



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



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Food  
Standards  
Agency

# Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency

Information pack for applicants

**Closing date: Midday on Monday, 27 July 2026**  
**Reference no: VAC-8961**

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# Section 1 – The Role

## 1.1 Introduction

### Introduction from Professor Susan Jebb, Chair of the FSA

I am delighted that you are considering applying for a non-executive role as Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) Board.

The FSA is a regulatory department, charged by law with protecting public health, and the wider interests of consumers, in relation to food. Our overarching aim is to ensure that the public can trust that their food is safe and authentic. We act on the basis of science and evidence, and we put public health and the consumer interest first in our decision making. We operate with high levels of transparency, including holding our Board meetings in public and inviting questions from the public on our work, to sustain trust and confidence in food standards.

Our status as a non-Ministerial Government Department, serving England, Wales and Northern Ireland gives us a high degree of independence, and we operate free from political direction or control. Legislation and 'floor of the House' matters are handled by the relevant Health Minister in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We have a budget from the HM Treasury and Devolved Administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland of around £140 million and directly employ around 1400 civil servants. The FSA works closely with our sister department in Scotland, Food Standards Scotland.

The Board sets the strategic priorities to fulfil the FSA's statutory purposes, and reviews progress against agreed outcomes. The Board takes major decisions on public health and regulatory matters and assures the delivery of our programmes and plans.

In 2022 the FSA [published its strategy](#) for improving food over the next five years and recommitted to its mission of food you can trust. The five-year strategy reflects the FSA's greater responsibilities now that the UK is outside of the EU and also commits the FSA to working alongside other government departments towards healthier and more sustainable food.

The Board's ambition is for the FSA to be regarded as an excellent, accountable, modern regulator. We have a very committed and cohesive Board with Members from a range of backgrounds who share their knowledge and expertise in support of this goal. We hold Board meetings in public on four occasions each year, with two private Board retreats and regular briefings and stakeholder visits. We are united by a common purpose to uphold and enhance food standards. People across the UK, and in those countries we export to, care about food and if you join us, your contribution will help uphold and enhance the food standards we are proud of in the UK.

In this pack you will find additional information about the FSA and its work, details of the role, and how to apply. I look forward to receiving your application.

**Professor Susan Jebb, Chair, Food Standards Agency**

## 1.2 Role description and person specification

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and Ministers in Wales and Northern Ireland are seeking to appoint a new Deputy Chair to the board of the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

### Role description

- Deputise as necessary for the Chair over the full range of their responsibilities.
- Act as a conduit between the Board Members and the Chair, facilitate effective communication of consensus and opinions; promote a culture of openness and debate and encourage the effective contribution of Board members.
- Provide support and foster productive relations between the Executive and Non-Executive Board Members.
- To ensure the FSA discharges its statutory duties in line with the requirement to protect public health and consumer interests in relation to food.
- To set and to reinforce the FSA's core values through the development and monitoring of strategic objectives, plans and policies.
- To represent the FSA and its values in communications with key stakeholders.
- To monitor the performance of the Executive in meeting agreed objectives and targets, including: the delivery of services; continuous improvement; financial performance, and risk management.
- To assist with the appointment of the Chief Executive.
- To play an effective part in Board meetings, discussions and decisions, and work towards shared success.
- To participate as a member or Chair of one or more of the Board Committees: Business, and Audit and Risk Assurance.
- To act in the public interest at all times, not as a representative of the interests of any particular sector, and without regard to any personal interests.

### Person specification

The Department of Health and Social Care and the FSA values and promotes diversity. We encourage applications from talented individuals from all backgrounds and across the whole of the United Kingdom. Boards of public bodies are most effective when they reflect the diversity of views of the society they serve.

To be considered for this role, you must be able to demonstrate that you have the qualities, skills and experience to meet all the essential criteria for appointment.

Board members do not represent a particular industry or sector and it is not essential for Board members to have specialist or scientific knowledge of any part of the food chain.

