FSA launches new tool to help businesses assess food crime risks

The Food Fraud Resilience Self-Assessment Tool guides food business owners and employees through a series of questions designed to help them identify the risk to their business from food crime, and outlines steps that they can take to mitigate this. Businesses can complete this anonymously or choose to share their details with the FSA to receive tailored advice and support.

The tool has been developed by the National Food Crime Unit (NFCU), a dedicated law enforcement function of the FSA. The Unit works with the food industry to identify threats and collaborates with partners to tackle them.

Darren Davies, Head of the FSA's National Food Crime Unit, said:

> 'The pandemic has been incredibly challenging for the food industry, but we know the damage the food crime can do both to a business's reputation and to consumer health.
>
> 'While the UK has some of the safest and most authentic food in the world, it's as important as ever for businesses to remain vigilant to the threat posed by criminals.
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> 'Vulnerability can exist at any place along the route from farm through to fork so I would encourage businesses of all size across the industry to make use of this free tool.'

What is food crime?

We define food crime as serious fraud and related criminality in food supply chains. This definition also includes activity impacting on drink and animal feed. It can be seriously harmful to consumers, food businesses and the wider food industry.

About the National Food Crime Unit

The NFCU is a dedicated law enforcement function of the FSA. The unit provides leadership on food crime across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The unit works closely with the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit within Food Standards Scotland.

The NFCU was established in 2015 following a review of the 2013 horse meat incident. The NFCU is tasked with protecting consumers and the food industry from food crime within food supply chains.