



**Paper for information: Salt data collection  
Matters Arising (SACN/07/29)**

**Agenda item: 1**

Please see attached paper for information that details the following action from SACN meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008:

- Members queried why it is not possible to simple collect actual data on salt content from labels.

- The FSA has collected data on salt levels in products, from information given on food labels, as part of its Processed Food Databank. This has collected data on the top selling products across the categories included in the salt targets, resulting in obtaining data for around 1000 products. Whilst this provides indicative information on changes in salt levels, this does not provide comprehensive coverage of the products included nor does it give information on progress made by individual companies, which has been obtained through the self-reporting framework.
- To supplement the data collected through the self-reporting framework, and to help inform the current review of the salt targets, the FSA purchased data on levels of salt in foods covered by the targets from a data set of 130,000 food products sold across Great Britain. The data was collected as part of the TNS Worldpanel which is a consumer purchasing panel of 25,000 households designed to represent the brought in-home, domestic purchasing of grocery products. This data also has its limitations, however, as some foods are not required to give nutrition information on pack eg for in-store bakery products; the information collected for foods that are made up at home eg dried soups was insufficient to allow it to be used fully; and data on some products was collected on a portion basis only eg slices of cake rather than per 100g for the cake as a whole. In addition, we are aware that some of the data collected was out of date when it was used by the FSA as it was collected before the most recent reformulations were reflected on pack.
- The FSA will be consulting on changes to its monitoring activity to obtain data from industry on reductions achieved in order to make this less burdensome. This will be published in July, as part of the review of the salt targets, with the aim of publishing the final targets and data collection framework by the end of the year.