement each of its functions over the 3 year period. The strategy is re-assessed annually in the context of an annual business plan.

The budgeted expenditure for 2018 is €7,480,000 (GBP6,732,000).

The decision by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union poses a threat to the operation of **safefood**. It is as yet unclear as to what the extent of this impact may be.

Statement of Food Safety Promotion Board's and Accountable Person's Responsibilities

The Department of Health (ROI) and the Department of Health (NI) have directed the Food Safety Promotion Board to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in the form and on the basis set out in the accounts direction at the appendix to these Accounts. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the Body's state of affairs at the year-end and of its income and expenditure, total recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Body is required to:

- Observe the Accounts direction issued by the Department of Health (ROI) and the Department of Health (NI), including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts;
- Prepare the Accounts on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Body will continue in operation.

Chief Executive's Responsibilities

The Chief Executive's responsibilities as the Accountable Person for the Food Safety Promotion Board, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of records, are set out in the Financial Memorandum of the Body.



Raymond Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10th December 2018

Statement on Internal Control / Governance Statement

1. Scope of Responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Food Safety Promotion Board's policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding the public funds and Departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI) and Public Finance Procedures.

The precise accountability and reporting structure is defined in the Board's Financial Memorandum, which outlines the review and monitoring role of the joint sponsor Departments (Department of Health (NI) and Department of Health (ROI)). In addition, as Chief Executive Officer, I am accountable to the respective public accounts committees in both jurisdictions.

2. The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims, and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Board policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Food Safety Promotion Board for the year ended 31 December 2017 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Accounts, and accords with the Finance Departments' guidance.

3. Capacity to Handle Risk

The Senior Management Team is responsible for applying and overseeing the risk management process under my guidance to ensure the process is working as intended. In addition to reviewing the overall risk framework, all recommendations received from both the internal and external auditors are reviewed, with controls being enhanced or introduced as necessary.

All staff are expected to work within established policies on risk and internal control, and are trained appropriately.

4. The Risk and Control Framework

The Board has developed a risk register and risk assessment matrix. Risk is identified at both the inherent and control level at the time of the development of business plans and strategies. The Board has developed a framework of regular management information, variance review, and administrative and control procedures (including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability).

It also includes:

- Comprehensive budgeting systems with the annual budget approved by the Chief Executive Officer;
- Procedures to review and agree the budgets with the Senior Management Team;
- The preparation of regular financial reports as a basis for reviewing and monitoring progress.

In 2017, the review of the risk and control framework was aided by the comments of both the Internal and External Auditors and the Audit and Risk Committee.

5. Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. A plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The following activities supported the effectiveness review:

- The Annual Budget, approved by the Sponsoring Departments, was reviewed monthly by the Senior Management Team, particularly any variances from planned activity;
- The framework for risk management was kept under continuing review and the risk register was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee.

A review of the effectiveness of Internal Financial Controls in place during the 2017 financial year was undertaken in November 2017 by the Internal Auditors and reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee. On the basis of their report, I am assured that overall strong systems and controls are in place to mitigate key identified risks. The audit report found substantial compliance with established systems and internal financial controls. No high risk findings that may result in a material financial loss or operational disruption were discovered and apart from one

issue, deemed of low weakness, it was found that the controls tested were operating effectively. The assessment by the Internal Auditors therefore indicates that reasonable assurance can be placed on the sufficiency and operation of internal financial controls. A review of the procurement, purchasing and payments systems and related controls in operation at **safefood** was also undertaken in November 2017. This audit report found substantial compliance with established systems. No high risk findings that may result in a material financial loss or operational disruption to **safefood** were found and apart from two issues, deemed of low weakness, it was found that the controls tested were operating effectively.



Raymond Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10th December 2018

Food Safety Promotion Board

The certificate of the comptrollers and auditors general to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Houses of the Oireachtas

Opinion on the accounts

We certify that we have audited the accounts of Food Safety Promotion Board (the Body) for the year ended 31 December 2017 pursuant to the provisions of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 which require us to audit and certify, in co-operation, the accounts presented to us by the Body. The accounts comprise:

- the statement of income and expenditure;
- the statement of comprehensive income;
- the statement of financial position;
- the statement of cash flows;
- the statement of changes in equity and the related notes. These accounts have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

In our opinion, the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Body's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the accounts direction in the appendix to the accounts.

Opinion on regularity

In our opinion, the expenditure and income recorded in the accounts have in all material respects been applied to the purposes intended by the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of the Oireachtas and the financial transactions reported in the accounts conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of this certificate. We are independent of the Body in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2016 and of the Code of Ethics issued by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions and have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information other than the accounts

The Body has presented certain other information together with the accounts. This comprises the annual report, the foreword to the accounts, the statement on internal control/governance statement and the remuneration report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or with our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which we report if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations we required for our audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the accounts to be readily and properly audited, or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records, or
- the Statement on Internal Control/ Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with applicable guidance on corporate governance.

