

Privacy notice for the Food and You Survey

Information on the Food and You 2 Survey privacy policy, why we require data, what we do with the data and your rights.

Who is carrying out this research?

This survey is being carried out by [Ipsos](#), an independent survey agency, on behalf of the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

The [FSA](#) is an independent government department responsible for protecting the public from risks relating to food. They protect public health in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, ensuring that the food you buy is safe to eat.

The [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](#) also provides a financial contribution to the survey.

[Food Standards Scotland \(FSS\)](#) is also providing funding for the inclusion of participants in Scotland. FSS is the independent government agency responsible for food safety in Scotland.

The FSA is the Data Controller for this research. Ipsos is the Data Processor.

Where did you get my address from?

You have been sent an invitation to take part because your address was randomly selected from the postcode address file (PAF). PAF is a collection of Royal Mail post addresses and postcodes in the UK. About 21,400 addresses in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be selected to take part in the Food and You 2 survey, which runs annually.

Ipsos are the data controllers of the PAF sample it holds in-house. Your address information will be stored securely and won't be passed to the FSA.

Why do you need information from me?

The FSA have an obligation to compile and publish Official Statistics. Doing so is of great benefit to the public. This research will also help the FSA and FSS fulfil their statutory duty under the Food Standards Act 1999 (FSA) and Food Standards (Scotland) Act 2015 (FSS) to protect the wider interests of the consumer, public health and to promote food safety and food standards.

The information collected in this survey will be used for research purposes only. This research will help the FSA and FSS understand people's attitudes and behaviour relating to food in order to inform FSA and FSS policies and communication activities. The lawful basis for processing is public task.

As a thank you for completing this survey, we would like to offer you a gift voucher.

If you completed your survey online and indicated you would like to receive an e-voucher, we will ask for your name and email address. You should receive an email with the voucher code from foodandyou@ipsosresearch.com within 24 hours of completing your survey. Please check your junk or spam folder if you do not see the email in your inbox.

If you completed the postal survey and indicated you would like to receive a physical voucher, you can expect to receive your voucher approximately three weeks after the survey closes. The survey will close at the end of July 2025.

If you experience any issues receiving your voucher, you can get in touch with our helpline on 0800 0149467 or send an email to foodandyou2survey@ipsos.com.

We will also ask you whether you would be happy to be re-contacted by the FSA, or research agencies acting on the FSA's behalf, to take part in future research. If you agree to be re-contacted by the FSA or their partners, Ipsos may forward your name and email address. Ipsos may also send the FSA or their partners your Food and You 2 survey responses linked to your contact details for follow-up research purposes only.

If you live in Scotland, we will ask you whether you would be happy to be re-contacted by FSS. If you agree to be re-contacted by FSS or their partners, Ipsos may forward your name and email address. We may also send FSS or their partners your Food and You 2 survey responses linked to your contact details for follow-up research purposes only. FSS will be the data controller for any contact details for respondents living in Scotland that are shared with them.

Please be assured that all data is held securely by the above organisations and your name and email address will only be used by the FSA, FSS or their partners for research purposes if follow-up research is done. This information will not be used for commercial purposes and will be destroyed after two years. You can withdraw your consent at any time before the end of July 2026 by contacting Ipsos at foodandyou2survey@ipsos.com.

How will my information be used?

Your responses to the survey will be combined with the responses collected from the thousands of other people who are taking part in this research.

The survey findings will be published in a report, data tables and a dataset. The results of this research will be anonymous, statistical information only, and you will not be identifiable in any published datasets and reports. Your personal details will be stored separately from the survey answers.

Who will have access to my personal data?

Ipsos will have access to the personal data you give in the survey for a limited time – detailed in the section 'How long will my information be held by Ipsos, the FSA and FSS.

All data passed to the FSA and FSS will be anonymised. If you have agreed to be recontacted, your name and email address may be passed to the FSA (if you live in England, Wales or Northern Ireland) or to FSS (if you live in Scotland) so they can invite you to take part in further research.

