

Regulatory approach

We engage with stakeholders to inform and develop policy decisions and assessing the impacts of these decisions.

We have a statutory objective to protect public health and consumers' other interests in relation to food. Excessive or unclear regulations, however, place an unnecessary burden on business, and other groups, and so hinder effective delivery of the intended benefits.

We strive to be a fair and effective regulator, proportionate and forward looking in our regulatory approach and focused on achieving the outcomes we seek.

Our pledge is to put consumers first in everything we do, so that food is safe and what it says it is, that we have access to an affordable healthy diet, and can make informed choices about what we eat, now and in the future.

Our [Strategic Plan 2015-2020 - Food we can trust](#) sets out our priorities and proposed approaches to achieve our strategic outcomes including the principles by which we work.

Regulating our future

Regulating our future is a programme of change we are leading to improve the way we deliver regulatory controls for food and create a modern, risk-based, proportionate, robust and resilient system. The programme is being developed in close engagement with businesses, consumers and our delivery partners.

Find out more about [regulating our future](#).

Engagement and consultation

Engaging and consulting with stakeholders is critical to what we do and how we develop our regulatory approach. You can help shape the way food and feed law is implemented in the UK by providing us with your views and evidence to help inform our decision making process.

Find out more [information on on consultations](#) or find the [latest consultations](#).

Impact Assessments

An [Impact Assessment \(IA\)](#) is a policy tool to assess impacts of options considered this includes the expected costs and benefits against rationale for Government intervention. Understanding the costs, benefits, and risks of any new measure or proposal is fundamental to good policy making.

Business Impact Target Reporting

The Government's Business Impact Target (BIT) concerns the economic impact of regulation on business.

We are required to report qualifying measures that come into force or cease to be in force during

the reporting period in line with the [Small Business Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 \(SBEE\)](#) and the [Enterprise Act 2016](#).

2017 to 2018

Qualifying regulatory provisions (QRPs)

Between 9 June 2017 and 20 June 2018 we did not introduce any qualifying regulatory provisions under the BIT.

Non-qualifying regulatory provisions (NQRPs)

[Summary report of the FSA non-qualifying regulatory provisions: 2017 to 2018](#) (163.46 KB)

2015 to 2017

[The FSA BIT report under the 2015 to 2017 Parliament](#) (National Archives)

[The Government's Business Impact Target Reports](#)

Regulatory review

Regulation should be proportionate and effective in delivering the intended outcome. Our routine review of existing regulations are carried out to monitor and maintain regulatory effectiveness and proportionality.

[Details of planned and completed FSA reviews](#)

The FSA Food and Feed Law Guide

We maintain a published list of food and feed legislation that applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The [Food and Feed Law Guide](#) is a useful reference tool for businesses, local authorities and others that have an interest in following food and feed law requirements.

Our innovation and regulation plan

Our Innovation and Regulation plan brings together and highlights the work we do and sets out how our regulatory framework is working effectively to support innovation and disruptive business models.

[Food Standards Agency - Innovation in Regulation](#) (317.33 KB)

Regulators' Code

We follow [The Regulators' Code](#) which provides a clear, flexible and principles-based framework for how regulators should engage with those they regulate.

Though we strive to be an excellent, accountable and modern regulator we accept that others may not always agree with our approach. The following sets out the standards you should expect from the FSA and how you can complain if we fail to meet this.

[Service standards](#) - whether you are a consumer or business, we are committed to providing you with a helpful, courteous and efficient service as set out in our statement of service standards.

[Complaints and comments](#) - receiving comments and responding to complaints is important to us and we will try to resolve any problem quickly, and explain what we have done and why.