Responsibilities of the Body and the Accounting Officer for the accounts

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Body is responsible for the preparation of the accounts on the basis of the accounts direction included in the appendix to the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, is responsible for the propriety and regularity in relation to the use of public funds.

Responsibilities of the Auditors

Our responsibility is to audit the accounts in accordance with the provisions of the North/South Co operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 and to report thereon to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Our objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the accounts whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.

- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Body's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Body to cease to continue as a going concern.

- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the accounts, including the disclosures, and whether the accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

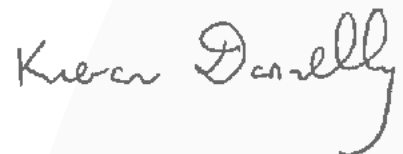
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

In addition, we are required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that expenditure and income recorded in the financial accounts have been applied to the purposes intended by the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of the Oireachtas and that the financial transactions recorded in the accounts conform to the authorities which govern them.



Seamus McCarthy

Irish Comptroller and Auditor General
3A Mayor Street Upper
Spencer Dock, Dublin 1, Ireland, D01 PF72
18/12/2018



Kieran J Donnelly

Comptroller and Auditor General
for Northern Ireland
106 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1EU
19/12/2018

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Income					
Revenue Grant from Departments	2(a)	7,437,111	7,010,728	6,519,892	5,745,151
Capital Grant Release	9	<u>117,727</u>	<u>100,310</u>	<u>103,208</u>	<u>82,202</u>
		7,554,838	7,111,038	6,623,100	5,827,353
Other Income	2(b)	<u>886,000</u>	<u>980,000</u>	<u>776,730</u>	<u>803,090</u>
Total Income		8,440,838	8,091,038	7,399,830	6,630,443
Expenditure					
Staff Costs	3(b)	2,929,718	2,894,024	2,568,396	2,371,595
Board Fees		66,681	72,449	58,457	59,370
Depreciation	6	117,727	100,310	103,208	82,202
Research Programme Expenditure	5	1,581,496	1,101,242	1,386,451	902,446
Promotion Activities	12	2,417,391	2,741,703	2,119,254	2,246,771
Other Operating Costs	4	<u>1,280,082</u>	<u>1,258,016</u>	<u>1,122,209</u>	<u>1,030,918</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>8,393,095</u>	<u>8,167,744</u>	<u>7,357,975</u>	<u>6,693,302</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>47,743</u>	<u>(76,706)</u>	<u>41,855</u>	<u>(62,859)</u>
Amount transferred to General Reserve	13	<u>47,743</u>	<u>(76,706)</u>	<u>41,855</u>	<u>(62,859)</u>

All amounts above relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 54 to 69 form part of these accounts, together with Appendix 1 on page 70.



Raymond Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10th December 2018

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		47,743	(76,706)	41,855	(62,859)
Actuarial gain/(loss) on pension liabilities	17(b)	1,235,000	(1,462,000)	1,082,687	(1,198,080)
Adjustment to deferred pension funding		<u>(1,235,000)</u>	<u>1,462,000</u>	<u>(1,082,687)</u>	<u>1,198,080</u>
Total recognised gain/(loss) for the period		<u>47,743</u>	<u>(76,706)</u>	<u>41,855</u>	<u>(62,859)</u>

The notes on pages 54 to 69 form part of these accounts, together with Appendix 1 on page 70.



Raymond Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10th December 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	6	771,397	775,123	684,407	663,645
Current Assets					
	7	836,684	732,398	742,331	627,064
Current Liabilities					
Payables- amount falling due within one year	8	<u>(659,006)</u>	<u>(602,463)</u>	<u>(584,690)</u>	<u>(515,816)</u>
Net Current Assets					
		177,678	129,935	157,641	111,248
Total Assets less Current Liabilities before Pensions					
		<u>949,075</u>	<u>905,058</u>	<u>842,048</u>	<u>774,893</u>
Deferred Pension Funding	17(d)	13,210,000	13,559,000	11,720,000	11,609,000
Pension Liabilities	17(b)	<u>(13,210,000)</u>	<u>(13,559,000)</u>	<u>(11,720,000)</u>	<u>(11,609,000)</u>
Net Assets					
		<u>949,075</u>	<u>905,058</u>	<u>842,048</u>	<u>774,893</u>
Financed By: Capital & Reserves					
General Reserve	13	177,678	129,935	157,641	111,248
Capital Grant Reserve	9	<u>771,397</u>	<u>775,123</u>	<u>684,407</u>	<u>663,645</u>
		<u>949,075</u>	<u>905,058</u>	<u>842,048</u>	<u>774,893</u>

The notes on pages 54 to 69 form part of these accounts, together with Appendix 1 on page 70.



