

To: Heads of Service in Local Authorities
Interested Parties on appended list

17 January 2012

Reference: EPC 30/313

Dear Colleague,

Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) – progress update

Now that we are close to full local authority uptake of FHRS our work on promoting use of the scheme is getting into full swing. Our latest FHRS Progress Update – being published today – has information on what is planned and I would be grateful if you would draw it to the attention of relevant colleagues.

The Update also details progress on the Bill in Wales that will put the FHRS on a statutory footing there. It also outlines what we are doing on assessing the impact of introducing parallel legislation in Northern Ireland and in England.

If you have any questions about any of the issues in the Progress Update, please get in touch with me, one of my Team or one of our Regional Team or Communications Team colleagues – contact details are given at the end of the Update.

Yours faithfully,



Catriona Stewart
Head, Food Hygiene Ratings Team
Enforcement & Local Authority Delivery Division

FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME: PROGRESS UPDATE 13 (JANUARY 2013)

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is the Food Standards Agency's flagship policy and key to achieving our strategic objective: safer food for the nation

Introduction

1. It's six months now since our last update so we want to let you know about progress on FHRs uptake. We also want to let you know about forthcoming advertising campaigns and other communications activities. The update also reports progress with the Bill that will give a statutory basis to the FHRs in Wales and on our work to assess the impact of introducing parallel legislation in Northern Ireland and in England.

Local authority uptake

2. Health Minister, Anna Soubry, launched the FHRs in Hackney on 10th December. The Minister was joined by Cllr Jonathan McShane, Hackney's Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Culture, and FSA Chair, Jeff Rooker (see right). 'Top 5' rated restaurants and cafes in the Borough were presented with their certificates by the Minister.



3. This followed shortly on the tails of a high profile event at Villa Park to mark Birmingham City Council coming on board (see left). The city is home to Europe's largest retail development and is a great location to showcase the benefits of the FHRs.

4. In Northern Ireland, Magherafelt District Council launched the FHRs in September and once Carrickfergus Borough Council goes live early this year, uptake nationally will be complete there. With further launches in England taking place over the next few months, we anticipate that 99% of authorities in the three countries will be running the scheme by early summer. We are continuing to encourage the three remaining local authorities - all in England – to also commit to the scheme.

5. Information is now available to the public at www.food.gov.uk/ratings for over 369,000 food businesses in the three countries - an estimated 73% of those within scope of the FHRs. An Applications Programme Interface (API) provides open access to the published information. The data will be particularly useful to app developers and to food businesses with multiple outlets for assessing performance across their chain. Details and

guidance can be found at: <http://ratings.food.gov.uk/open-data/en-GB>. The API is being further developed so that the numerical scores that underlie FHRs ratings – these scores indicate how hygienically the food is handled, the condition of the structure of the premises, and how the business manages what it does to make sure food is safe to eat – are also provided.

Campaigns and other communications activities

6. In February, we will be starting a UK-wide programme of consumer communication activity to promote the use of both the FHRs and the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) in Scotland. The campaign will be live in time for Valentine's Day and will aim to challenge consumers' assumptions that they can judge hygiene standards of food outlets by appearance alone. A variety of media will be used including national and local press, outdoor advertising (Wales and Scotland only), online advertising and mobile phone technology. We will also be engaging with relevant partners to help promote the ratings and will be making a range of assets available to them and to local authorities to enable them to participate in the campaign and beyond. Further information for local authorities will be made available in the next few weeks but, in the meantime, Catherine Clarke in our Communications Team would be happy to help (contact details below).

Bill in Wales and impact of legislation in England and Northern Ireland

7. Consideration of the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill by the National Assembly for Wales is ongoing. The Bill was considered by the Health and Social Care Committee which agreed with the general principles of the Bill and the need for legislation.¹ Following this, the Bill and proposed amendments to it are being considered in more detail by the Assembly and it is to be debated on 22 January. There would not appear to be any fundamental political opposition to the Bill and any amendments are likely to be in relation to the details of the scheme. At this stage, it is still anticipated that the provisions of the Bill will come into force in late 2013.

8. As highlighted in our last update, the FSA Board agreed that we should assess the impact of introducing parallel legislation for the mandatory display of FHRs ratings in England and Northern Ireland once the roll-out of the scheme is complete. As the scheme will be nation-wide in Northern Ireland very shortly, work on this is underway. We will be seeking views and comments by means of a public consultation on the legal provisions that would be needed and on a preliminary cost-benefit analysis of these. The consultation will run from February to April.

9. In England, as we approach national coverage, we will also be assessing the impact that legislation might have and we will work closely with stakeholders on this.

10. Related to this work in the three countries, we have commissioned repeat research to establish the proportion of businesses displaying their ratings under the current voluntary scheme. The field work for this is getting underway now and we anticipate that the findings will be reported in April.

¹ <http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s10424/Committee%20Stage%201%20Report.pdf>

Further information

11 For further information, please contact one of the Food Hygiene Ratings Team, Regional Team or Communications Team – details are provided below.

