

# Review of the Food Law Code of Practice, Food Law Practice Guidance and implementation of the Competency Framework - Northern Ireland

Status: Closed

Date launched: 13 November 2020

Closing date: 10 December 2020

## Summary of responses

PDF

[View Summary of Responses Northern Ireland as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (178.34 KB)

## Who will this consultation be of most interest to?

District Councils (DCs), Food Standards Agency (FSA) approved assurance schemes, private sector assurance bodies, professional awarding bodies and FSA delivery partners will also have an interest. Trade Unions and expert groups may also have an interest.

## About this consultation

A review of the Code and Practice Guidance, and implementation of the FSA Knowledge and skills for the effective delivery of official food and feed controls and other activities (Competency Framework). The consultation has been prepared in coordination with England. The changes to the England Code, and the Practice Guidance are subject to a separate but similar [consultation](#).

The Code sets out instructions and criteria to which DCs in Northern Ireland must have regard for when discharging their duties in relation to the delivery of official food control activities. The FSA is required to consult on amendments to the Code prior to implementation. The Code requires regular review and revision to ensure that it reflects current priorities, policy, and legislative requirements so that DC delivery of food control activities remain effective, consistent, and proportionate.

## Purpose of consultation

To seek stakeholder views on proposals to update the Code and the Practice Guidance. The main proposals include:

- modernisation of the baseline knowledge, skills, and experience requirements to enable a wider cohort of DC professionals to undertake official food controls and other official activities, which the current Code restricts
- replacing existing competency requirements with the Competency Framework, which defines competency by activity rather than by role

- introducing a provision to enable the FSA to be more responsive in issuing instructions, whereby DCs may legitimately depart from the Code, in limited circumstances
- updating the Code to reflect the Official Control Regulation (EU) 2017/625, and EU exit implications, where the negotiated position is known

## Consultation Pack

### Northern Ireland

PDF

[View Consultation Pack - The Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance Review \(Northern Ireland\) as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (405.78 KB)

### Northern Ireland

PDF

[View Food Law Code of Practice \(Northern Ireland\) as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (619.88 KB)

### Northern Ireland

PDF

[View Food Law Code of Practice \(Northern Ireland\) - screen reader version as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (625.09 KB)

### Northern Ireland

PDF

[View Food Law Practice Guidance \(Northern Ireland\) as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (1.7 MB)

### Northern Ireland

PDF

[View Food Law Practice Guidance \(Northern Ireland\) - screen reader version as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (1.65 MB)

### Northern Ireland

PDF

[View Competency Framework as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (1.06 MB)

### Northern Ireland

EXCEL

[View Competency Assessment Record as Excel\(Open in a new window\)](#) (10.76 MB)

### Northern Ireland

EXCEL

[View Summary of Officers Competency Table as Excel\(Open in a new window\)](#) (69.39 KB)

## How to respond

Please send any comments and views to:

Julie Telford  
Local Authority and Policy Delivery Team  
Email: [CodeReviewResponses@food.gov.uk](mailto:CodeReviewResponses@food.gov.uk)

**Comments and views are required by midnight on Thursday 10 December 2020.**

## **Publication of response summary**

Within three months of a consultation ending we aim to publish a summary of responses received and provide a link to it from this page.

You can find information on how we handle data provided in response to consultations in our [Consultations privacy notice](#).

## **Further information**

This consultation has been prepared in accordance with [HM Government Consultation Principles](#). If an Impact Assessment has been produced, this is included in the consultation documents. If no Impact Assessment has been provided, the reason will be given in the consultation document.