Raymond Dolan
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 10th December 2018

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	10	130,571	15,382	135,515	88,715
Capital expenditure & financial investment					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	6	<u>(114,001)</u>	<u>(8,548)</u>	<u>(99,941)</u>	<u>(7,005)</u>
Net cash inflow/(outflow) before financing		16,570	6,834	35,574	81,710
Financing					
Capital Funding Received		<u>114,001</u>	<u>8,548</u>	<u>99,941</u>	<u>7,005</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash/bank balances	11	<u>130,571</u>	<u>15,382</u>	<u>135,515</u>	<u>88,715</u>

The notes on pages 54 to 69 form part of these accounts, together with Appendix 1 on page 70.



Raymond Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10th December 2018

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
General Reserve					
Balance at 1 January	13	129,935	206,641	111,248	151,664
Surplus/(Deficit)	13	47,743	(76,706)	41,855	(62,859)
Actuarial Gain / (Loss)	17 (b)	1,235,000	(1,462,000)	1,082,000	(1,198,000)
Deferred Pension Funding		(1,235,000)	1,462,000	(1,082,000)	1,198,000
Currency Translation Adjustment	13			4,538	22,443
Balance at 31 December		<u>177,678</u>	<u>129,935</u>	<u>157,641</u>	<u>111,248</u>
Capital Reserve					
Balance at 1 January	9	775,123	866,885	663,645	636,250
Capital Grants	9	114,001	8,548	99,941	7,005
Amortisation	9	(117,727)	(100,310)	(103,208)	(82,202)
Currency Translation Adjustment	9			24,029	102,592
Balance at 31 December		<u>771,397</u>	<u>775,123</u>	<u>684,407</u>	<u>663,645</u>
Total Equity at Year End		<u>949,075</u>	<u>905,058</u>	<u>842,048</u>	<u>774,893</u>

The notes on pages 54 to 69 form part of these accounts, together with Appendix 1 on page 70.



Raymond Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10th December 2018

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Without limiting the information given, the Financial Statements are prepared on an accruals basis and comply with the accounting and disclosure requirements issued by the Department of Finance and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

This is the first year in which the financial statements have been prepared under FRS102 – the date of transition to FRS102 is 1 January 2016. The transition to FRS102 has not affected its reported financial position or financial performance.

1.2 Income

Income represents revenue grants receivable from the Department of Health (ROI) and the Department of Health (NI).

1.3 Fixed Assets

a) Tangible Fixed assets are included at historic cost to the Food Safety Promotion Board.

b) Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost over their useful lives.

The methods adopted and the rates used per annum are as follows:

Office Equipment
15% Straight Line

Computer Equipment
33.3% Straight Line

Property & Fitout Costs
4% Straight Line

Fixtures & Fittings
10% Straight Line

c) Depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition but not in the year of disposal.

d) Fixed Assets are capitalised once they exceed €650 (GBP£570).

1.4 Value Added Tax

The Food Safety Promotion Board is not in a position to reclaim VAT and VAT is included as expenditure or in the capital value of Fixed Assets.

1.5 Retirement Benefits

The Food Safety Promotion Board has adopted FRS 102 in relation to accounting for retirement benefits. The North/South Pension Scheme was established by the North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Limited with effect from 29 April 2005. It is a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the UK and Irish Exchequers. Funding is provided to the Body by the Department of Health in the South and the Department of Health in the North. The scheme is administered by an external administrator.

Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 covers retirement benefits. The liability at 31 December 2017 has been included in the financial statements and a disclosure note has been included (Note 17) detailing the actuarial review calculations, which were carried out by Deloitte Total Reward and Benefits Limited using the projected unit method. This includes the results of the calculations of the pension liabilities and costs of employees (and ex-employees) of the Food Safety Promotion Board for the purposes of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 and comparative figures for 2016.

Retirement Benefit costs reflect retirement benefits earned by employees in the period. An amount corresponding to the retirement benefit charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge retirement benefit payments. Retirement Benefit liabilities represent the present value of future retirement benefit payments earned by staff to date. Deferred retirement benefit funding represents a corresponding asset, being resources to be made available in future periods from the UK and Irish Exchequers in the manner described above.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. From 2012, the current retirement benefit service cost is recognised gross of members' contributions. Treatment in prior years had been to recognise the members' contributions separately within the retirement benefits note.

1.6 Research Programme Expenditure

Research contract costs included in the Income and Expenditure Account are based on expenditure due and payable in the year on foot of approved research contracts.

1.7 Capital Grant Reserve

The Capital Grant Reserve Account represents the unamortised value of income used for capital purposes.

1.8 Reporting Currency

The transactions and balances of the Board are reported in both Euro and Sterling. The working currency of the Board is Euro and transactions are recorded in that currency. Transactions in other currencies are recorded in euro at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in Sterling are translated into Euro at the rates of exchange prevailing at the Balance Sheet date (0.88723). Realised gains and losses are taken to the Income and Expenditure Account.

At year-end the financial statements are translated into Sterling. The Income and Expenditure Account is translated using the average exchange rate for the year (2017 – 0.87667, 2016 - 0.81948) while the Balance Sheet is translated using the closing exchange rate (2017 – 0.88723, 2016 – 0.85618). Currency adjustments arising from this translation of the financial statements are reflected in Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities (Note 10), Capital Grant Reserve (Note 9), and General Reserve (Note 13).