## Essential Criteria

- An ability to chair board meetings of a significant national organisation, and support and sustain an effective board with solid appreciation of good governance arrangements.
- A strong career track record of significant delivery at a senior level within the private, public or voluntary sectors.
- Ability to operate effectively as part of a team on the board of a national public body, where you provide support, challenge and assurance.
- Sound judgement, with an ability to critically analyse a wide range of information and make evidence-based, strategic decisions.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to gain the confidence of colleagues within your organisation and of its stakeholders.
- Experience of working with, or on behalf of the public and an ability to represent consumer interests.

## Remuneration and status of appointment

The FSA Deputy Chair is remunerated at the standard rate of £14,000 per annum.

Remuneration for this role is treated as income and will be subject to tax and National Insurance contributions, both of which will be deducted at source under PAYE before you are paid.

You can claim reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence costs which are properly and necessarily incurred on official business, in line with the travel and subsistence policy and rates of the FSA. However, these payments are taxable as earnings and will be subject to tax and national insurance, both of which will be deducted at source under PAYE before you are paid. A copy of the policy and rates can be obtained from the FSA.

This is an office holder appointment and as such it is not subject to the provisions of employment law. You will not be eligible for redundancy pay as you are not an employee. No other arrangements have been made for compensation upon the end of your term of appointment because an office holder who is appointed for a limited duration would have no expectation of serving beyond that period. You will not become a member of the Civil Service and will therefore not attract any benefits under any Civil Service Pension Scheme.

## Time commitment

35 days per year.

## Location

The FSA head office is located at:

64 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1E 6QP

The FSA hold three Board meetings and two retreats at various locations around England.

One Board meeting per year is held in either Northern Ireland or Wales.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

15 & 16 September 2026  
12 & 13 October 2026  
8 & 9 December 2026

Further information can also be found at [FSA Board Meetings | Food Standards Agency](#). This includes videos of previous Board meetings

## Tenure of office

Ministers will determine the length of the appointment, which will be up to 3 years.

The possibility of re-appointment for a further term is at the discretion of Ministers. There is no automatic presumption of re-appointment; each case is considered on its own merits. Merit will take into account a number of factors including, but not restricted to, the diversity of the current board, the balance of skills and experience it needs in the future, and the performance of an office holder during their first term. Office holders would only serve more than two terms or a total of ten years in post, by exception.

## Accountability

The Deputy Chair is appointed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Ministers in Wales and Northern Ireland. The Deputy Chair will be accountable to Ministers via the Chair for carrying out their duties and for their performance.

The FSA Deputy Chair is also accountable to:

- The Board for actions he or she takes on its behalf, including when acting as the Chair in the Chair's absence, and
- The Chair for actions delegated by him or her.

## For a discussion about the role

For further information regarding the role of the FSA and the role of the Deputy Chair please contact:

Ann Stirling

Tel: 07970 401448

Email: [board.sec@food.gov.uk](mailto:board.sec@food.gov.uk)

## 1.3 Food Standards Agency role and responsibilities

The FSA is an independent, non-ministerial department, established in 2000 following several high-profile outbreaks of foodborne illness such as BSE (mad cow disease).

The objectives, powers and duties are mainly set out in the Food Standards Act 1999. They work across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their main objectives in law are to protect public health from risks arising from the consumption of food and to protect the interests of consumers in relation to food.

The FSA aim to protect the public by ensuring that food is safe and is what it says it is, and by playing their part in helping to make food healthier and more sustainable for everyone. They work across the food system to uphold high standards and to make it easier for businesses to do the right thing. Their work helps ensure that the public, and international trading partners, can have confidence in UK food.

The FSA's role includes providing policy advice to ministers, monitoring developments in science and technology and commissioning research, ensuring their decisions and advice are always based on the best and most recent science. They also provide information and advice to other policy-makers and to the general public in connection with matters within their statutory objectives. They have similar functions in relation to animal feed.

The FSA's statutory powers include the power to issue guidance on control of foodborne disease, and the power to gather and publish information about the food system in support of their objectives, and to publish their own advice. They also have specific powers as a regulator, to enforce food safety controls directly with some businesses and to oversee the enforcement of them by local authorities, with different policy responsibilities across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since the UK left the EU, they also assess all applications for new foods, feed, or food contact material to be sold in England and Wales and advise health ministers on authorisations.

