

*These notes refer to the Food Standards Act 1999 (c.28)
which received Royal Assent on 11 November 1999*

FOOD STANDARDS ACT 1999

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Section 5: Advisory committees

19. The purpose of the committees established by *subsection (1)* of this section will be to provide a focus for Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland interests in food safety and standards. They will be set up with a defined remit that will reflect the responsibilities of the UK Agency. Their membership will reflect the range of interests on food safety and standards issues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Agency is obliged under section 23 to take their advice into account when carrying out its functions or advising Ministers or the appropriate authorities.
20. *Subsection (2)* enables the Secretary of State to establish an advisory committee for England, or English regions, with a similar purpose to those for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This provision has been included in case the Secretary of State feels such committees may be needed in future - in particular for the English regions. There is no current intention to establish such committees.
21. *Subsection (3)* empowers the Agency to establish other specialist advisory committees if it so wishes. Further details on advisory committees, including provisions for the transfer of existing committees to the Agency and the creation of joint committees, are contained in Schedule 2.