Name	Telephone	Email
Food Hygiene Rating Team		
Catriona Stewart	☎ 020 7276 8498	catriona.stewart@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
David Millis	☎ 020 7276 8424	david.millis@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Andrew Stephenson	☎ 020 7276 8388	andrew.stephenson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Michael Harding	☎ 020 7276 8730	michael.harding@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
James Blackburn	☎ 020 7276 8434	james.blackburn@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Emily Davis	☎ 020 7276 8445	emily.davis@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Alex Lisle	☎ 020 7276 8692	alex.lisle@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Regional Team for the East and South East Regions		
Julian Blackburn	☎ 020 7276 8437 or 07887 631138	julian.blackburn@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Gail Jones	☎ 0207 276 8583 or 07786681292	gail.jones@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Regional Team for the North West and North East Regions		
Angela Towers	☎ 07881 717180	angela.towers@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Allan Watson	☎ 07824 529276	allan.watson@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Regional Team for the East Midlands, Yorkshire & The Humber		
Marcia Nightingale	☎ 07768 776258	marcia.nightingale@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Sandra Cockell	☎ 0115 852 6978 or 07887 451494	sandra.cockell@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Regional Team for the South West and West Midlands		
Nick Mann	☎ 0117 900 1885 or 07769 952672	nick.mann@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
FSA Office in Belfast		
Kathryn Baker	☎ 028 9041 7736	kathryn.baker@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
FSA Office in Cardiff		
Rob Wilkins	☎ 029 2067 8957	rob.wilkins@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Communications Team		
Beverley Cook	☎ 020 7276 8818	beverley.cook@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Catherine Clarke	☎ 020 7276 8842	catherine.clarke@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Interested parties list

3663 First for Foodservice
7 Day Catering Ltd
ABM Catering Ltd
Age UK
Aldi Stores Limited
Allergy UK
Anaphylaxis Campaign UK
Arena - The Hospitality Network
Artizian Catering Services Limited
Asda Stores Limited
Association of Cereal Food Manufacturers
Association of Convenience Stores
Association of Independent Meat Suppliers
Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers
Baguette Express Franchise Limited
Bangladesh Caterers Association UK
BaxterStorey Limited
Bay Restaurant Group
Bed and Breakfast Association
Belfast City Council
Boots UK Limited
Brakes Group
Brewing, Food & Beverage Industry Suppliers Association
British Beer and Pub Association
British Hospitality Association
British Institute of Innkeeping
British Meat Processors Association
British Nutrition Foundation
British Retail Consortium
British Sandwich Association
Burger King UK Limited
Caffe Nero Group Ltd
CAMPDEN BRI
Center Parcs
Charlton House Catering Services Ltd
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Chicken Cottage Limited
Chinese Take Away Association
Chinese Takeaway Association (UK)
Cinema Exhibitors Association
Citizens Advice Bureaux
Coeliac UK
Compass Group UK & Ireland Limited
Consortium of Caterers in Education
Consumer Focus
Consumer Focus Wales
Consumers For Health Choice
Co-operative Group
Diabetes UK
Dolphin Public Health Limited
Domino's Pizza Group Limited
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
East of England Regulatory Services Partnership
EAT Ltd
Elior UK
Federation of Bakers
Federation of Small Businesses
Federation of Small Businesses - Wales
Finsbury Limited
Flintshire County Council
Food and Drink Federation
Food Ethics Council
Food Score Limited
Food Solutions Publishing Ltd
Forum of Private Business
Glaxosmithkline
Gondola Group Limited
Greater London Forum for Older People
Greenstreet Berman Ltd
Greggs plc
Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs
Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome Help
Harbour & Jones Ltd
Horticultural Trades Association
Hull City Council
Iceland Foods Limited
Innpacked Training Consultants
Institute of Hospitality
International Meat Traders Association
ISS Eaton Limited
ISS Facility Services Healthcare
J D Wetherspoon plc
J Sainsbury plc
John Lewis Partnership
K M B Caterers Ltd
Kentucky Fried Chicken (UK and Ireland)
Leicester City Council
Lexington Catering Company
Lidl UK GmbH
Local Authority Caterers Association
Local Government Association
London Borough of Barnet Council
London Retail Meat Traders Association
Marks and Spencer plc
Marston's plc
McDonald's Restaurants Ltd
Mitchells & Butlers plc
MITIE Facilities Management
Moto Hospitality Ltd
Musgrave Retail Partners GB
Nando's Chicken Restaurants Ltd
National Association of British and Irish Millers
National Association of British Market Authorities
National Association of Catering Butchers
National Association of Master Bakers
National Childbirth Trust
National Consumer Federation
National Council for Voluntary Organisations
National Council of Women of Great Britain

National Farmers Retail and Markets Association
National Federation of Fish Friers
National Federation of Fishmongers Ltd
National Federation of Women's Institutes
National Governors Association
National Halal Food Group
National Heart Forum
National Market Traders Federation
Nationwide Caterers Association
Netmums
Nisa-Today's (Holdings) Ltd
North Down Borough Council
Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association
NSF-CMi Limited
OCS Group UK Ltd
Olive Catering Service Limited
Orchid Group
Patients Association
Pizza Express Restaurants Ltd
Pizza Hut (UK) Limited
Praxis42 Limited
Pret A Manger (Europe) Ltd
Provision Trade Federation
Punch Taverns Plc
Radley Consulting
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Restaurant Group plc
Runnymede Borough Council
Rural Shops Alliance
Scottish Bakers
Scottish Retail Consortium
Snack, Nut & Crisps Manufacturers Association
Sodexo UK & Ireland
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Spar (UK) Ltd
Spirit Pub Company
SSP UK Limited
Starbucks Coffee Company
Stroke Association
Stroud District Council
Subway International
Support, Training & Services plc
SVA Ltd
Swansea Council
Taylors of Harrogate
Tesco Stores plc
Trading Standards Institute
Tragus Group Limited
TransparencyData Ltd
UK Food Safety
Vegan Society
Vegetarian Society of the United Kingdom
Waitrose Limited
Web-Labs Ltd
Wellbeing of Women
Western Group Environmental Health
Which?

Whitbread Group plc
Wimpy UK
Winchester City Council
Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc
YO! Sushi