[The FSA governed by an independent Board](#), rather than ministers. The chair and other members are appointed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and the Welsh and Northern Ireland governments. They work closely with Food Standards Scotland, which is the equivalent public body for Scotland.

The FSA's work is underpinned by the latest science and evidence and agreed at their open Board meetings.

## Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency information pack for applicants

HM Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive contribute to their budget, which in recent years has [been about £140 million](#).

Further information about the FSA's work can be found on their website at:

[Homepage | Food Standards Agency](#)

### Useful links

[The FSA Brochure](#)

[Consolidated Annual Report and Accounts 2024-25](#)

[Our Food 2024 | Food Standards Agency](#)

[FSA Board Operating Framework](#)

[Business Committee performance report for Q2 2025/26 | Food Standards Agency](#)

# Section 2: The recruitment

## 2.1 Making an application

Thank you for your interest in the appointment of Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency.

The Department of Health and Social Care's Public Appointments Team is managing this recruitment campaign.

In order to apply you will need to [create an account](#) or [sign in](#) on the "Apply for a public appointment" website. This is a central, online recruitment platform managed by the Cabinet Office, which candidates use to apply for public appointments with any government department or a body which they sponsor.

Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions.

To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- a Curriculum Vitae (CV), we ask that you limit your CV to around 2 pages
- a supporting statement (2 page limit) setting out how you meet the criteria for appointment as set out in the person specification for the role
- equality information
- information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

Guidance on what to include in your CV/supporting statement and tips for applying can be found in the corresponding sections below and on the public appointment website: [Public appointments - GOV.UK](#).

You will be asked to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.

You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the Disability Confident Scheme before you submit your application.

You will also be required to make any declarations related to standards in public life and ensuring public confidence in your supporting statement. Further information on this can be found in the relevant section below.

If you are unable to create an account and apply online, or if you have any problems submitting your application online, please contact Jessie Rourke on 0113 254 5321 or Zubeda Seedat on 0207 210 5352.

Applications must be received by **midday on Monday 27 July 2026**.

The Advisory Assessment Panel reserves the right to only consider applications that contain all of the elements you have been asked to provide, and which are listed above, and that the applications are received before the published deadline.

In completing an application, please firstly note the following information set out below, in relation to:

- Disqualification from appointment
- Conflicts of interest
- Political activity and social media
- Standards in public life and ensuring public confidence.

## **Disqualification from appointment**

The Cabinet Office sets out the following regarding all public appointments:

To hold the role as Deputy Chair of the Food Standards Agency you need a right to work in the UK.

There are a small number of specialist roles that are not open to non-British citizens. Any nationality requirements will be specified in the vacancy details.

The Government expects all holders of public office to work to the highest personal and professional standards. You cannot be considered for a public appointment, which includes this role, if:

- you are disqualified from acting as a company director (under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986)
- have an unspent conviction on your criminal record
- your estate has been sequestrated in Scotland or you enter into a debt arrangement programme under Part 1 of the Debt Arrangement and Attachment (Scotland) Act 2002 (asp 17) as the debtor or have, under Scots law, granted a trust deed for creditors.

The Department of Health and Social Care also requires all those appointed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to public appointments, to be a fit and proper person, comparable with the requirements placed on board members in the NHS. As a result, in addition to the above, you must:

- be of good character
- have the qualifications, competence, skills and experience which are necessary for you to carry out your duties
- have not been erased, removed or struck-off any applicable register of professionals maintained by a regulator of healthcare or social work professionals. If you are required to hold a registration with a relevant professional body to carry out your role, you must hold such registration and must have the entitlement to use any professional titles associated with this registration. Where you no longer meet the requirement to hold the registration, and if you are a healthcare professional, social worker or other professional registered with a healthcare or social care regulator, you must inform the regulator in question

- be capable by reason of health of properly performing tasks which are intrinsic to your role, after reasonable adjustments are made
- not be prohibited from holding office (for example, as a result of a directors disqualification order)
- within the last five years:
  - not have been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment of three months or more
  - not have been un-discharged bankrupt nor have been subject to bankruptcy restrictions, or have made arrangement/compositions with creditors and has not discharged
  - not be on any 'barred' list
  - not have been responsible for, contributed to or facilitated any serious misconduct or mismanagement (whether unlawful or not) in the course of carrying on a regulated activity or providing a service elsewhere which, if provided in England, would be a regulated activity

In addition, legislation related to the FSA sets out how individuals are disqualified from appointment as a Deputy Chair, if they are:

- A Member of the House of Commons or the Northern Ireland Assembly

The above is only intended to act as a summary of the legislation and you should consider the relevant sections of the legislation in full, which are attached for your ease at **Annex A** to this document.