Please contact the helpline team on 0800 0149467 or send an email to foodandyou2survey@ipsos.com if you need to complete the survey via telephone, or if you would like to complete the survey via telephone in a language other than English or Welsh. The helpline team will then set up a date and time for you to complete your telephone interview with Language Line (the translation company).

If you have requested a postal voucher, Ipsos will use your name and address to print onto the letters for posting (please see further details in the next section). Your voucher will be posted approximately three weeks after the survey closes. The survey closes at the end of July 2026.

How long will my information be held by Ipsos, the FSA and FSS?

Ipsos is compliant with the highest regulatory standards for the legal and safe processing of personal and/or sensitive data, including the Market Research Society Code of Conduct, ISO 27001 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Ipsos will only retain your personal data in a way that can identify you for as long as is necessary to support the research project. In practice, this means that we will keep your personal data until all the vouchers have been issued unless you have given permission to be recontacted. If you have agreed to be recontacted, Ipsos will retain your personal data securely, linked to your survey answers to allow suitable respondents to be selected for additional research. Personal details will be held for two years, after which time **all** personal data will be securely deleted from our systems. Your anonymised, non-identifiable survey data will be retained to support the research project, findings and published reports.

Ipsos will use the suppliers Formara Limited (printers), and Language Line (translation). Address information is provided to Formara Limited in order to print second reminder letters for the survey and paper questionnaires. Formara Limited will only receive and use your contact details to send you your second reminder letters for the survey and paper questionnaires. Formara Limited will not contact you for any other reasons or pass your data to anyone else. Data is erased from Formara Limited's system within two months. Language Line will not have access to any of your personal data.

The anonymised research findings provided to the FSA and FSS will be held indefinitely.

Contact details passed on to the FSA and FSS for re-contact purposes will be held securely for two years from the end of fieldwork before being securely deleted.

All the data processed by the FSA is located on servers within the European Union. FSA cloud-based services have been procured through the government framework agreements and these services have been assessed against the national cyber security centre cloud security principles.

If you have agreed to be recontacted, your name and email address may be passed to the FSA, FSS and their trusted research partners so they can invite you to take part in further research. No other third parties have access to your personal data unless the law allows them to do so.

What personal information will you be collecting?

Personal identifying data collected as part of the Food and You 2 survey may include:

- Detailed ethnicity, gender, age, health, and income data. Any questions which ask about this information will have a 'prefer not to say' answer option
- Geo-demographic data, which Ipsos has been asked to append to the anonymised dataset it provides to the FSA and FSS
- Email address and name, requested from the participant for the purposes of sending a gift voucher
- Email address and name, along with limited relevant survey answers if you have agreed to recontact

Once collected, personal data will be anonymised. The data listed above will therefore only be able to identify an individual in limited circumstances, i.e. for issuing gift vouchers and recontacting if permission given.

What are my rights?

You have a right to see the information we hold on you by making a request in writing to the email addresses below. If at any point you believe the information is incorrect you can request to have it corrected. If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter.

Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you wish to withdraw from the survey, please submit your request to the study helpline at foodandyou2@ipsos.com before the survey closes at the end of July 2026, with your reference number, which can be found on the top right-hand corner of your invitation letter. Your responses will be removed, and they will not be used for reporting or analysis purposes.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

The Data Protection Officer in the Ipsos Compliance team can be contacted at compliance@ipsos.com (please quote "25-093431-01, Food and You 2" in any contact with them).

The Data Protection Officer in the FSA is the Information Management and Security Team Leader. Contact them at informationmanagement@food.gov.uk.

The Data Protection Officer in the FSS is the Corporate Services Director. Contact them at dataprotection@fss.scot.

If you are not satisfied with the response or believe we are not processing your personal data in accordance with the law, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). For further information please see the [ICO website](#).

[Access this Privacy Notice in Welsh.](#)