

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

INFORMATION PAPER

Update on outbreak of E. Coli O157 in South Wales and subsequent developments – March 2008

Background

Following the South Wales E.coli O157 outbreak in September 2005, the National Assembly for Wales announced its intention to hold a full Public Inquiry. The Inquiry, which is chaired by Professor Hugh Pennington, started taking evidence in public on 13th February. The programme of oral hearings is expected to conclude on 20 March.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) welcomes its inclusion in the Inquiry as one of the core participants and is cooperating fully with the Inquiry's proceedings. As part of the Inquiry's evidence gathering, the FSA and the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) have submitted witness statements. Over the six weeks of the oral hearings, the Inquiry will hear from expert witnesses and take evidence from people working for organisations that were involved in the outbreak. FSA evidence was heard in the last week of February and MHS staff will give evidence in the final week of the hearings.

Below please find a link to the Inquiry website and there is a "Transcript of Proceedings" link for full details of each day's evidence.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/ecoliinquiry/hearings/?lang=en>

**Secretariat
March 2008**