When sending your application online, you will be asked to confirm that the information you have provided is true and correct and that you are eligible to apply for a public appointment. As part of this, you will also confirm that you have read any disqualification criteria for the role, and that you are willing to stand down from any other role/s in order to take up the appointment. If you are currently disqualified from appointment, please provide further details in your supporting letter.

For further advice, please contact Jessie Rourke on [jessie.rourke@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:jessie.rourke@dhsc.gov.uk).

## Conflicts of interest

Before you apply you should carefully consider if you or a party related to you have any interests which could lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest if you were to be appointed. If you are in doubt full disclosure is advised.

When you apply you will be asked to complete, as part of the 'Outside interests and reputational issues' section, information on the following:

- Financial interests
- Employment, appointments and other outside roles
- Personal interests
- Any other relevant interests or activity.
- Political activity and interests.

You should declare anything relevant that you think may call into question your ability to properly discharge the responsibilities of the role you are applying for or may be perceived as having scope to do so by a reasonable member of the public.

Interests may include, (without limitation), any outside personal or business interests, any direct and indirect financial interests (such as shareholdings or share options in individual companies), or any positions of employment, other appointments or other positions of authority, that you or any party related to you have and which may influence your judgement in performing your public appointment or may be perceived by a reasonable member of the public as having scope to do so. A 'party related to you' could include for example (but without limitation) a spouse/partner, a business partner, a close family member or a person living in the same household as you. Further political activity and interests could be more than five years ago and may include a prior relationship with the appointing ministers. Currently the Ministers are: James Murray, (Secretary of State for Health and Social Care), Sharon Hodgson (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health and Prevention), Nerys Evans (Deputy Minister for Public and Health, Welsh Government), and Mike Nesbitt (Department of Health, Northern Ireland).

Further help and examples of the types of things which you may need to disclose will be given to you on the relevant pages when you create your account and application on the public appointments application system (gov.uk website).

Many conflicts of interest can be satisfactorily resolved and declaring a potential conflict does not prevent you from being interviewed.

If you are shortlisted, the Advisory Assessment Panel will discuss any potential conflicts with you during your interview, including any proposals you may have to mitigate them, and can record that in their advice to Ministers. If Ministers wish to appoint you, an offer of appointment may be subject to you giving up any unmanageable conflicts of interest.

If offered the role, you will be required to make a Declaration of Interests, which will need to include mitigations approved by the Department, for managing any potential conflicts of interest. Failure to declare a potential conflict of interest may become grounds for withdrawing an offer of appointment.

You will also be required to keep the Declaration up to date throughout the tenure of your appointment. The requirement to declare interests will also be included in your Terms and Conditions of appointment. Failure to disclose an interest, subject to the interest and the circumstances, may become grounds during the tenure of your appointment, for suspension or termination of your appointment.

Subject to the particular interest, you may also be required declare the interest to the FSA for inclusion on their published Register of Member Interests.

## **Political activity and social media**

In the same section of your online application, you will also be asked to declare if you have undertaken any political activity for a political party within the last five years and for details of any social media accounts that can be viewed by the public.

## Political activity

Political activity information is primarily for monitoring purposes only, however if you are shortlisted for interview, this information will be shared with the Advisory Assessment Panel. The reason for this, is that it is appreciated that such activities may have given you relevant skills, including experience gained from committee work, collective decision-making, resolving conflict and public speaking. If you have had such experience and you consider it relevant to your application for this post, you should also take the opportunity to include it separately in your supporting statement. If possible, you should not, however, identify the relevant political party in your statement.