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

2. a) Grants from the Departments

Financial Period 1st January, 2017 to 31st December, 2017

Note	DOH (ROI) €	DOH(NI) €	TOTAL €	DOH (ROI) GBP	DOH(NI) GBP	TOTAL GBP
Revenue Grant	5,269,723	2,167,388	7,437,111	4,619,808	1,900,084	6,519,892
Capital Account	9 80,941	33,060	114,001	70,958	28,983	99,941
	<u>5,350,664</u>	<u>2,200,448</u>	<u>7,551,112</u>	<u>4,690,766</u>	<u>1,929,067</u>	<u>6,619,833</u>

Financial Period 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016

Note	DOH (ROI) €	DOH(NI) €	TOTAL €	DOH (ROI) GBP	DOH(NI) GBP	TOTAL GBP
Revenue Grant	5,229,624	1,781,104	7,010,728	4,285,572	1,459,579	5,745,151
Capital Account	9 6,376	2,172	8,548	5,225	1,780	7,005
	<u>5,236,000</u>	<u>1,783,276</u>	<u>7,019,276</u>	<u>4,290,797</u>	<u>1,461,359</u>	<u>5,752,156</u>

The Food Safety Promotion Board receives grants from the Department of Health (DOH (ROI)) and the Department of Health (DOH (NI)). The respective contributions are DOH (ROI) 71% (2016 75%), and DOH (NI) 29% (2016 25%).

The grants awarded are recorded at a business plan exchange rate for budgeting purposes and at the actual application date exchange rate for the financial statements. In 2017 the budget was €7,480,000 based on an exchange rate of €1 to £0.90. The average exchange rate over the period was €1 to £0.88. As a result the grant recognised was €7,551,112 - a foreign exchange gain on grant conversion of €71k.

2. b) Other Income

	Notes	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Net deferred funding for pensions	17 (c)	<u>886,000</u>	<u>980,000</u>	<u>776,730</u>	<u>803,090</u>
		<u>886,000</u>	<u>980,000</u>	<u>776,730</u>	<u>803,090</u>

3. Staff Costs

a) The average number of staff (including agency staff) was:

Directorates	2017	2016
Senior Management	5	5
Corporate Operations	10	10
Food Science	5	6
Human Health & Nutrition	4	4
Marketing & Communications	7	7
Total	31	32

b) The costs incurred in respect of these staff were:

	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Salary Costs	1,754,641	1,673,733	1,538,241	1,371,591
Employer PRSI	152,784	147,711	133,941	121,046
Pension Costs:				
Current Pension Service Costs	<u>1,022,293</u>	<u>1,072,580</u>	<u>896,214</u>	<u>878,958</u>
	<u>2,929,718</u>	<u>2,894,024</u>	<u>2,568,396</u>	<u>2,371,595</u>

During the year, €79,852/£70,004 (2016 €78,927/£64,679) of pension related deductions, under the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act, 2009 as amended, were deducted and paid over to the Department of Health.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

c) The following information is provided in respect of the Senior Management Team:-

	Emolu- ments €	Emolu- ments GBP	Real Increase/ (Decrease) in Pension Earned €	Real Increase/ (Decrease) in Pension Earned GBP	Value of Accrued Pension at year-end €	Value of Accrued Pension at year-end GBP	Age (years)
Mr Ray Dolan (CEO)	106,904	93,720	0 – 2,500	0 - 2192	50,000- 55,000	44,362 – 48,798	62

The North/South Implementation Bodies Annual Reports and Accounts Guidance, requires the disclosure of the remuneration and pension entitlements of certain senior staff members. In view of Data Protection legislation, the Board has not made these disclosures as this could result in a data protection breach. Dr. Gary Kearney (Director, Food Science), Dr. Cliodhna Foley-Nolan (Director, Human Health and Nutrition), Ms Patricia Fitzgerald (Director, Corporate Operations) and Ms Fiona Gilligan (Director, Marketing and Communications) withheld consent to disclose the above information. All emoluments are in line with standard public sector emoluments for their grades. The total remuneration paid to the key management team in 2017 amounted to €448,700 (GBP£393,362).

4. Other Operating Costs

	2017	2016	2017	2016
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Rent & Electricity*	603,248	606,203	528,849	496,771
Printing, Reports & Literature	6,326	5,403	5,546	4,428
Travel & Subsistence**	177,099	170,227	155,257	139,497
Computer Support	84,459	84,686	74,043	69,398
Telephone	40,649	47,286	35,636	38,750
Postage & Stationery	12,283	13,988	10,768	11,463
Meeting Costs ***	5,116	5,430	4,485	4,450
Office Expenses ***	46,644	51,225	40,891	41,978
Currency Variance	9,612	(49,032)	8,427	(40,181)
Recruitment Expenses	17,198	8,150	15,077	6,679
Advertising	0	3,998	0	3,276
Training	45,772	36,781	40,127	30,141
Insurance	18,210	21,109	15,964	17,298
Subscriptions	14,558	11,962	12,763	9,803
Auditors' Remuneration	18,946	16,081	16,609	13,178
Legal & Professional Fees	45,292	92,578	39,706	75,866
Cleaning & Catering	27,081	26,013	23,741	21,317
Maintenance & Repairs	85,242	103,718	74,729	84,995
Bank Charges	1,952	2,210	1,711	1,811
Records Management	<u>20,395</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,880</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>1,280,082</u>	<u>1,258,016</u>	<u>1,122,209</u>	<u>1,030,918</u>

