

Specialist Environmental Health Officers (Food) with
Classified Shellfish Production Area's
Scottish Fish Hygiene Working Group
REHIS

Reference: **ENF/S/08/028**

23rd June 2008

Dear Colleague,

Continuation of Agency grant funding for the employment of dedicated shellfish sampling officers

I write in relation to the Agency grant funded assistance for the employment of dedicated shellfish sampling officers. The current grant programme is due to end on 31st March 2009. In discussion with the Senior Management Team at FSAS it has been agreed to extend this arrangement until 31st March 2010. In effect this provides for funding for a further 21 months from the current time.

It is hoped that this decision will assist in ensuring continuity of the current official control shellfish programmes.

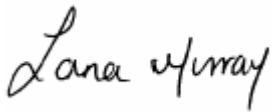
During this period a more detailed review and evaluation will take place to provide the basis for decision making for potential funding from April 2010. The risk assessed frequency of biotoxin sampling is to be independently reviewed which may change the current weekly sampling patterns for toxin sampling. In addition the sanitary survey outputs may influence the frequency of classification sampling required. We would also intend to evaluate the effectiveness of the current regime, of which the sampling officers are an integral part. The outcomes of these reviews will in turn assist senior management in determining funding support in the future.



We will be in contact with the individual Local Authorities who have grants with us currently to update the funding details.

In the meantime if you have any questions that I can assist you with please contact me on 01224 285114, lorna.murray@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk or Lisa Harper on 01224 288378, lisa.harper@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorna Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lorna Murray
Senior Enforcement Advisor
Food Standards Agency, Scotland