If you are appointed to this role, please note that any political activity you declare and which meets the criteria for being politically active, as set out in the guidance when applying online, will be published in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments. Political activity is not a bar to appointment, but it must be declared.

## Social media

You can provide up to five public social media accounts and will be asked for the full URL of each. If you apply for a public appointment and are shortlisted for interview, DHSC will conduct appropriate checks, as part of which we reserve the right to consider anything in the public domain which may relate to your need to meet the requirements of the role to which you have applied and to hold public office. This may include searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. We ask for information about your social media accounts to make sure these checks are carried out accurately.

## Standards in public life and ensuring public confidence

If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment to Ministers or the FSA or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, **it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Advisory Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue/s in your Supporting Statement.**

This should include declaring in your Supporting Statement if:

- you are, or have been, bankrupt or you have made an arrangement with a creditor at any point, including the dates of this
- you are subject to a current police investigation
- there are any previous or pending personal conduct issues where:
  - a complaint/personal conduct issue has either been upheld or partly upheld
  - an investigation that relates at least in part to your personal conduct, is to take place but it is yet to start, or a similar such investigation is underway, but it is yet to conclude
  - a complaint/personal conduct issue is current, but at the time of your application it is yet to be confirmed whether or how it will be investigated further
- there are any possible reputational issues arising from your past actions or public statements that you have made (including through social media and blogs)
- there are any other matters which may mean you may not be able to meet the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies. You can

access this document at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/board-members-of-public-bodies-code-of-conduct>

Alongside your own declaration, we will also conduct due diligence checks, as noted above, on information in the public domain. Your declarations and information from our checks will be shared with the Advisory Assessment Panel, who may explore any issues with you as part of assessing your application.

Failure to disclose relevant information requested could result in an appointment offer being withdrawn or the appointment being terminated, as the person appointed to this role will be expected to demonstrate the highest standards of corporate and personal conduct and in line with standards set out in the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies, which includes the Principles of Public Life. As part of agreeing to the terms and conditions of appointment you will be expected to agree to meeting the standards set out in this Code.

FSA's own operating framework can be found at <https://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/board-operating-framework>

## CV

We ask that you aim to limit your CV to around 2 pages. Please ensure your CV includes:

- Your full name, title, home address, personal contact telephone numbers (land line and mobile) and personal email address
- Details of your education and qualifications, employment history, directorships, membership of professional bodies and any relevant publications or awards
- Contact details for at least two referees. One referee should be the person to whom you are/were accountable in your current/most recent appointment or position of employment. Please indicate the relationship of each referee to you.
- Brief details of your current or most recent post and the dates you occupied this role, and any past or present Ministerial appointments.

## Supporting Statement

The Supporting Statement is your opportunity to demonstrate how you meet each of the criteria set out in the person specification. You may want to add the essential and/or desirable criteria set out in the role description as subheadings in your statement and provide evidence underneath these. This will help the Advisory Assessment Panel to see how your skills and expertise relate to the role.

Please also set out details regarding any potential reputational issues (see above guidance on Standards in Public life).

Please ensure your full name, the role to which you are applying and the corresponding reference number for the post are clearly noted at the top of your Statement.

Please write all acronyms in full first, **limit your statement to two pages** and type or write clearly in black ink.

**You must inform the department if, during the application and assessment process, your circumstances change in respect to any information that has been or should have been provided by you in your application.**

## **Equality Information**

You will be asked to complete questions on equality information when completing your application online. If you have previously created an account, the responses from that previous application will be saved. You will have an opportunity to review and edit your responses before you submit an application.

We encourage applications from talented individuals from all backgrounds and across the whole of the United Kingdom. Boards of public bodies are most effective when they reflect the diversity of views of the public they serve.

We collect equality information, including information about applicants' characteristics and educational and professional backgrounds, so that we can make sure we are attracting a broad range of people to these roles and that our recruitment processes are fair for everyone. Without this information, it makes it difficult to see if our outreach is working, if the application process is having an unfair impact on certain groups and whether changes are making a positive difference.