*The Board entered into an agreement in 2016 to lease a portion of the ground floor of the Cork Office to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland (OPW) for a period of 10 years. The annual rent for this lease is €76,667 per annum, payable in quarterly instalments.

**The costs incurred for Foreign Travel in 2017 amounted to €10,548/£9,247 (2016 €10,985/£9,002).

***The hospitality element of costs in 2017 was €4,641/£4,069 (2016 €3,816/£3,127).

5. Research Programme Expenditure

	2017	2016	2017	2016
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Food Science	515,775	497,618	452,165	407,788
Human Health & Nutrition	719,646	236,730	630,892	193,995
Research Placement Projects	126,427	175,999	110,835	144,228
Community Food Initiatives	<u>219,648</u>	<u>190,895</u>	<u>192,559</u>	<u>156,435</u>
	<u>1,581,496</u>	<u>1,101,242</u>	<u>1,386,451</u>	<u>902,446</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

6. Fixed Assets

Cost or Valuation	Office Equipment €	Property & Fitout Cost €	Fixtures & Fittings €	Computer Equipment & Software €	Total €
At 1st January 2017	386,622	1,811,949	256,926	602,441	3,057,938
Additions	<u>7,251</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>55,047</u>	<u>51,703</u>	<u>114,001</u>
At 31st December 2017	<u>393,873</u>	<u>1,811,949</u>	<u>311,973</u>	<u>654,144</u>	<u>3,171,939</u>
Depreciation					
At 1st January 2017	382,148	1,096,689	219,297	584,681	2,282,815
Provision for the year	<u>2,871</u>	<u>70,758</u>	<u>11,955</u>	<u>32,143</u>	<u>117,727</u>
At 31st December 2017	<u>385,019</u>	<u>1,167,447</u>	<u>231,252</u>	<u>616,824</u>	<u>2,400,542</u>
NBV at 31st December 2017	<u>8,854</u>	<u>644,502</u>	<u>80,721</u>	<u>37,320</u>	<u>771,397</u>
NBV at 31st December 2016	<u>4,474</u>	<u>715,260</u>	<u>37,629</u>	<u>17,760</u>	<u>775,123</u>

Cost or Valuation	Office Equipment GBP	Property & Fitout Cost GBP	Fixtures & Fittings GBP	Computer Equipment & Software GBP	Total GBP
At 1st January 2017	331,018	1,551,355	219,975	515,798	2,618,146
Exchange Adjustment	12,081	56,260	8,559	19,252	96,152
Additions	<u>6,357</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48,258</u>	<u>45,326</u>	<u>99,941</u>
At 31st December 2017	<u>349,456</u>	<u>1,607,615</u>	<u>276,792</u>	<u>580,376</u>	<u>2,814,239</u>
Depreciation					
At 1st January 2017	327,187	938,964	187,758	500,592	1,954,501
Exchange Adjustment	11,896	34,798	6,935	18,494	72,123
Provision for the year	<u>2,517</u>	<u>62,031</u>	<u>10,481</u>	<u>28,179</u>	<u>103,208</u>
At 31st December 2017	<u>341,600</u>	<u>1,035,793</u>	<u>205,174</u>	<u>547,265</u>	<u>2,129,832</u>
NBV at 31st December 2017	<u>7,856</u>	<u>571,822</u>	<u>71,618</u>	<u>33,111</u>	<u>684,407</u>
NBV at 31st December 2016	<u>3,831</u>	<u>612,391</u>	<u>32,217</u>	<u>15,206</u>	<u>663,645</u>

7. Current Assets

	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Receivables	17,710	30,032	15,713	25,712
Prepayments & Accrued Income	54,960	68,923	48,762	59,011
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>764,014</u>	<u>633,443</u>	<u>677,856</u>	<u>542,341</u>
	<u>836,684</u>	<u>732,398</u>	<u>742,331</u>	<u>627,064</u>

8. Payables (amounts falling due within one year)

	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Payables & Accruals	<u>659,006</u>	<u>602,463</u>	<u>584,690</u>	<u>515,816</u>

9. Capital Grant Reserve

	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Opening Balance	775,123	866,885	663,645	636,250
Capital Additions	114,001	8,548	99,941	7,005
Capital Disposals – Cost	0	(16,927)	0	(13,871)
Capital Disposals - Depreciation	0	16,927	0	13,871
Currency Translation Adjustment			24,029	102,592
Less amount released to I&E A/C *	<u>(117,727)</u>	<u>(100,310)</u>	<u>(103,208)</u>	<u>(82,202)</u>
	<u>771,397</u>	<u>775,123</u>	<u>684,407</u>	<u>663,645</u>

