

The food regulatory system

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[Food Standards Scotland](#) is the non-ministerial government department of the Scottish Government responsible for food safety, food standards, nutrition, food labelling, feed official controls and meat inspection in Scotland.

[Our section on four-country working](#) explains how the food policy areas are split across the UK.



Who enforces food controls?

FSA delivery

Meat Hygiene Inspectors and Official Veterinarians conduct hygiene, document and physical checks and take samples from approved producers of meat (including abattoirs and cutting plants).

Qualified veterinarians conduct checks on animal products and deliver animal welfare checks*.

*[DAERA](#) is responsible for the meat operations delivery on behalf of the FSA in Northern Ireland.

Local authority delivery

Food Safety Officers conduct food safety and hygiene official controls. They inspect premises to check that food is stored and prepared safely.

Food Standards Officers check that food meets safety, composition and nutrition labelling standards (for example, labelling of allergens, use-by dates, nutritional and compositional information).

Imported food delivery

Port Health Officers conduct risk-based document checks, identity checks, physical checks, and take samples of food imports.

Official Veterinarians and Official Fish Inspectors conduct checks on animal products.



Food and feed businesses

Under UK food and animal feed regulations, it is the responsibility of food businesses to ensure that all food and feed placed on the market is safe, that its quality is what consumers would expect and that it is not labelled in a false or misleading way.

We are directly responsible for controls in approved producers of fresh meat (including abattoirs and cutting plants), wine and on-farm dairy establishments. FSA and local authorities together deliver shellfish official controls.

Food businesses covered by local authorities include food producers, food processors, catering establishments, takeaway and food delivery, retailers and approved dairy, meat and fish establishments. FSA and local authorities together deliver shellfish official controls.

Local and port health authorities in England, local authorities and [APHA](#) in Wales, and local authorities and [DAERA](#) in NI are responsible for imported food controls. Feed controls are the responsibility of local authorities in England and Wales, and DAERA in NI.

Consumers

Consumers are responsible for the safe preparation and storage of food in their home and for checking labelling to ensure that food is suitable for them to eat.

[Download our brochure](#). Learn more about how we have worked to protect your plate over the last 20 years and our vision for the future.