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## Review of Food Withdrawal and Recall Processes in Retail Sectors

### External Stakeholder Reference Group Monthly Bulletin – May 2017

#### About this bulletin

As part of the communications and engagement plan for the Review of Food Withdrawal and Recall Processes in Retail Sectors project, we are aiming to provide the External Stakeholder Reference Group (ESRG) with regular updates on the project's progress. This bulletin outlines progress since the last bulletin was issued in February.

#### Evidence and Research Gathering

The project's evidence gathering stage is nearing completion. ESRG members will recall that research was undertaken using a phased approach, using qualitative and quantitative research methods and involving stakeholders from across the food industry. A summary of progress with each phase follows:

**Phase 1** - *In depth interviews with stakeholders*: field work and analysis complete. High level findings presented to January 2017 meeting of the ESRG

**Phase 2** - *Online surveys of the public and Food Business Operators*: field work complete, analysis underway

**Phase 3a** - *Public 'Citizens' Forum' workshops*: field work complete, analysis underway

**Phase 3b** - *online forum research work with consumers who have been involved in a recall*: field work complete.

Full analysis to inform the research report is now underway following the completion of field work.

#### Transition Planning

The project team has devised a plan to see through the project's transition from the discovery stage into the development of options for improving the current system, through to implementation.

Key to the plan, the ESRG meeting scheduled for 15 June will see the **presentation of Kantar Public's final findings** along with those of the FSA's Science, Evidence and

Research Division. This will lead into a discussion to gather the ESRG's views on what the research shows are priority and potential areas for improvement, as well as suggestions as to how these might be implemented.

The project Working Group will then meet to discuss the views of ESRG and to identify and develop various options as necessary to improve the performance of the withdrawal and recall system which will be shared with ESRG for further comment. The project team will also seek views from the FSA Executive Management Team before developing an implementation plan. A paper will be presented to the FSA Board in September summarising research finding and potential areas to improve the performance of the system.

## Project oversight

Overall the project remains on track, with delivery progressing in line with the project plan. The **next ESRG meeting** will take place on 15 June 2017, slightly later than originally planned due to the proximity of the General Election. Invitations have been issued and the project team would be grateful if ESRG members could confirm their attendance if they have not already done so.

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