*Amount released to I&E	2017 €	2016 €	2017 GBP	2016 GBP
Amortised in line with depreciation	<u>(117,727)</u>	<u>(100,310)</u>	<u>(103,208)</u>	<u>(82,202)</u>
	<u>(117,727)</u>	<u>(100,310)</u>	<u>(103,208)</u>	<u>(82,202)</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

10. Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities

	2017	2016	2017	2016
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	47,743	(76,706)	41,855	(62,859)
Transfer from Capital Grant Reserve	(117,727)	(100,310)	(103,208)	(82,202)
Depreciation Charges	117,727	100,310	103,208	82,202
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	26,285	244,238	20,248	167,163
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	56,543	(152,150)	68,874	(38,032)
Currency Translation Adjustment	—	—	4,538	22,443
	<u>130,571</u>	<u>15,382</u>	<u>135,515</u>	<u>88,715</u>

The currency translation adjustment reflects the amount of the movement in the value of current assets and liabilities which is attributable to the change in exchange rates over the year.

11. Analysis of the balances of cash as shown in the Balance Sheet

	At 01.01.17	Cashflow	At 31.12.17
	€	€	GBP
Euro Account	321,562	(109,005)	212,557
Sterling Account	319,200	239,473	558,673
Deposit Account	52	0	52
Petty Cash	864	908	1,772
Credit Cards	<u>(8,235)</u>	<u>(805)</u>	<u>(9,040)</u>
Total	<u>633,443</u>	<u>130,571</u>	<u>764,014</u>

12. Promotion Activities

	2017	2016	2017	2016
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Media Costs	1,602,863	1,895,690	1,405,182	1,553,480
Marketing Costs	324,043	336,097	284,079	275,425
Events	56,155	95,788	49,229	78,496
Publications	47,656	32,893	41,779	26,955
Project & Conference Sponsorship	305,329	274,520	267,673	224,964
Educational Development	64,054	86,445	56,154	70,840
Helpline Activities	<u>17,291</u>	<u>20,270</u>	<u>15,158</u>	<u>16,611</u>
	<u>2,417,391</u>	<u>2,741,703</u>	<u>2,119,254</u>	<u>2,246,771</u>

13. General Reserve

	2017	2016	2017	2016
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Opening Balance	129,935	206,641	111,248	151,664
Surplus/(Deficit)	47,743	(76,706)	41,855	(62,859)
Currency Translation Adjustment	—	—	<u>4,538</u>	<u>22,443</u>
Closing Balance	<u>177,678</u>	<u>129,935</u>	<u>157,641</u>	<u>111,248</u>

14. Related Party Transactions

The Food Safety Promotion Board is a cross border implementation body sponsored by the Department of Health (ROI) and the Department of Health (NI) which are regarded as related parties. During the year, The Food Safety Promotion Board was principally funded by these departments and had various transactions with them. No Board member, key manager or other related party has undertaken any material transactions with the Food Safety Promotion Board during the year.

15. Future Capital Expenditure

The Food Safety Promotion Board had no capital commitments at 31 December 2017.

16. Leases / Commitments

(a) Operating Leases

The Board has annual lease commitments in respect of operating leases on properties where the lease terms expire as follows:

	31.12.17	31.12.16
	€	€
Within 1 Year	-	-
Between 2 and 5 Years	190,000	190,000
More than 5 Years	<u>293,333</u>	<u>293,333</u>
	<u>483,333</u>	<u>483,333</u>

The Board entered into an agreement in 2016 to lease a portion of the ground floor of the Cork Office to the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland (OPW) for a period of 10 years. The annual rent for this lease is €76,667 per annum, payable in quarterly instalments.

The overall annual rent payable in respect of leased premises is broken down as follows:

Rents payable / (receivable)

Location	Expiry Date	31.12.17	31.12.16
		€	€
Cork	2026	370,000	370,000
Cork Sub Lease	2026	-76,667	-76,667
Dublin	<u>2021</u>	<u>190,000</u>	<u>190,000</u>
Total Annual Costs		<u>483,333</u>	<u>483,333</u>

The total future minimum lease commitment is broken down as follows:

Future Minimum Lease Commitments

Location	Expiry Date	31.12.17	31.12.16
		€	€
Cork	2026	3,237,500	3,607,500
Cork Sub Lease	2026	-626,063	-702,730
Dublin	<u>2021</u>	<u>760,000</u>	<u>950,000</u>
Total Future Lease Commitment		<u>3,371,437</u>	<u>3,854,770</u>

(b) Other Commitments

The Board has other commitments in respect of approved research contracts at 31 December 2017 in the amount of €219,372/£194,633 (2016 €1,183,902/£1,013,633).

