

FSA launches consultation on developing a modernised food hygiene delivery model in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

A changing food landscape has created new opportunities for us to better protect consumers' interests. We aim to develop a model that is fit for the future and ensures that the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) continues to operate successfully and maintains consumer confidence.

The FSA has today (03 April) launched a 12-week consultation seeking views from local authorities and district councils, food business operators, third-party assurance organisations for food safety, professional awarding bodies for environmental health and trading standards, trade unions and other interested groups.

In September 2022 the FSA Board endorsed the [headline policy and principles to evaluate success](#) for a modernised FHDM. We are now seeking stakeholders' views on the following proposed developments:

- a modernised food hygiene intervention rating scheme, including a decision matrix, to determine the appropriate frequency of food hygiene controls based on the risk posed by a food business establishment
- an updated risk-based approach to the timescales for initial official controls of new food establishments, and for undertaking due official controls
- increased flexibility as to the methods and techniques of official controls that can be used to risk rate an establishment, including the appropriate use of remote assessment ??
- extending the activities that officers, such as Regulatory Support Officers, who do not hold a 'suitable qualification' for food hygiene can, if competent, undertake.

Katie Pettifer, FSA Director for Strategy and Regulatory Compliance said:

"The food landscape has changed dramatically in the three decades since the current regulatory system was introduced, as has the way we buy and consume food.?"

We want people to have food they can trust. So we want to make sure local authorities and district councils can target their resources as effectively as possible as we develop a food hygiene regulatory model that is fit for the future.?"

Our proposals will enable local authorities to spend more of their time on food businesses that are non-compliant or pose the highest risk to public health, thereby? reducing regulatory burdens on compliant or low-risk businesses.

The consultation ends on 30 June 2023, so we would encourage all those who have an interest in this to respond over the next 12 weeks."

The consultations for [England](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) are available on the FSA website.?

All comments and views should be included in the consultation response form and emailed to hygienemodelreview@food.gov.uk

The consultation will close at 23:59 on Friday 30 June 2023.