The data you provide is used to produce anonymised management information about the diversity of applicants. You can select "prefer not to say" to any question you do not wish to answer. **The information you provide will not be seen by the Advisory Assessment Panel.**

## **Reasonable adjustments to the application process**

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to make sure applicants with disabilities, physical or mental health conditions, or other needs are not substantially disadvantaged when applying for public appointments. This can include changing the recruitment process to enable people who wish to apply to do so.

Some examples of adjustments are:

- ensuring that application forms are available in different or accessible formats
- making adaptations to interview locations
- allowing candidates to present their skills and experience in a different way
- giving additional detailed information on the assessment process to allow candidates time to prepare themselves
- allowing support workers to attend interviews, for example sign language interpreters
- making provision for support animals to attend interviews.

When you complete your application online, you will be given the opportunity to tick a box to request reasonable adjustment(s) to the application process at the "check your answers before sending your application" stage.

## Disability Confident Scheme

The Department of Health and Social Care values diversity and is committed to equality of opportunity for all and the appointment of disabled people. We are a member of the Disability Confident Scheme, which helps recruit and retain disabled people.

As part of implementing the Scheme, we guarantee an interview to anyone with a disability whose application meets all the essential criteria in the person specification for the role and who has asked that their application is considered under the Scheme. Indicating that you wish your application to be considered under the Scheme will in no way prejudice your application.

### What do we mean by a disability?

To be eligible for the Disability Confident Scheme you must have a disability or long-term health condition, which could be physical, sensory or mental and must be expected to last for at least 12 months. You do not have to be registered as a disabled person to apply under this Scheme.

If you wish to apply under the Scheme, please tick the relevant box at the “check your answers before sending your application” stage of your online application.

## 2.2 The Assessment Process

We will deal with your application as quickly as possible and will advise you of the likely timetable at each stage.

### Planned timetable

- Closing date: Middy on Monday 27 July 2026
- Shortlisting: Wednesday 12 August 2026
- Interviews: Thursday 24 September (AM) & Tuesday 29 September 2026

## Advisory Assessment Panel

Advisory Assessment Panels are chosen by Ministers to assist them in their decision-making. They include a departmental official and an independent member. For competitions recruiting non-executive members of a board (apart from the Chair), the Advisory Assessment Panel will usually include a representative from the public body concerned, normally the Chair.

Advisory Assessment Panels perform a number of functions, including undertaking sifting, carrying out interviews and assessing objectively who meets the published appointment criteria for the role. It is then for the Minister to decide who to appoint to the role.

The Advisory Assessment Panel will include:

- Natasha Burgon, DHSC Director, Health Improvement, (panel chair)
- Susan Jebb, Chair of the Food Standards Agency, (panel member)

- Gurch Randhawa, Director, Institute for Health Research as the Independent Panel Member

## Assessment

When the advert has closed, we will commission a pre-assessment of candidate applications which will then be provided to the Advisory Assessment Panel for consideration and to inform the shortlisting process. By applying, you are agreeing to your application being shared with another party for pre-assessment. If they wish to, Ministers can see the full list of candidates and provide their views to the Advisory Assessment Panel ahead of shortlisting.

At the shortlisting meeting the Advisory Assessment Panel will assess applications against the essential criteria. It is the responsibility of the Advisory Assessment Panel to determine who it believes best meet the criteria for the role, and who should be invited to interview. If you have applied under the Disability Confident Scheme and you meet all the essential criteria, then you will be invited for an interview.

If you apply under the Disability Confident Scheme and you are not shortlisted for interview, we can provide a summary of the assessment of your written application, if you choose to request feedback. However, we regret that due to the volume of applications received, we are only able to offer feedback to other candidates who have been unsuccessful at the interview stage.

If they wish to, Ministers can see the short list of candidates and provide their views to the Advisory Assessment Panel ahead of interviews.

You will be advised (by e-mail) whether you have been shortlisted. Those shortlisted will be invited to an interview. Interviews will be conducted either face-to-face, normally in central London or by video/teleconference. We will confirm arrangements to shortlisted candidates in due course.

If you are invited to interview and are unable to attend on the set date, then an alternative date can only be offered at the discretion of the Advisory Assessment Panel.