17. Retirement Benefits

The retirement benefit scheme consists of a number of sections with different benefit structures. The main sections are:

The Core Final Salary section - this is a final salary pension arrangement with benefits modelled on the Classic section of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme in Northern Ireland. The scheme provides a retirement benefit (eightieths per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (three-eightieths per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's 60th birthday. Retirement Benefits in payment (and deferment) increase in line with general price inflation.

The Core Alpha section - this is a career averaged revalued earnings retirement benefit arrangement or 'CARE' scheme with benefits modelled on the alpha section of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme in Northern Ireland. The scheme provides a retirement benefit based on a percentage (2.32%) of pensionable pay for each year of active membership (the retirement benefit is increased at the start of each scheme year in line with general price inflation) and spouses's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's State Pension Age in the relevant jurisdiction which is currently 67, 68 or between 67 and 68 in the UK and 68 in Ireland. Retirement Benefits in payment (and deferment) increase in line with general price inflation.

Benefits accumulated for service up to 31 March 2015 remain payable at retirement on a final salary basis. Therefore most core section members have benefits in both the Final Salary and alpha section and new entrants who join the Scheme after 1 April 2015 will in most cases, become members of the Core Alpha section.

Reserved Rights Section - all Southern Core Members were given the option to change to a category of membership based on the Superannuation Scheme for Established Civil Servants (which is the Irish Civil Servants Scheme). The options exercise was completed on 31 March 2015 and 14 of the employees opted to change category of membership.

The retirement benefit valuation at 31 December 2017 is based on FRS102 convention and has been carried out by a qualified independent actuary. The results this year have been prepared by carrying out a full valuation of the scheme's liabilities incorporating market conditions and scheme data at 31 December 2017. The principal assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities are:

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

a) Principal actuarial assumptions used for the calculations

	2017	2016
Discount rate (Republic of Ireland)	2.10%	1.90%
Discount rate (Northern Ireland)	2.50%	2.70%
Inflation rate (Republic of Ireland)	1.65%	1.50%
Inflation rate (Northern Ireland)	2.10%	2.30%
Rate of increase in salary (Republic of Ireland)	3.00%	3.00%
Rate of increase in salary (Northern Ireland)	2.10%	2.30%
Rate of increase in retirement benefits (Republic of Ireland):		
In line with salary increases	3.00%	3.00%
In line with CPI	1.65%	1.50%
Rate of increase in retirement benefits (Northern Ireland)	2.10%	2.30%
Year-end exchange rate (Sterling : Euros)	1.13	1.17
Mid-year exchange rate (Sterling : Euros)	1.14	1.22
Average expected future life at age 65 for		
Male currently aged 65	22.1yrs	22.2yrs
Female currently aged 65	23.9yrs	24.2yrs
Male currently aged 45	23.5yrs	23.9yrs
Female currently aged 45	25.4yrs	26.1yrs

b) Movement in Net Pension Liability during the financial year

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000	2017 GBP'000	2016 GBP'000
(Deficit) in the pension liability at 1st January	(13,559)	(11,117)	(11,609)	(8,159)
Retirement Benefits paid during the year	136	93	119	76
Current service cost	(773)	(790)	(678)	(647)
Past service credit	0	0	0	0
Net transfers out of/(in to) the scheme	0	0	0	0
Other finance income/(charge)	(249)	(283)	(218)	(232)
Actuarial gain/(loss)	1,235	(1,462)	1082	(1,198)
Exchange differences – GBP comparisons	—	—	(416)	(1,449)
(Deficit) in the pension liability at 31 Dec	(13,210)	(13,559)	(11,720)	(11,609)

Analysis of the movement in (deficit) in the Plan during the period is as follows

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000	2017 GBP'000	2016 GBP'000
Experience gain/(loss)	650	(71)	570	(58)
Gain/(loss) due to currency movements	(382)	0	(335)	0
Gain/(loss) on change of financial assumptions	967	(1,391)	847	(1,140)
Actuarial gain/(loss)	1,235	(1,462)	1,082	(1,198)

The main element of the actuarial gain relates to the change in actuarial assumptions which have decreased the value placed on the liabilities.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS continued

c) Income and Expenditure Account analysis for the financial year

Analysis of the net deferred funding for retirement benefit is as follows:

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000	2017 GBP'000	2016 GBP'000
Current service cost	773	790	678	647
Other finance cost	249	283	218	232
Retirement Benefits paid during the year	(136)	(93)	(119)	(76)
	<u>886</u>	<u>980</u>	<u>777</u>	<u>803</u>

Analysis of the current retirement benefit service costs is as follows:

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000	2017 GBP'000	2016 GBP'000
Current service cost	773	790	678	647
Other finance cost	<u>249</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>232</u>
	<u>1022</u>	<u>1,073</u>	<u>896</u>	<u>879</u>

d) Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding

In accordance with accounting practice for non-commercial State sponsored bodies in the Republic of Ireland, the Food Safety Promotion Board recognises an asset representing resources to be made available by the UK and Irish Exchequers for the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of a number of past events. These events include the statutory backing for the superannuation schemes, and the policy and practice in relation to funding public service retirement benefits in both jurisdictions including the annual estimates process.

