



To: Directors of Public Protection Wales

15 January, 2008

Reference:

ENF/W/08/003

Dear Director,

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION 'BETTER TRAINING FOR SAFER FOOD' STRATEGY
– 2008 PROGRAMME**

The programme of training courses for 2008 under the European Commission's 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy is appended to this letter. We should be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of relevant officers within your authority and ask that any expressions of interest from those wishing to participate in relevant courses are sent to the Agency **by 15 February 2008**.

Background

The Commission established its 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy following the adoption of Regulation 882/2004 on official controls in 2004. Programmes of courses under the strategy took place in 2006 and 2007. These covered a range of issues such as import control at Border Inspection Posts, implementation and auditing of food safety management systems, zoonoses and microbiological criteria in food and avian influenza.

The courses are open to officers of the competent authorities and, in the UK, this includes, all food law enforcement officers employed by local authorities and involved in feed or food regulatory controls. The training programmes are delivered across the EU by public and private bodies and are designed to complement, rather than replace, training arrangements at a national level. All of the training programmes are funded centrally by the Commission including participants' travel and accommodation costs.

Further information on the 'Better Training for Safer Food' strategy can be found on the Commission's website at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/training/index_en.htm.

Training Programme for 2008

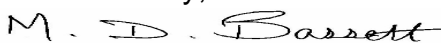


The 2008 training programme is set out at Annex 1. It is expected that this will begin in April and conclude in December. Further details of individual course content, dates and venues will be made available by the training providers shortly before the programme begins.

The Agency is responsible for verifying the course applications for potential UK participants and forwarding these to the training providers and to the Commission for their consideration. To assist us in managing applications for the 2008 programme, it would be helpful to receive any expressions of interest from officers who may wish to participate in this training so that we may provide full details and information on how to apply for individual courses as soon as this become available. It is, however, important to note that only a small number of training places are allocated to the UK.

Officers that are interested in receiving further details of these training courses are asked to provide their contact details and indicate the course(s) they may wish to attend. This information should be sent by **15 February 2008** to my colleague, Adrian Preece, at: adrian.preece@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk or by calling him on 029 20678909.

Yours Sincerely,


Mike Bassett
Head of Imported Food Branch