The Advisory Assessment Panel will meet again to interview candidates and determine who meets the essential criteria and is therefore appointable to the role. They may share the opening question with you in advance to allow you to prepare your answer. The Advisory Assessment Panel will go on to question you about your skills and experience, including asking specific questions to assess whether you meet the criteria set out for the post. They will also explore with you any potential conflicts of interest or any other issues arising from your personal and professional history which may impact on an appointment decision (see section 2.1 for further details).

Details of the Advisory Assessment Panel's assessment of interviewed candidates are provided to Ministers, including whether they have judged a candidate to be appointable to the role. It is then for Ministers to decide who should be appointed.

Ministers may choose to meet with candidates before making a decision. Candidates should therefore be prepared for a short time gap between interview and a final appointment decision being made. Candidates who have been interviewed will be kept informed of progress.

Once the decision on the appointment has been made, interviewed candidates will be advised of the outcome of their application, including whom they may approach for feedback, if they wish. We appreciate it takes a lot of time and effort to apply for roles, and prepare for and attend an interview, and that feedback is a valuable part of the process.

In some circumstances, Ministers may choose not to appoint and to re-run the competition.

## Offer of appointment

If you are successful, you will be contacted by officials to inform you of the offer and to ask you to confirm if you would be willing to accept. If you would, then the next steps will be to ask you to complete a Declaration of Interests form, which will be required to be signed-off by you and a senior official. DHSC will also conduct pre-appointment checks.

These checks are conducted on candidates to be appointed, prior to appointment. Your role is only initially offered subject to these checks being satisfactorily completed.

Some of the checks will be run by the department's Public Appointments Team and some will be commissioned by them from the Government Recruitment Service (GRS). Taken as a whole, the checks will include covering the requirements of the fit and proper person test, referred to earlier, and security checks.

The pre-appointment checks cover:

- identity check
- employment history
- references for the last 6 years of your employment
- occupational health assessment (where necessary)
- qualifications
- record of any upheld, ongoing or discontinued disciplinary, complaint, grievance, adverse employee behaviour or whistle-blowing findings
- Disclosure and Barring Service check
- professional registration/revalidation status (where required)
- insolvency check
- declaration of any settlement agreements
- a search of the Companies House register to ensure you are not disqualified as a director
- a search of the Charity Commission's register of removed trustees
- a check with the regulatory body for the NHS and relevant professional bodies where necessary
- social media check
- employment tribunal judgement check
- county court judgement check

## Identity checks

The identity checks noted above will require you to initially provide three forms of documentation to verify your identity, and then provide further personal data, by completing an online form. The link to complete this form will be sent separately to you.

## References

We will request two types of references as part of our due diligence process:

- those focused on assessing your fit against the person specification and your ability to meet the requirements of the role. To support that, we require that you provide contact details for two referees: one from your current or most recent main employer, and one from another suitably qualified person who can make such an assessment. The contact details of both referees should be included in your CV.
- those related to the fit and proper person test. If you are shortlisted, we will ask at that point that you provide the contact details of HR Directors or equivalent for any organisations you have been employed by or have held a Chair or Non-executive Director position with, in the last 6 years. These references will be focused on conduct: we will ask those organisations to confirm if there were or are any misconduct or grievance processes that we should be made aware of. When we request contact details from you, we will share with you the specific questions we will ask of your former employers, and we will seek your permission to approach them.
- Both sets of references described above will only be collected if you have been offered and are willing in principle to accept the role.

## Occupational Health assessment

If you are offered an appointment, as part of standard pre-appointment checks, you will be asked a series of questions to ascertain whether you will need to undertake an Occupational Health assessment prior to being appointed. The Occupational Health assessment will determine whether you are fit to deliver the role and if you would need any reasonable adjustments to do so.

## Appointment

On completion of your Declaration of Interests and the pre-appointment checks, you will receive a letter from Ministers appointing you as the Deputy Chair of the FSA, which will confirm the terms and conditions on which the appointment is offered.

## Announcement

All public appointments are announced on GOV.UK. The announcement is required to include the length of your appointment, the remuneration for the role and whether you have declared any political activity. We will share the draft announcement with you before it is made. A press notice may also be issued.