While there is no formal agreement and therefore no guarantee regarding these specific amounts with the funding bodies, the Food Safety Promotion Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet this amount in accordance with current practice. This treatment is inconsistent with accounting practice for UK Non-Departmental Bodies, where, due to absence of a formal guarantee, a funding liability is not recognised until the commitment falls due.

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits as at 31 December 2017 amounted to €13.210m/£11.720m (2016: €13.559m/£11.609m).

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000	2017 GBP'000	2016 GBP'000
Opening Balance at 1 January	13,559	11,117	11,609	8,159
Increase/(decrease) in Deferred Pension Funding	(349)	2,442	111	3,450
Balance at 31 December	13,210	13,559	11,720	11,609

e) History of Defined Benefit Liabilities

	2017 €'000	2016 €'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
(Deficit) as at 31 December	(13,210)	(13,559)	(11,117)	(11,472)
Experience adjustment on liabilities Including exchange rate effect gain/(loss)	650	(71)	(1,107)	102
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	4.9%	0.5%	10.0%	0.9%

	2017 GBP'000	2016 GBP'000	2015 GBP'000	2014 GBP'000
(Deficit) as at 31 December	(11,720)	(11,609)	(8,159)	(8,936)
Experience adjustment on liabilities Including exchange rate effect gain/(loss)	570	(61)	(804)	82
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	4.9%	0.5%	10.0%	0.9%

Date of Authorisation for issue

The Accountable Person (CEO) authorised the issue of these financial statements on 10th December 2018.

ACCOUNTS DIRECTION

Food Safety Promotion Board

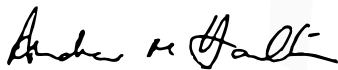
Accounts direction given by the Northern Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Southern Department of Health and Children, with the approval of the finance departments North and South, in accordance with the North/South Co-Operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the Southern British-Irish Agreement Act 1999.

The annual accounts shall give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year, and the state of affairs as at the year end: Subject to this requirement, the Body shall prepare accounts for the financial period 2 December 1999 to 31 December 2000 and subsequent financial years in accordance with:

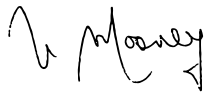
- a. the North/South Implementation Bodies Annual Reports and Account Guidance;
- b. other guidance which Finance Departments may issue from time to time in respect of accounts which are required to give a true and fair view;
- c. any other specific disclosures required by sponsoring Departments;

except where agreed otherwise with Finance Departments, in which case the exception shall be described in the notes to the accounts.

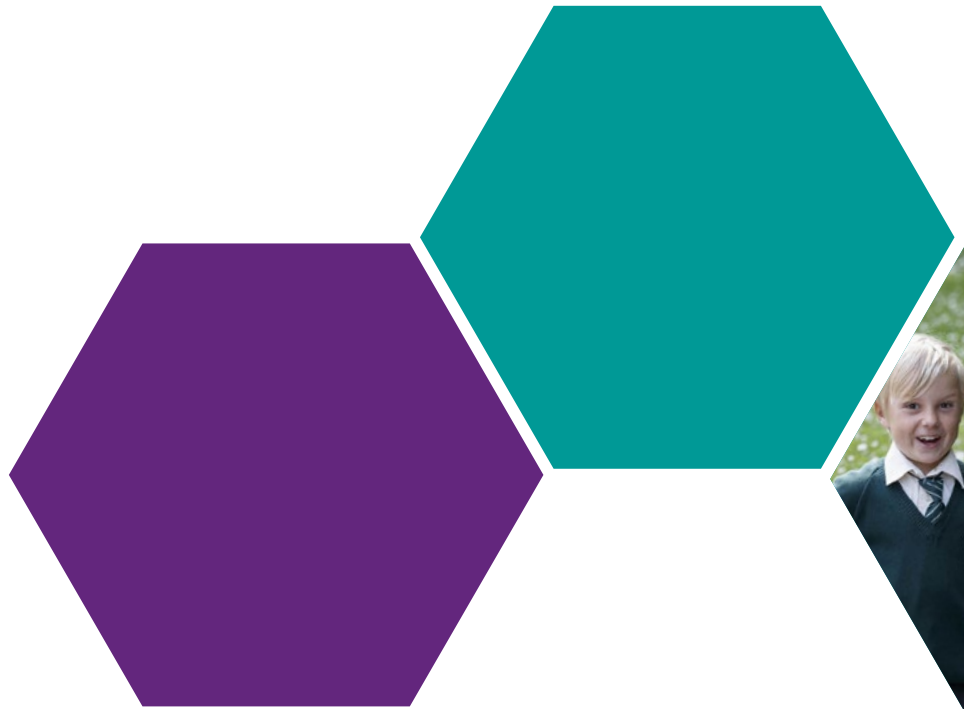
Signed by the authority of the



**Department of Health,
Social Services and Public Safety**
18th June 2001



**Department of
Health and Children**
13th June 2001



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