## Queries

For any queries about your application status or the selection process, please contact Jessie Rourke in DHSC's Public Appointments Team:

Email: [jessie.rourke@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:jessie.rourke@dhsc.gov.uk)

If you choose to apply, we would like to thank you in advance for your time and effort in making an application.

**You will receive an automated email to confirm your application has been submitted successfully.**

**Following the closing date, you will receive a further email from DHSC's Public Appointments Team confirming next steps in the selection process. If you have not received your application id reference number within 3 working days of the advertised closing date, please contact us quoting reference VAC-8961.**

## Governance Code on Public Appointments and the Commissioner for Public Appointments

The Governance Code on Public Appointments, published by the Cabinet Office, sets out the principles that should underpin all public appointments. The Governance Code can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-code-for-public-appointments>. The regulation of public appointments against the requirements of the Governance Code is carried out by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The Commissioner provides independent assurance that public appointments are made in accordance with the principles set out in the Code. The Commissioner is independent of the Government and the Civil Service. Further information about the role of the Commissioner is available from: <http://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk>

### If you are not completely satisfied

The Department of Health and Social Care will aim to process all applications as quickly as possible and to treat all applicants with courtesy. If you have any complaints about the way your application has been handled, please contact Zubeda Seedat by emailing [zubeda.seedat@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:zubeda.seedat@dhsc.gov.uk)

If after receiving a comprehensive response from the Department you are still concerned, you can write to the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Please contact:

The Commissioner for Public Appointments  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ  
Tel: 0207 271 8938  
Email: [publicappointments@csc.gov.uk](mailto:publicappointments@csc.gov.uk)

Complaints to the Commissioner for Public Appointments must relate to a regulated public appointments process. For further information please see: [Complaints - Commissioner for Public Appointments](#)

## 2.3 How we will manage your personal information

Your personal information will be held in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. You will not receive unsolicited paper or electronic mail because of sending the Department of Health and Social Care any personal information. No personal information will be passed on to third parties for commercial purposes.

When we ask you for personal information, we promise we will:

- Only ask for what we need, and not collect too much or irrelevant information
- Ensure you know why we need it
- Protect it and insofar as is possible, make sure nobody has access to it who shouldn't
- Ensure you know what choice you have about giving us information
- Make sure we don't keep it longer than necessary
- Only use your information for the purposes you have authorised

We ask that you:

- Provide us with accurate information
- Inform us as soon as possible of any changes, or if you notice mistakes in the information we hold about you

The Department of Health and Social Care will process personal data relating to you in accordance with the Department of Health and Social Care data protection policy at [DHSC privacy notice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) and the Cabinet Office's data protection policy for public appointments at <https://apply-for-public-appointment.service.gov.uk/privacy>.

If you apply for a post, we will share some of the information you provide with the members of the Advisory Assessment Panel for the post to which you are applying, so that your CV and supporting letter can be assessed.

The equality information you provide will not be used in the selection process and will therefore not be shared with the Advisory Assessment Panel assessing your application at any stage. However, Advisory Assessment Panels may review the political activity response at the interview stage. This in no way acts as a bar to appointment.

The Commissioner for Public Appointments regulates and monitors appointments to public bodies to ensure procedures are fair. The Department of Health and Social Care is required by the Commissioner for Public Appointments to retain information about the people who apply for public appointments within his remit and make this information available to him for audit purposes, if requested to do so. Information you provide in your application may therefore be made available to the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the Commissioner's auditors on a confidential basis to help fulfil either the Commissioner's formal complaints investigation role or for audit purposes.

# Annex A – Food Standards Agency Legislation Further Information

## Food Standards Agency – Chair/Deputy Chair and Members

### Disqualification

1. Members of the House of Commons and Northern Ireland Assembly are disqualified for appointment.

### Notice and Termination

2. The Chair/Deputy Chair may resign by giving notice to any of the appropriate authorities.
3. A member other than the Chair/Deputy Chair may resign by giving notice to the authority by which the member was appointed.
4. The Chair/Deputy Chair or other member may be removed only if:
  - (a) They have been made bankrupt (or subject to other specified financial controls) or
  - (b) They are failing to carry out the duties of office or is otherwise unable or unfit to carry out those duties.

### Suspension

No provisions set out in legislation.

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